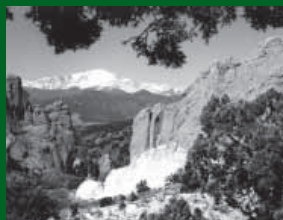


COLORADO
SCORP
Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
Executive Summary
2008



Colorado's Outdoor Recreation Future
Strategies for Sustaining Colorado's Outdoors Heritage

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol Building
Denver, Colorado 80203
(303) 866 - 2471
(303) 866 - 2003 fax



Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

September 22, 2008

Dear Friends:

Colorado's magnificent outdoors and unparalleled beauty are two major reasons we are fortunate to call this great state home. As a child, I remember visiting majestic mountains under clear blue skies, hiking in isolated canyons, fishing in clear streams, and hunting in Colorado's backcountry. Today, my favorite recreation activities are fishing, bicycling, and skiing with my family. I believe opportunities and shared experiences like these have enriched me and my family in many ways. I also believe that these opportunities help define what is best about Colorado and Coloradans.

As Governor, I've worked hard in support of opportunities to recreate outdoors in some of this nation's most spectacular places – in Colorado's wilderness and roadless areas, along its waterways, and in natural areas across the state that support activities as diverse as hunting and bird-watching, or angling and skiing. Our quality of life and our economy are directly tied to the well-being of the natural places in which so many of us pursue our outdoor recreation passions.

But while Colorado's outdoors and abundant recreation resources continue to be enjoyed by both Coloradans and visitors alike, these resources face increased pressure from a many quarters. Now, more so than ever, we must work diligently to protect the places that provide the experiences and opportunities that make Colorado special. We must be stubborn stewards of these places, so they may continue to be enjoyed by our children and grandchildren.

Managing Colorado's outdoor recreation resources and addressing key recreation needs and issues are central themes in the *2008 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*. The SCORP is the collaborative product of the work of 33 Steering Committee members representing the private sector, state and federal agencies, local governments, and non-profit partners. It sets the framework and seeks to establish the overall direction and tone for statewide outdoor recreation planning through 2013.

The Colorado 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 affecting outdoor recreation. I commend it to any and all who understand, as I do, the value of sustaining Colorado's outdoor recreation heritage, and who wish to pursue, through collaboration and partnership, an outdoor recreation vision for Colorado outlined herein.

Sincerely,


Governor Bill Ritter, Jr.



2008 Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Acknowledgements

Colorado's 2008 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is the product of a collaborative effort administered by Colorado State Parks between January 2007 and July 2008. This plan was developed with the assistance and support of a diverse array of outdoor recreation stakeholders representing local, state, and federal agencies; non-profit groups; outdoor industry groups; and other organizations directly linked to outdoor recreation. A Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant awarded to the State of Colorado from the National Park Service made this plan possible.

2008 SCORP Steering Committee

Local Governments

Greg Clifton, Town of Ridgway, Former CML Board Member
Chip Taylor, Colorado Counties, Inc.
Stephanie Stephens, Colorado Parks and Recreation Association
Dale Will, Pitkin County Open Space and Trails, Colorado Open Space Alliance

State Agencies

Eric Bergman, Colorado Department of Local Affairs
Steve Cassin, Colorado Division of Wildlife
Betsy Jacobsen, Colorado Department of Transportation
Faye Koeltzow, Colorado State Parks
Lori Malcolm, Colorado State Trails Program
Kim McNulty, Colorado Tourism Office
Gary Thorson, Colorado State Parks
Melissa Trecoske Houghton, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Dean Winstanley, Colorado State Parks

Federal Agencies

Don Bruns, United States Bureau of Land Management
Victor Grizzle, United States Bureau of Reclamation
Kay Salazar, National Park Service
Chris Spurl, United States Forest Service

Non-profit Agencies

Lise Aangeenbrug, Great Outdoors Colorado
Ann Baker-Easley, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado
Tom Easley, Rocky Mountain Climate Organization
Jennifer Freeman, Colorado Youth Corps Association
Glenn Graham, Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition
Dan Grunig, Bicycle Colorado
Dr. Glenn Haas, Colorado State University & Parks and Recreation Open Space Cooperatives
Bryan Martin, Colorado Mountain Club
Roz McClellan, Rocky Mountain Recreation Initiative
Rachel Oys, LiveWell Colorado
Jill Ozarski, Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts
Ali Sweeney, Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education
Bruce Ward, Continental Divide Trail Alliance

Private Sector and Outdoor Industry Groups

Gerhard Holtzendorf, Recreational Equipment, Inc.
Melanie Mills, Colorado Ski Country USA
Amy Roberts, Outdoor Industry Association
Amy Smith, Kaiser Permanente

Scott Babcock, Colorado State Parks Strategic Planning Program Manager, and Wendy Newman, Project Consultant, are the principal researchers and authors. Curt Harvey, Project Consultant, provided all GIS mapping and analysis. Ryan Loomis, Jeff Sudmeier, and Leigh Johnson, Colorado State Park Seasonal Planning Assistants, offered additional research assistance. Special thanks to the Colorado State Parks Creative Services Department staff for formatting and document layout.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Colorado's economy and quality of life are inherently connected to its abundant and diverse outdoor recreation opportunities. With elevations ranging from 3,350 feet to 14,431 feet, a high percentage of public land (42%), close to 300 days of sunshine a year, and year-round recreation opportunities, Colorado is an outdoor recreation mecca.¹ Whether ice-climbing a frozen waterfall, touring one of many scenic and historic byways, fishing a gold medal trout stream, riding horseback through remote wilderness areas, climbing the second tallest peak in the continental U.S. (Mt. Elbert), or riding off-highway vehicles on a designated Forest Service route, Colorado has something for everyone. The array of outdoor recreation opportunities contributes significantly to Colorado's overall economy (more than \$10 billion annually), as more than 28 million people visited the state in 2008.^{2,3}

More Than Just Outdoor Recreation

When outdoor recreation is discussed in the 2008 Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), it needs to be considered within the context of numerous interconnected industries and relevant factors that influence recreation, as depicted in Figure 1. Some of these include:

- The state's tourism industry, which includes the communities, businesses, and industries that rely on tourism and outdoor recreation
- Coloradans' public health and well-being
- Environmental literacy, education, and stewardship ethics.

The connection between outdoor recreation, tourism, public health, and environmental stewardship are significant because they represent the convergence of many elements that are recognized as being interdependent. Effective policies, programs, and sustainable partnerships must be pursued to further strengthen the relationships of key groups that oversee or manage these elements. Converging elements mentioned above and presented in Figure 1 were important considerations during the SCORP planning process.

When you walk through your local park, push your children on the swings at a nearby playground, or bike on a trail in your community, you are likely enjoying the benefits of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program in Colorado.

To apply for an LWCF grant, or to find a an LWCF sponsored project in your neighborhood, visit: <http://parks.state.co.us/trails/LWCF>

Some projects in Colorado made possible by LWCF funds include:

- Cheyenne Mountain State Park near Colorado Springs, Colorado's newest state park*
- Howelson Hill Ski Area in Steamboat Springs (the largest natural ski jumping complex in North America and a training facility for over 64 Olympians)*
- Garden of the Gods Park in Colorado Springs*
- Community facilities across the state, including Carbondale Municipal Pool, Hillcrest Park and Bike Path in Montrose, Clear Creek Park in Golden, and tennis courts in Lamar*

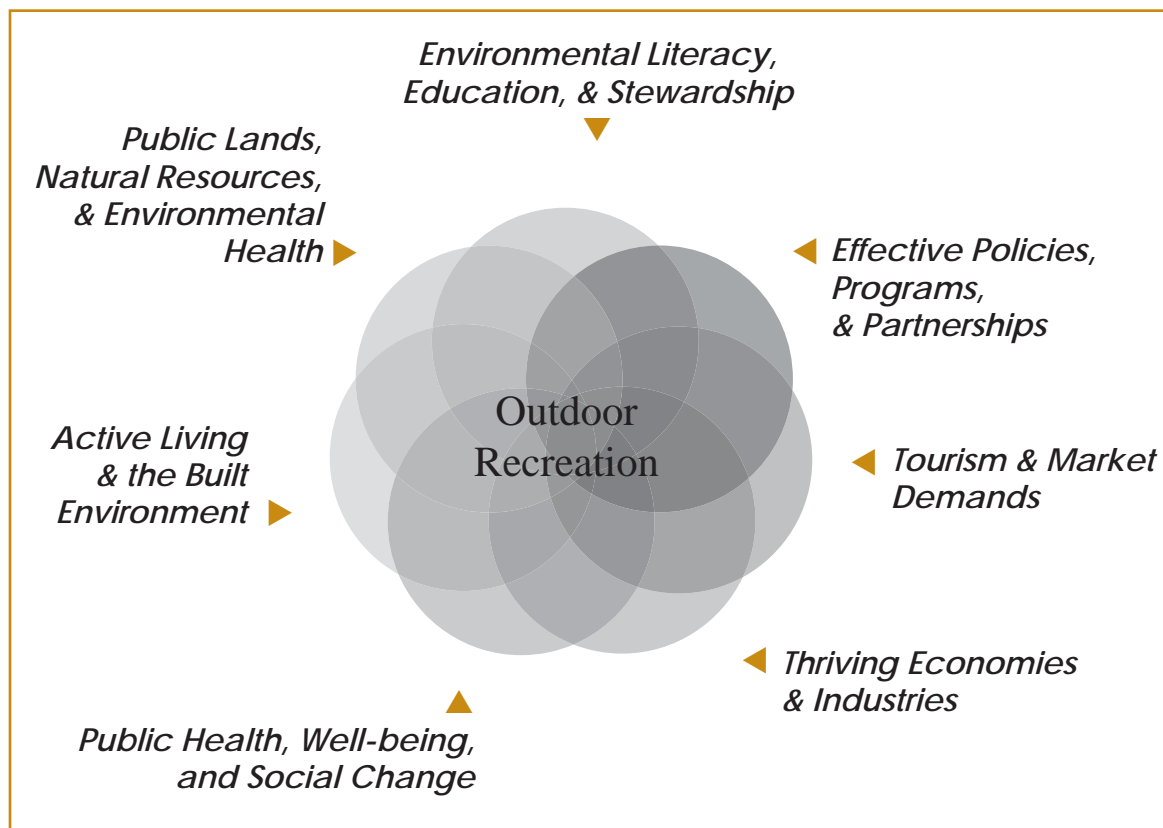
¹Wilcox, G., D. M. Theobald, J. Whisman, and N. Peterson. 2006. Colorado Ownership, Management, and Protection (CoMap) V5. <http://www.nrel.colostate.edu/projects/comap/contact.html>.

²State by State Active Outdoor Recreation Economy Report. Outdoor Industry Foundation. 2006. Jan.-Feb. 2007 <<http://outdoorindustry.org/research.html>>.

³Aguilera, E. "2007 Jump 4th in Row." *The Denver Post* 18 June 2008, sec. 7B.



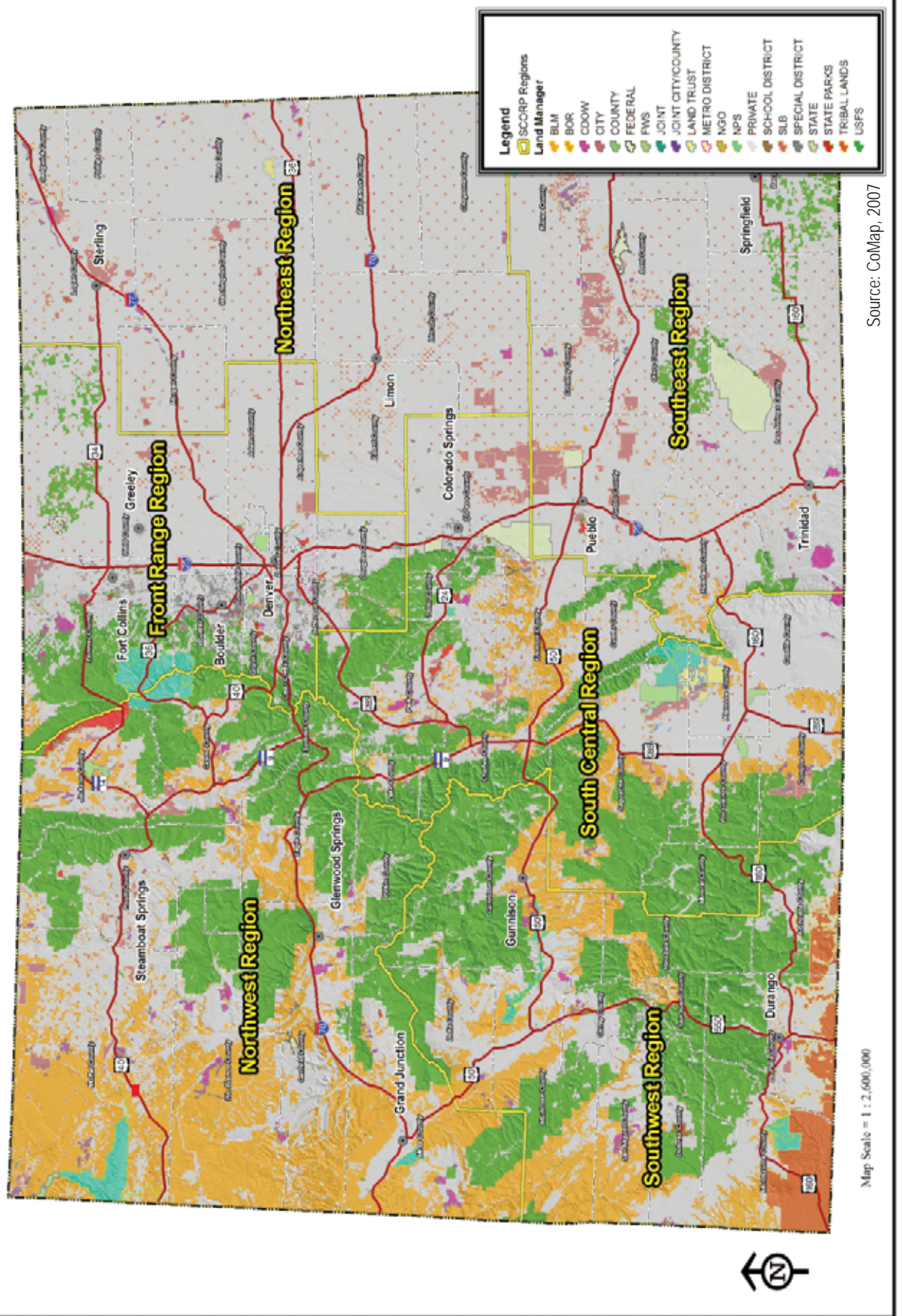
Figure 1: Converging Elements Related to Outdoor Recreation



The SCORP provides information on recreation trends and demands and offers strategies to ensure that Colorado's outdoor recreation heritage is maintained and improved for future generations. The SCORP supports local and statewide initiatives that sustain the long-term maintenance and enhancement of Colorado's recreation resources.



Colorado Land Management & SCORP Regions



Source: CoMap, 2007



SCORP & THE VISION FOR COLORADO'S OUTDOOR FUTURE

Building on the success of Colorado's 2003 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the 2008 SCORP provides a critical five-year plan for addressing key outdoor recreation needs through 2013. Developed in collaboration with a diverse 33-member Steering Committee representing a wide array of public, private, and nonprofit interests, the SCORP is the principal guide for outdoor recreation planning statewide.

The 2008 SCORP proposes a varied and balanced statewide outdoor recreation system capable of meeting current and future outdoor recreation needs. The plan assesses statewide outdoor recreation issues and outlines a strategic plan to meet the various issues affecting outdoor recreation.



Challenges Affecting Outdoor Recreation Planning and Management

Despite extensive outdoor recreation opportunities, Colorado citizens find many of the areas they have come to enjoy adversely affected by human-induced and natural changes to the landscape. In various ways, Colorado's future is tied directly to our ability to adapt and address such needs and challenges.

- Some regions of the state are experiencing massive forest die-offs from the bark beetle, which causes immediate and long-term issues ranging from diminished scenic value to elevated forest fire risk, all issues that affect outdoor recreation.
- Non-native invasive species such as the zebra mussel are now found in one of Colorado's most popular recreation destinations, Pueblo Reservoir, and tamarisk continues to invade quality riparian areas commonly used for outdoor recreation.
- Climate change increases the serious long-term threat to Colorado's recreation and tourism economy. (Tourism comprised about 10% of the state's economy in 2006) (Longwoods 2007).
- Increasing population growth and its associated effects on outdoor recreation activities pose a major challenge for local, state, and federal recreation managers.
- Shifting generational trends, such as the aging of the "baby boomers" (born 1946 to 1964), and an increasing Hispanic population are changing use patterns and increasing demand for various types of recreation opportunities.
- A heightened interest exists in making outdoor recreation a catalyst for social change, which will address public health issues, such as obesity.
- Many people also believe outdoor recreation is vital to facilitate a life-long appreciation of our outdoor heritage, thus fostering environmental stewardship and reversing the trend of declining outdoor recreation participation rates among Colorado's youth.

Educating the public and decision-makers about funding shortfalls for recreation management is critical to address these challenges. Declining funding for outdoor recreation, a slowing economy, increasing fuel costs, and other factors contribute to funding challenges for local governments and state and federal land management agencies, directly impacting each agency's ability to address recreation management needs and meet increasing statewide recreation demands.

Vision

The 2008 SCORP focuses public attention on ways to address the challenges that influence outdoor recreation planning and management. It provides strategies for sustainably expanding, improving, and maintaining recreation opportunities recreation opportunities for Colorado's growing population and its visitors, while protecting the state's outdoors heritage.

These themes are reflected in the vision statement created by the Steering Committee to guide development of the 2008 SCORP:



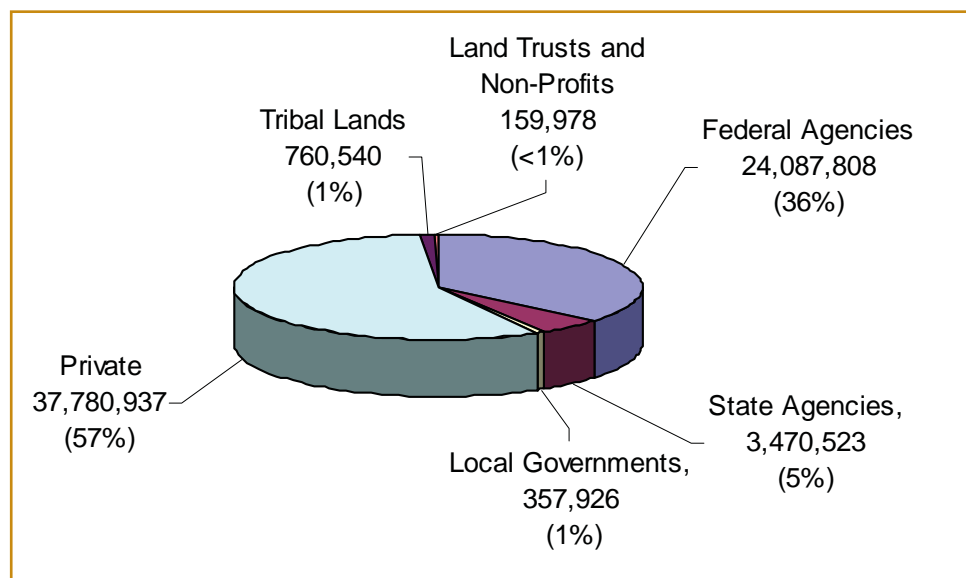
KEY ELEMENTS OF THE SCORP

Each section of the 2008 SCORP focuses on an area relevant to outdoor recreation, ultimately leading to a framework for statewide outdoor recreation planning through 2013. A brief description of these sections and key findings are listed below.

Outdoor Recreation Providers and Partners in Colorado

Colorado consists of nearly 29 million acres of public lands, 83% of which are open to outdoor recreation pursuits (Figure 2).⁴ Recreation in Colorado is provided by federal, state, and local agencies, as well as integral partners, such as non-profit groups, open space and land trust organizations, and for-profit businesses and private industry organizations that represent specific subsets of businesses such as the Outdoor Industry Association and Colorado Campground and Lodge Owners Association. These entities collectively play a vital role in providing and supporting Colorado's diverse outdoor recreation experiences.

Figure 2: Land Management in Colorado (Acreages and Percentage of the State by Manager)



Source: CoMap, NREL, CSU 2007

Vision Statement

"Diverse recreation resources play a key role in the high quality of life enjoyed by Colorado's citizens and visitors. Recreation is more than just an activity; it is a conduit for people of all ages to connect to the outdoors and enjoy healthy, active lifestyles. With this in mind, the 2008 SCORP, in collaboration with Colorado's varied outdoor recreation stakeholders, establishes strategies to holistically and sustainably manage the state's outdoor heritage for current and future generations."

⁴Wilcox, G., D. M. Theobald, J. Whisman, and N. Peterson. 2006. Colorado Ownership, Management, and Protection (CoMap) V5. <http://www.nrel.colostate.edu/projects/comap/contact.html>.



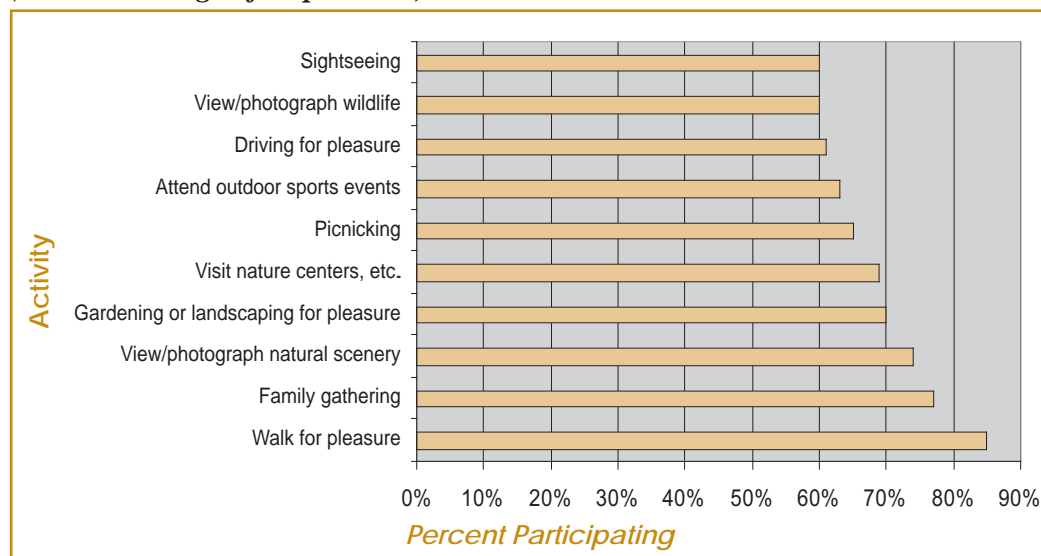
Outdoor Recreation Participation and Trends

The 2008 SCORP highlights national and statewide outdoor recreation trends, including information related to activity participation, licenses, registrations, visitation, and tourism trends. Understanding participation and visitation trends ensures that outdoor recreation resources are managed proactively and that providers are prepared to respond to the changing needs of recreation enthusiasts.

Statewide, managers report that recreation demand continues to increase, impacting local, state, and federal agencies, as well as private entities and partners that support outdoor recreation. Among local providers, “the capacity to serve a growing population” was among the greatest concerns according to the 2007 Local Government Survey.⁵

- More than 75% of Coloradans participate weekly in outdoor recreational activities.⁶
- More than 45% of respondents travel fewer than four miles from home to recreate Monday through Thursday; two-thirds stay within 10 miles of home, while the average distance traveled for outdoor recreation increased to 41 miles on the weekend.⁷
- The 10 most popular outdoor recreation activities, according to the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment, are illustrated in Figure 3. Many of these activities involve few specialized skills or equipment, such as walking, attending family gatherings, and viewing or photographing natural scenery or wildlife.⁸
- The demand for motorized access to Colorado’s landscapes is increasing significantly. Since 1991, when Colorado State Parks first began managing the Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Registration Program, registrations have grown from nearly 12,000 to almost 131,000 in 2007, a 154% increase.⁹

Figure 3: Colorado’s Ten Most Popular Activities in 2006 (as a Percentage of Population)



Source: NSRE, 2007

⁵2007 SCORP Local Government Survey. Colorado State Parks. 2007.

⁶Horvath, G., C. DiPersio, and C. Hickey. A Survey of Colorado Recreation, Trends, Issues, and Needs. Leeds School of Business, Univ. of Colorado at Boulder. Boulder, CO, 2007.

⁷Ibid.

⁸Green, G., W. Gosnell, C. Betz, and H. Ken Cordell. Colorado and the Colorado Market Region (National Survey on Recreation and the Environment). Pioneering Research Group, Southern Research Station. Athens, Georgia: USDA Forest Service, 2007.

⁹Metsa, T. “2007 Registrations for OHV, Boat, and Snows.” E-mail to the author. 9 Apr. 2008.



Some of the most popular activities in Colorado are highlighted in Table 1 and include the range of participation rates, which vary by source.

Table 1: Ranges for Colorado Participation Numbers

Activity	NSRE Participation Numbers	OIF Participation Numbers	FWS Natl. Survey of Hunting, Fishing, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation	Average Estimate for Participation Numbers
Bicycling	1,670,000	1,212,400	n/a	1,441,200
Camping	1,642,000	962,690	n/a	1,302,345
Fishing (any type)	1,109,000	541,520	660,000	770,173
Hunting	526,000	156,287	259,000	313,762
Paddling Sports (Rafting, Kayaking, Canoeing)	259,000	392,451	n/a	325,726
Wildlife Viewing (Including Birding)	2,040,000	1,190,000	1,819,000	1,683,000

Economic Activity Generated by Outdoor Recreation

The SCORP Steering Committee identified quantifying statewide economic impacts from outdoor recreation to Colorado's economy as a critical need; the plan recommends specific actions. In the absence of a comprehensive study on outdoor recreation economic activity, the committee evaluated a range of industry- and activity-specific research that has been gathered to date. While determining an exact dollar value for outdoor recreation's contribution to Colorado's economy is not feasible, given the variety of studies and differing methodologies, the points below summarize the research:

- The Outdoor Industry Foundation's *2006 Active Outdoor Recreation Economy Report* indicates that economic impacts in Colorado associated solely with "active" outdoor recreation (which includes bicycling; camping; fishing; hunting; paddling; snow sports; wildlife viewing; trail-running, hiking, and climbing), amount to more than \$10 billion annually (including both resident and non-resident expenditures).^{10, 11}
- While skiing and snowboarding numbers are down across the U.S., Colorado's 2006-2007 numbers show continued growth of about 30,000 more skier visits than in 2005, with more than 12.6 million skier visits total.¹²

Annual economic activity generated by outdoor recreation in Colorado is likely between \$10 - \$15 billion dollars based on the results of nine known recreation economic studies (albeit with different methodologies and overlap in user groups), plus the number of popular activities with no known economic analyses.

¹⁰ *Active Outdoor Recreation Economy Report*. Prepared by Southwick Associates for the Outdoor Industry Foundation. 2006.

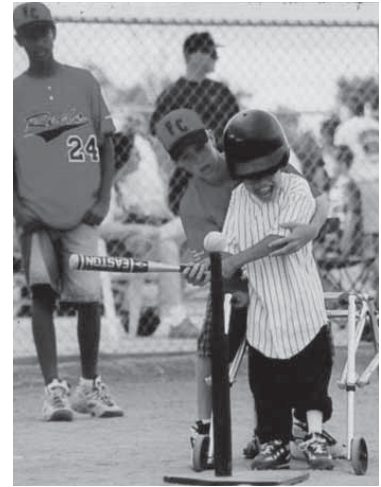
¹¹ Total economic impacts were determined using widely-accepted economic modeling practices and modeling software (e.g., IMPLAN). Economic impacts account for indirect, direct, and induced effects, as well as "leakages." Detailed methodology, including specific definitions of the aforementioned terms, is available in the technical report on OIF's Web site (www.outdoorindustryfoundation.org).

¹² "Current News." *Colorado Ski Country USA*. 15 Apr. 2008 <<http://media-coloradoski.com/CurrentNews/>>.



- Off-highway vehicle use, which includes all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), dirt or dual purpose motorcycles, snowmobiles, and 4-wheel drive vehicles, contributes more than \$212 million to Colorado's economy each year, according to the Colorado Off-highway Vehicle Coalition (COHVCO).¹³
- Similarly, some of outdoor recreation's impacts on the state economy can be measured through recent economic impacts gathered for day trips originating in Colorado taken primarily by residents, as well as out-of-state tourism (which is supported substantially by outdoor recreation). Data from the Colorado Tourism Office show a record 28 million people visited Colorado in 2007, contributing \$9.8 billion to the state's tourism industry.¹⁴

Given this information, a conservative estimate of **annual economic activity directly related to outdoor recreation in Colorado is likely between \$10 to \$15 billion**, using the OIF and CTO figures as a foundation and assessing the economic contributions from other activities statewide.¹⁵ Additionally, this range does not include the activities that have not assessed their economic contribution to the state economy. Some of these activities include:



- Team sports and tournaments (basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, baseball, ultimate Frisbee, etc.
- Competitive events and adventure races (marathons, triathlons, charity walks, adventure and endurance races)
- Golfing
- Picnicking
- Parasailing, hangliding, powered paragliding
- Boating

Accounting for other outdoor recreation activities like the ones highlighted above would further bolster the total statewide economic activity generated by outdoor recreation.

¹³Analysis of the Economic Contribution of Off-Highway Vehicle Use in Colorado. Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition. Hazen and Sawyer, 2001.

¹⁴Longwoods Intl. *Colorado Travel Year 2007*. Colorado Tourism Office, Office of Economic Development and International Trade, 2007. <http://www.colorado.com/static.php?file=industry_partners>.

¹⁵This "conservative" range of economic impacts was established based on discussions between a five-member working group of the SCORP Steering Committee comprised of recreation professionals from varied professional backgrounds [e.g., federal and state government agencies, private consulting, and academic institutions]. Additional information on economic activity generated from outdoor recreation is provided in *Section 5: Economic Activity Associated with Outdoor Recreation*.



Colorado's Recreation Regions

Colorado residents choose their communities for many reasons, including the quality of life associated with each region's unique and varied landscapes and recreation amenities. The 2008 SCORP includes a detailed discussion of outdoor recreation within six SCORP regions (e.g., Northeast, Southeast, Front Range, South Central, Northwest, and Southwest regions), as featured on Map 1.

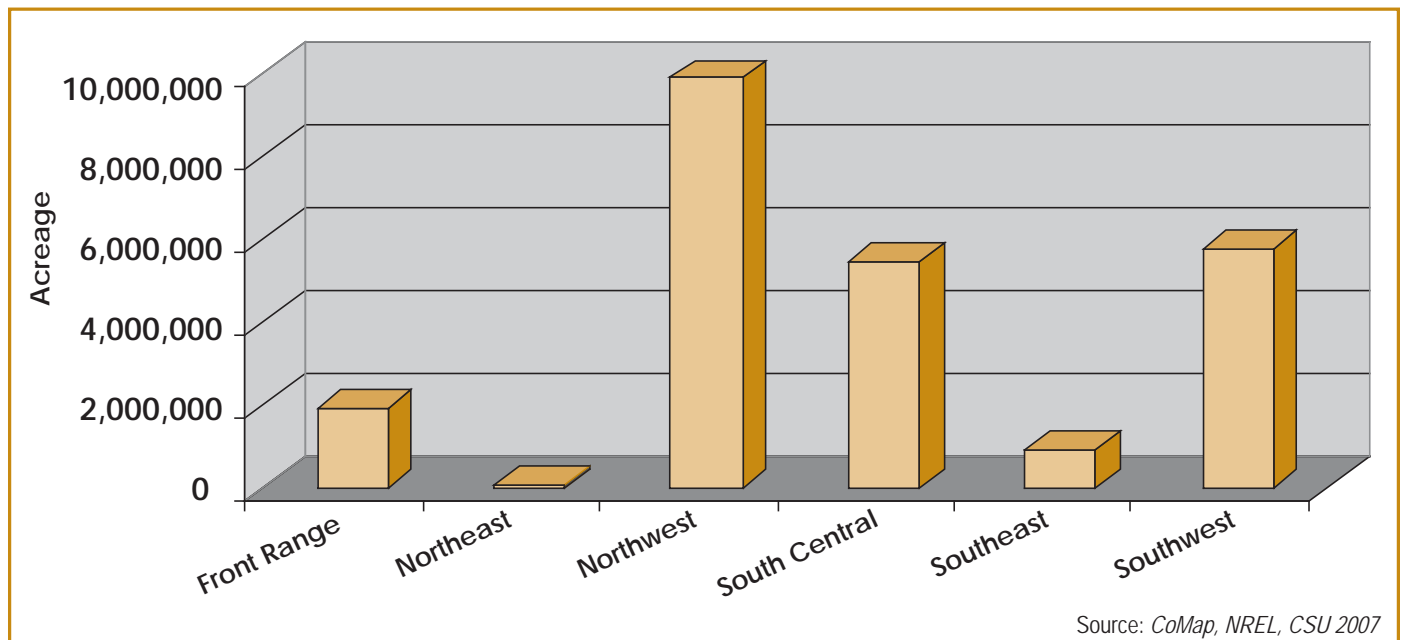
Each regional description provides information to assist land managers, business people, community leaders, non-profits, and citizens in planning, managing, and investing in outdoor resources. Specifically, each region description includes:

- Population and demographic trends
- Public lands, recreation attractions, and activities
- Economic profile of tourism
- Recreation and open space grant allocations
- Local government priority recreation issues and needs

Figure 4 displays the amount of existing public lands open for recreation purposes by region. **Figure 5** demonstrates projected population growth within each SCORP region, which will increase the need for additional outdoor recreation opportunities.



Figure 4: Public Lands Open to Recreation Use (by Region)



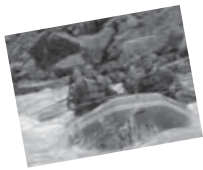
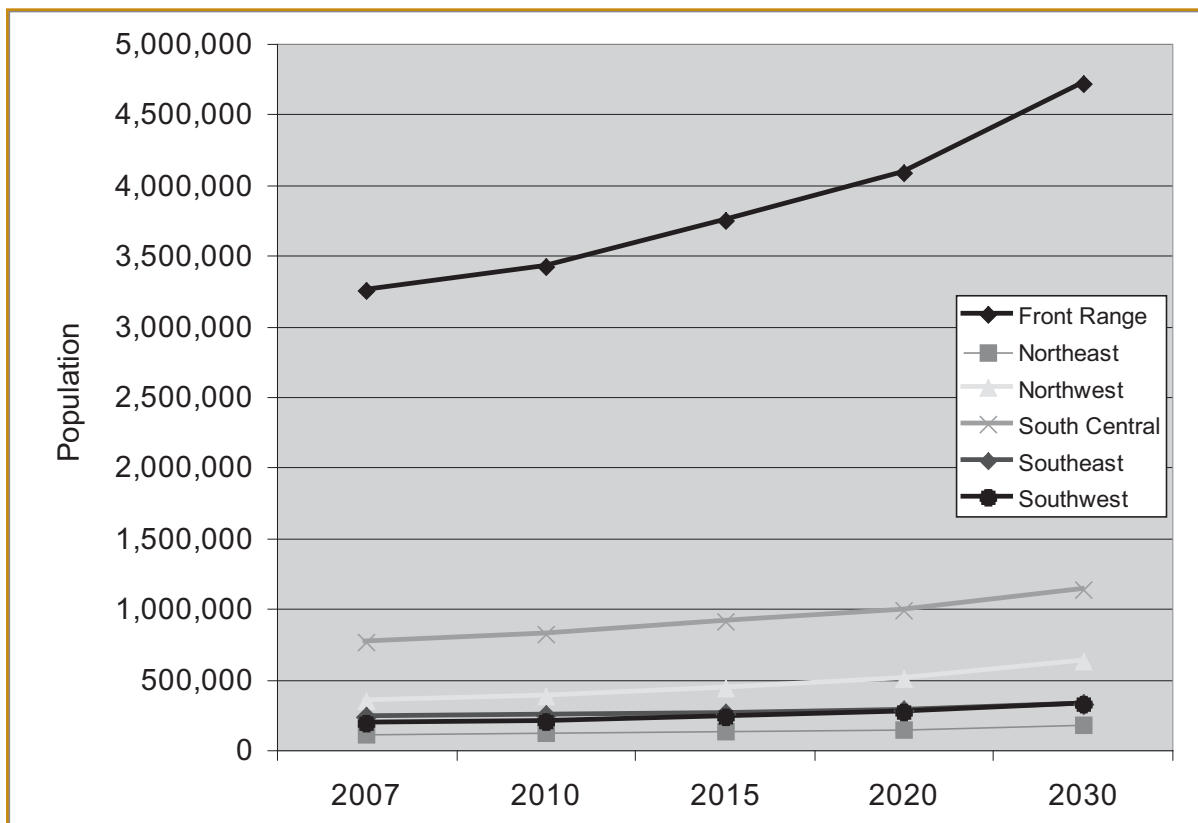


Figure 5: Regional Comparison of Projected Population Growth (2007-2030)



Source: State Demography Office 2007

Priority Outdoor Recreation Issues and Influences

The Steering Committee evaluated statewide outdoor recreation trends and identified more than 30 key issues and influences affecting Colorado outdoor recreation. Issues range from the pressures of population growth to the challenges posed by insufficient funding for local, state, and federal agencies managing recreation. Environmental conditions and changes are also prominent, as are concerns about declining youth participation in outdoor recreation and associated increasing rates of obesity. Climate change and forest health are cited as being major concerns. The following five issues and influences are considered the highest priorities are:

- Issue #1: Effects of **Environmental Change** on Recreation and Tourism.
- Issue #2: **Population and Demographic Change** and Related Recreation-Tourism Market Demands
- Issue #3: **Connection Between Public Health and Recreation**
- Issue #4: **Funding Shortfalls** for Recreation Management
- Issue #5: **Improved Integration of Recreation Interests and Needs** in land use and other relevant planning efforts

A brief summary of each of these five issues is provided on the following pages.



Issue #1: Effects of Environmental Change on Recreation and Tourism

Virtually all of Colorado's outdoor recreation opportunities are directly tied to the natural environment, which is in a constant state of flux. Recent scientific evidence points to significant changes in environmental conditions, due to climate change and other factors influenced by human activities. With increased awareness of issues such as climate change, drought, forest health (e.g., bark beetle infestations), and invasive species, there is heightened appreciation and public concern about potential environmental change and subsequent impacts to recreation.

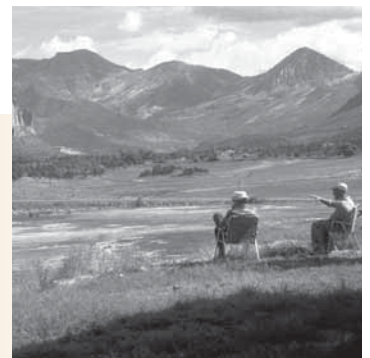
Environmental change is broad and far-reaching. For the purposes of the 2008 SCORP, Steering Committee members focused on those components of environmental change deemed most threatening to current outdoor recreation interests. These include climate change, water resources, forest health, fire management, and invasive animal and plant species, including zebra mussels, tamarisk, and other noxious weeds. The 2007 Local Government Survey conducted as part of the 2008 SCORP also points to concerns among local governments with natural resource and recreation management. For example, agency respondents identify the "monitoring and maintaining of natural resource conditions" as one of their ten most important management issues.

Issue #2: Population and Demographic Change and Related Recreation-Tourism Market Demands

SCORP Steering Committee members cite population growth as another priority concern affecting recreation in Colorado. Similarly, local governments are aware of the demands resulting from a growing population. Respondents to the 2007 Local Government Survey cite the capacity to serve this expansion among the top ten most important issues. Between 1990 and 2000, the Colorado population increased 31%, or just over 3% annually.¹⁶ Population growth has slowed, but remains higher than the national average. The Colorado State Demography Office estimates the state population will grow to 7.3 million by 2030.¹⁷

Rocky Mountain Climate Organization reports that United States Geological Survey data show spring run-off in 72 Colorado sites has advanced an average of two weeks since 1980. This can lead to water shortages in late summer when consumer demand is high and aquatic and riparian habitats are vulnerable.

Population and demographic changes have a direct impact on recreation and must be factored in to future recreation planning efforts. Understanding and preparing for these trends will assist recreation providers in meeting the future needs of Colorado's citizens.



¹⁶Colorado State Demography Office." Colorado Department of Local Affairs. 10 Feb. 2008 <<http://www.dola.state.co.us/demog/>>.

¹⁷Colorado State Demography Office. Colorado Department of Local Affairs. 26 Jan. 2008 <<http://www.dola.state.co.us/dlg/demog/index.html>>.



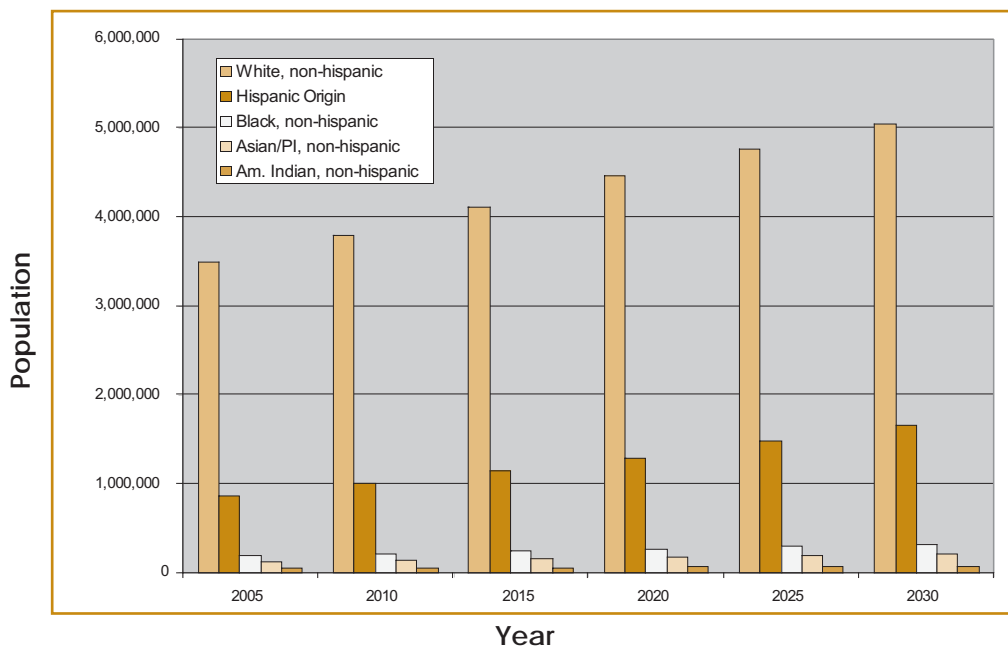
In addition, demographic shifts are also influencing the face of recreation. Two of these changes include:

- **Shifting Generational Trends and Preferences**—Colorado’s population is growing both in size and age. The aging of the “baby boomer” population (born 1946 to 1964) represents a large-scale shift in Colorado’s age distribution. While this is a national trend, the significant in-migration of this group into Colorado has amplified the state’s demographic. With more leisure time, comparably high disposable income, and concern for health and fitness, baby boomers are expected to increase the demand for recreation services.

Another generation affecting the face of recreation in Colorado is the “millennial” generation (born 1978 – 2003). Millennials generally respond to recreation activities that are “accessible,” i.e., those visual in the media and practical in terms of how much time the activity requires.¹⁸ Millennials are also more technologically sophisticated than past generations. In 1998, the millennial generation was the first generation to show a decrease in the percentage of participants in sporting activities.¹⁹

- **Changing Ethnicity**—Colorado’s Hispanic population continues to grow in absolute size and proportion to the total population. Hispanics represent the fastest growing ethnic group in Colorado, but other ethnic groups show continued growth as well. Forecasts project that persons of Hispanic origin will represent 23% of the total population in 2030, with about 1.7 million people. Many local, regional, and state parks are already witnessing changes in recreational use patterns as a result of increasing numbers of Hispanics recreating. For example, many local recreation providers see large Hispanic families participating in activities like family cookouts, softball and soccer games, riding bikes, or simply soaking up the sun and listening to music at community parks.

Figure 6: Projected Colorado Population by Ethnic Group (2005 - 2030)



¹⁸State of the Industry Report. Outdoor Industry Association. 2006.

¹⁹Glaeser, John. "Millennials, the New Generation Boom Proves to Be Highly Desirable Market." *California Parks and Recreation Society*. Winter 2002. 1 Apr. 2008 <http://www.cprs.org/membersonly/Win02_Millennials.htm>.

Issue #3: *Connection Between Public Health and Recreation*

Physical activity is essential to improve public health. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention, 53.9% of Coloradans get the recommended amount of physical activity, compared to only 48.1% of the national population.²⁰ Physically active people have a lower risk of heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, and some types of cancer. Despite the benefits of such a lifestyle, many Coloradans, particularly today's youth, are increasingly sedentary. As a result, rates of childhood obesity (13.5% in 2005) are particularly alarming. Colorado, like much of the U.S., is witnessing declining youth participation in outdoor recreation activities. The increasing prevalence of "nature-deficit disorder" (a term created by Richard Louv in his book entitled *"Last Child in the Woods: Saving Children from Nature Deficit Disorder"*), has meant many of today's youth do not benefit from the social, mental, and physical benefits of being outside and recreating.

In response to this emerging health threat, grassroots campaigns are being initiated in many states. Programs like California's "Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights" and the "No Child Left Inside" legislation encourage parents, educators, health professionals, park managers, and others to promote the outdoors to children and improve their mental, physical, and social well-being. "No Child Left Inside" legislation has passed in Connecticut and Maryland, and is also being proposed on the federal level.

Issue #4: *Funding Shortfalls for Recreation Management*

Stagnant or declining funding has directly affected the ability of many local governments, state, and federal agencies to address recreation management needs and meet increasing statewide recreation demands. A slowing economy, increased fuel costs, higher priorities for funding (e.g., transportation, health, and education), and stagnant or declining tax revenues are a few factors that contribute to recent funding shortfalls. Strategic partnerships and increased or additional revenue sources are necessary to provide adequate funding for capital construction, as well as management and maintenance of existing facilities and infrastructure.



*Between 1997 and 2003, children's (ages 9 to 12) participation in outdoor activities like walking, hiking, fishing, gardening, declined 50%.
--University of Maryland Study cited in The Washington Post, 2007.*

The higher the concentration of sites like parks, ball fields, and ball courts per block, the more likely middle school and high school students were to meet CDC physical activity recommendations and the less likely they were to be overweight.

--Journal of Pediatrics, 2006.

"Hands-on learning and direct outdoor experiences are critically important to the intellectual and physical health of the learners. Environmental education can provide our youth with quality opportunities to directly experience the natural world and improve overall academic performance, self-esteem, personal responsibility, community involvement, and personal health. Colorado can continue to be one of the healthiest states in the country, in part through employing successful and effective environmental education strategies."

-Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education

²⁰"The Importance of Physical Activity." Department of Health and Human Services - Center for Disease Control and Prevention. 21 Mar. 2008 <<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/physical/importance/index.htm>>.



Other findings highlighting the unmet needs for providing outdoor recreation opportunities in Colorado include:

- The Colorado State Trails Program can meet less than half of all grant requests. In 2008, only \$2 million of the \$4.2 million in applications was funded (or about 48% of the total).
- While Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) provides extraordinary resources for recreation and open space amenities, the agency cannot meet the enormous demand for grant requests. Between 2004 and 2007, 188 Open Space grant applications applied for nearly \$50 million, and only 95 applications were funded (resulting in a \$13 million in unmet need). During the same period, \$35 million was awarded through Local Parks and Outdoor Recreation grants, or 52% of total monies requested, leaving approximately \$33 million in unmet needs. Of the 147 Mini Grants received, 92 were funded, only 58% of the amount requested.
- When GOCO's financial position permits, the agency provides Legacy Program grants for large-scale, multi-million dollar, long-term projects with a regional or statewide impact. In 2004, only 15% of the funding needs were met; of \$404 million requested, only \$60 million was awarded, benefiting 18 of the 68 entities that applied for these competitive grants. In 2007, 30% of requests were met, with \$64 million granted to 16 of the 37 projects that applied, leaving \$147 million in unmet needs.²¹

Issue #5: Integration of Recreation Interests in Land Use and other Relevant Planning Efforts

Many land use and transportation planning decisions directly affect outdoor recreational use, particularly the availability of and access to various recreation opportunities in Colorado. Better coordination of outdoor recreation interests within the context of local, regional, and statewide land use, transportation, tourism, and other relevant planning efforts will ensure that recreation needs are adequately addressed in the future. By elevating the importance and relevance of recreation in planning discussions, recreation stakeholders, and Colorado citizens can help facilitate the development of communities that support active lifestyles with an abundance of parks, trails, and open space.

The 140 local governments responding to the 2007 SCORP Local Government Survey reported that their five-year acquisition and capital improvement plans exceeded \$992 million, with only \$552 million in funding allocated.

This 44% shortfall equals more than \$440 million in unmet acquisition and capital improvement needs.



²¹Aangeenbrug, L. "GOCO Grant Requests/Awards." 9 May 2008.



2008 SCORP STRATEGIC PLAN

The 2008 SCORP Strategic Plan provides a five-year framework for addressing priority outdoor recreation issues and influences to accomplish the vision outlined by the SCORP Steering Committee. The committee developed the plan, based on input and an analysis of outdoor recreation issues and needs collected through components of the 2008 SCORP planning process; data also was incorporated from the 2007 Colorado Public Survey and 2007 Local Government Survey. The plan includes implementation recommendations, prioritized goals, objectives, and supporting actions that, when executed, will address critical issues outdoor recreation interests face in Colorado. Goals and objectives comprising the SCORP Strategic Plan are below. Additional supporting actions designed to help achieve these goals and objectives are highlighted in the SCORP issue tables (see page 18).

Goal 1: *Address and/or minimize the potential negative effects of environmental change on recreation and tourism.*

- Objective 1.1. Develop a better understanding of how climate change may impact recreation and tourism in Colorado.
- Objective 1.2. Lessen the impact of future climate change on Colorado's recreation and tourism economy, while dealing with some of the impacts that are likely to occur.
- Objective 1.3. Support efforts to mitigate and manage wildfire and infestations (e.g., bark beetle and non-native invasive species) that will impact the overall quality of Colorado's recreation opportunities.

Goal 2: *Assess, understand, and adapt to the growing demands and changing recreation and tourism preferences of residents and visitors.*

- Objective 2.1. Understand the recreation and tourism preferences associated with growing market segments.
- Objective 2.2. Identify and coordinate strategies to evaluate appropriate levels and types of service for expanding user groups.
- Objective 2.3. Implement the steps necessary to meet changing recreation user demands.





Goal 3: *Promote outdoor recreation as a means of improving public health among Coloradans, particularly youth.*

- Objective 3.1. Integrate efforts committed to fostering the connection between public health and outdoor recreation.
- Objective 3.2. Develop new policies and initiatives to increase participation in outdoor recreation.
- Objective 3.3. Implement a statewide educational and awareness campaign to encourage people to be more active by enjoying Colorado's outdoors.

Goal 4: *Address funding challenges associated with maintaining and managing Colorado's outdoor recreation resources.*

- Objective 4.1. Determine specific funding shortfalls for recreation management partners and identify potential solutions.
- Objective 4.2. Educate the public and decision-makers about funding needs and benefits of outdoor recreation to generate support for implementing strategies.
- Objective 4.3. Improve the tracking of local, regional, and statewide recreation demands, economic impact, and current funding initiatives and needs.

Goal 5: *Sufficiently account for outdoor recreation needs in local, regional, and statewide planning efforts.*

- Objective 5.1. Further integrate outdoor recreation and public land interests within community and regional land use planning.
- Objective 5.2. Incorporate outdoor recreation and public lands into local, regional, and state planning processes.
- Objective 5.3. Ensure that recreation interests are represented in future planning and permitting processes relevant to major land use decisions.





For each supporting action that is outlined in the SCORP issue tables, the Steering Committee provided details to assist in implementation. These include:

- **Suggested Lead Implementer** — Corresponds to the lead agency or group that would assist in implementing the supporting action. Acronyms are used when possible and the full partner name is spelled out and listed in alphabetical order on page 28.
- **Potential Collaborative Partners and Resources** — Agencies or groups that may be able to support implementation or assist through funding, staff, or volunteers. In some cases, grants or financial support have been identified as well.
- **Recommended Timeframe** — May include a suggested time of year (typically seasonal). These are only noted for top-tier (three-star) priority actions (see description below).
- **Priority Level** — Approximate priority level of the supporting action. Given limited time, staff, and organizational resources, top-tier priorities should be considered first in terms of implementation. Top-tier priorities are denoted by three stars (★★★), second-tier priorities are denoted by two stars (★★), and third-tier (lower priorities) are denoted by one star (★).





Issue # 1: Effects of Environmental Change on Recreation and Tourism

Goal 1: Address and/or minimize the potential negative effects of environmental change on recreation and tourism.

Objectives and Supporting Actions

Objective 1.1 Develop a better understanding of how climate change may impact recreation and tourism in Colorado.

Secure necessary funding and partners to conduct new research or compile existing information to more clearly identify potential effects of climate change on recreation and tourism. Reports should include specific indicators, mitigation strategies, alternatives for existing recreation activities that will be heavily impacted, and surveys of visitor perceptions about climate change and related impacts to their experience.

Objective 1.2 Lessen the impact of future climate change on Colorado's recreation and tourism economy, while dealing with some of the impacts that are likely to occur.

Request that the *Western Climate Change Initiative* include an outdoor recreation component in their planning process.

Incorporate mitigation of and adaptation to climate change into agency strategic and operational planning processes. Agencies should lead by example, reducing their own carbon emissions, modifying recreational facility design and engineering standards (e.g., trails, structures, roads, water and power infrastructure), and using low-emission vehicles. Design standards should also anticipate expected future conditions, such as more heat, more severe weather, periodic flooding, and drought.

Engage the ski industry (and other winter sports stakeholders and outfitters) to collaboratively plan for an initial increase in visitation (due to eventual lack of snow in European countries) and an eventual decrease in winter skiers and visitors. (The effort should also include expanding summer-based recreation, such as mountain biking and hiking).

Encourage employees' professional development to learn how to better communicate and educate others about the impacts of future climate change on Colorado's recreation areas. Seek additional resources for outdoor recreation organizations to effectively teach about the complicated topic of climate change and make it relevant to youth and adult community program participants throughout Colorado.

Protect and restore critical fish and wildlife habitat that provides important refuge, breeding grounds, and migration corridors.

Work with the Governor's Energy Office to fund alternative modes of transportation projects as a means of off-setting carbon production.

Incorporate green building standards into grant applications for GOCO and Colorado State Trails Program, with respect to trails, recreation facilities, or infrastructure.

Create eco-tourism or green-minded vacation packages for visitors. (This could be modeled after Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) stewardship adventures. Could also be focused on offsetting the impacts of vacations by offering carbon offsets to tourists at the airport, car rental counters, ski resorts, Colorado Welcome Centers, etc.)

Objective 1.3 Support efforts to mitigate and manage wildfire and infestations (e.g., bark beetle and non-native invasive species) that will impact the overall quality of Colorado's recreation opportunities.

Work with potential funding sources (federal agency appropriations, OEDIT, DNR, etc.) to expedite removal of dead-standing trees in burned and bark beetle infestation areas (particularly in campgrounds, picnic areas, parking lots, and along popular trails). Secure funding and plan for active forest management and fish/wildlife/vegetation habitat management and adaptation strategies.

Support efforts to prevent the spread of invasive plant species (e.g., tamarisk) and plant/tree pathogens. Implement early detection and rapid response mechanisms.

Educate stakeholder groups about how to contain the spread of invasive species and prevent potential infestations by sharing the impacts of zebra mussel infestations; help them identify mussels and sanitize their boats.

Support educational outreach efforts to school-aged children, Colorado residents, and tourists to inform them of the realities of bark beetles and related potential wildfire—focusing on a positive message about healthy forests and the need for active management, including prescribed burning and thinning.

*Suggested implementation timeframes provided only for Top Tier priority actions.



Suggested Lead Implementer(s)	Potential Collaborative Partners and Resources	Recommended Timeframe*	Priority Level
State and private universities	SRCA, USFS, BLM, NPS, CDOW, State Parks, CTO, NWF, CSFS, and other federal, state, and local rec. providers	2008-2009	★★★
Governor's Climate Change Coordinator	RMCO, State Parks, CDOW	Fall 2008	★★★
Federal, state, and local recreation agencies	CPRA, agency stakeholders	2009	★★★
RMCO, Ski Country USA	CTO; local governments	2009-2013	★★★
CAEE	Gov's Energy Office, federal, state, and local recreation agencies, CMC, CPRA	2009-2013	★★★
Federal, state, and local recreation agencies	Land Trusts, fishing and wildlife groups	2009-2013	★★★
Colorado Carbon Fund (Gov.'s Energy Office), SCORP Implementation Team	Bicycle CO, CDOT, RMCO, local governments, regional transp. Agencies	2009-2013	★★★
GOCO, Colorado State Trails Program	Governor's Energy Office		★★
Colorado Carbon Fund (Gov.'s Energy Office), CTO	CMC, guides and outfitters, hotel and lodging associations, chambers of commerce		★★
Federal, state, local recreation and wildlife agencies	SRCA, CSFS, OEDIT, DNR	2009-2013	★★★
Federal, state, local rec. and wildlife agencies	VOC, UCSU Cooperative Extension, County Weed Managers	2009-2013	★★★
Federal, state, local rec. agencies, & affected stake-holder groups	CWCB, Fishing is Fun grant	2009-2013	★★★
CMC, CAEE	SRCA, CNAP, experiential educators, Project WILD educators		★★

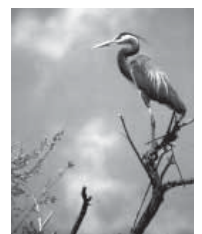




Issue # 2: Changing Community Demographics and Recreation-Tourism Market Demands	
Goal 2: Assess, understand, and adapt to the growing demands and changing recreation and tourism preferences of residents and visitors.	
Objectives and Supporting Actions	
Objective 2.1 Understand the recreation and tourism preferences associated with growing market segments.	
	Develop and conduct focus groups and surveys to determine recreation and tourism preferences of specific demographic groups, such as Hispanics, second home owners, and older adults and people inexperienced in outdoor recreation activities. Address the following: desired activities, experiences, setting characteristics, and services. Explore various desired levels of service (i.e., "through the windshield" vs. full immersion) preferences for group vs. individual experiences, and cultural characteristics relevant to recreational opportunities.
	Once preferences are better understood, reach out to the specific populations mentioned above, perhaps targeting youth, to introduce "gateway" outdoor recreation activities, such as hiking, through targeted marketing and educational programs.
Objective 2.2 Identify and coordinate strategies to evaluate appropriate levels and types of service for expanding user groups.	
	At a proposed annual forum on outdoor recreation (possibly in conjunction with the Governor's Tourism Conference), devote a breakout session to disseminate research and identify collaborative strategies to meet the preferences and expectations of these growing market segments.
	Based on information and outcomes of recreation user preferences research and the recreation niches supported by various recreation providers, identify which providers are best-suited to accommodate changes in user preferences.
Objective 2.3 Implement the steps necessary to meet changing recreation user demands.	
	Publicize information from surveys of Hispanics, second home owners, and older adults (developed under Objective 2.1) and encourage integration of results into management and planning efforts among recreation providers through stakeholder conferences, newsletters, and websites.
	Adapt marketing and advertising materials and messages accordingly to capture niches, shifting markets, and preferences among the growing segments of Colorado's population (Hispanics, older adults, second home owners) and people unfamiliar with outdoors experiences.
	Expand bilingual signage and printed materials in Spanish in communities or regions with significant Hispanic populations.
	Develop, enhance, and distribute educational programs and materials to address the needs of the growing Hispanic population. Educational opportunities should focus on natural resource stewardship, Leave No Trace ethics, and opportunities for preferred outdoor recreation activities. Support educational efforts with public service announcements, signage, and interpretive programs in Spanish.
	Encourage (or offer) Spanish language classes for recreation professionals who interact with the public, including park rangers, environmental educators, etc.
<small>*Suggested implementation timeframes provided only for Top Tier priority actions</small>	



Suggested Lead Implementer(s)	Potential Collaborative Partners and Resources	Recommended Timeframe*	Priority Level
OIA	State and private universities, local Spanish language media	2008-2013	★★★
OIA, CPRA	Local parks and rec. agencies, state and federal agencies		★
State Parks	CTO, CPRA		★
SCORP St. Committee	OIA, CORRP, CPRA		★
OIA, CPRA	Federal, state, and local rec. providers	2008-2013	★★★
OIA; Federal, state, and local rec. providers	CTO, CPRA		★★
CTO; Federal, state, and local rec. providers	CPRA		★★
CPRA, federal, state, and local rec. providers	Leave No Trace, CAEE		★★
Federal, state, and local rec. providers	CPRA		★★





Issue # 3: Connection Between Public Health and Outdoor Recreation

Goal 3: Promote outdoor recreation as a means of improving public health among Coloradans, particularly youth.

Objectives and Supporting Actions

Objective 3.1 Integrate efforts committed to fostering the connection between public health and outdoor recreation.

Establish a statewide coalition to integrate existing planning strategies related to public health, youth, outdoor recreation, environmental literacy, and stewardship to leverage resources and avoid duplication of efforts. The coalition could meet monthly or quarterly and be modeled after or be developed as a sub-committee of CORRP, or could be overseen by the CDPHE.

Secure a Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) volunteer to help organize the coalition, meetings, virtual clearinghouse, and to assist with implementation of these strategies.

Increase awareness to user groups and encourage partners to use existing databases that compile information about organizations, partnerships, programs, and resources that can help implement Issue #3 recommendations outlined in the SCORP strategic plan; provide this information to the coalition.

Participate in the 2008 Earth Day Summit: *Connecting Colorado Kids to Nature* (and Leadership Committee); begin organizing diverse interests into a statewide coalition to implement the proposed strategies in SCORP.

Organize and promote the National Get Outdoors Day as part of National Great Outdoors Month.

Host a breakout session at the 2008 Governor's Tourism Conference on getting youth active in the outdoors.

Collaborate with the TPL and NPS on events featuring Richard Louv to promote getting youth active in the outdoors.

Select designated liaisons from SCORP Steering Committee to participate in various concurrent planning efforts, such as ACE Task Force, USFS More Kids in the Woods project, USFWS Let's Go Outside for Health campaign, NWF's Green Hour, Children in Nature Network opportunities, LiveWell planning initiatives, etc.

Identify the current number of partnerships involved in meeting this objective and update the list annually to measure change.

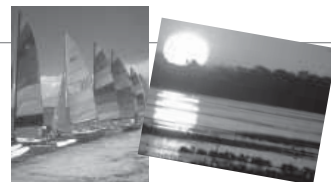
Objective 3.2 Develop new policies and initiatives to increase participation in outdoor recreation.

Conduct the statewide educational and awareness campaign detailed in Objective 3.3., beginning with the Governor's Office Proclamation of a "No Child Left Inside Day."

Draft and implement a Colorado Children's "Outdoor Bill of Rights."

Foster relationships with leadership from critical stakeholders, such as public land agencies, outdoor recreation providers, and parks and recreation departments to help develop and implement new policy initiatives.

Convene a summit of stakeholders (including the Lt. Governor and the proposed coalition listed under Objective 3.1) to identify policy initiatives, levels of support, and implementation strategies. (Summit could be organized as a session during a recreation forum held in conjunction with the Governor's Tourism Office or during the Trust for Public Land's Richard Louv event in Fall 2008).



Suggested Lead Implementer(s)	Potential Collaborative Partners and Resources	Recommended Timeframe*	Priority Level
Proposed Gov's Commission	CORRP or CDPHE	Fall 2008	★★★
CYCA	CORRP or CDPHE	Summer 2008	★★★
CAEE, CDPHE, OIF, CPRA	Vista volunteer	Summer 2008	★★★
NWF & EPA	Federal, State, and Local Agencies, Lt. Gov.	Spring 2008	★★★
ARC, USFS, CDTA	Federal, State, and Local Agencies, SCORP St. Com.	Jun-08	★★★
State Parks		Fall 2008	★★★
State Parks, LiveWell & CDPHE	SCORP St. Com. Members	Fall 2008	★★★
LiveWell & CDPHE		—	★★
State Parks, LiveWell, & CDPHE	Vista volunteer		★★
LiveWell, & CDPHE, Proposed Gov's Commission, CPRA	TPL, NPS, State Parks, CYCA, CAEE, VOC	Fall 2008	★★★
State Parks, LiveWell & CDPHE, CPRA	CAEE, CYCA, VOC	Fall 2008	★★★
LiveWell & CDPHE, CPRA	SCORP St. Com. members, DOLA, CML, CCI	Winter 2008	★★★
LiveWell & CDPHE, Proposed Gov's Commission	CAEE, CYCA, VOC, State Parks, CPRA	Fall 2008	★★★





Issue # 3: Connection Between Public Health and Outdoor Recreation (Cont'd)

Objectives and Supporting Actions

Partner with the Colorado Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (COAHPERD) to strengthen the outdoor education component in schools.

Work with the medical community to create and administer outdoor recreation "Go for Green" prescriptions that would encourage active lifestyles (similar to the Canada model). Prescriptions would include maps to access local parks, open spaces, and trails.

Determine new legislative initiatives or existing resources to provide more outdoor education programs.

Objective 3.3 Implement a statewide educational and awareness campaign to encourage people to be more active by enjoying Colorado's outdoors.

Use the publication of the 2008 SCORP and related media attention to highlight the connection between public health and outdoor recreation; inform people about opportunities to get healthy and active in the outdoors.

Incorporate an outdoor recreation and health education component into every resource or material published by various partner agencies.

Partner with LiveWell Colorado to help develop and implement their social marketing campaigns.

Promote volunteer stewardship opportunities as a way to get active in the outdoors.

Direct people to the CAEE website that houses a clearinghouse of environmental education organizations, resources, and events.

Publicize mass transit as a means of increased physical activity. (People tend to walk more to get to and from transit stations and can often meet the American Heart Assoc.'s guideline of 30 minutes of walking per day when taking public transportation).

Encourage citizens to take advantage of local recreation sites by connecting them to information resources (websites, maps, brochures, etc.) that identify nearby parks and recreation areas. Increasing awareness about organizations that facilitate getting kids into natural, undeveloped areas is also important. Identify stable funding mechanisms to increase efforts to connect children, particularly underserved children) to natural environments, as necessary.

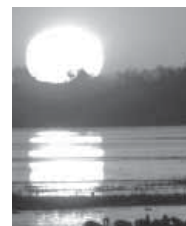
Promote the 2009 Colorado State Parks Anniversary by publicizing state parks as opportunities for improving public health and engaging in outdoor activities.

Work with Colorado Front Range Trail organizers to publicize the health benefits of using the trail, promote the website and trail maps to the public, and ensure health benefits information is incorporated into brochures and publicity materials.

¹ Suggested implementation timeframes provided only for Top Tier priority actions.



Suggested Lead Implementer(s)	Potential Collaborative Partners and Resources	Recommended Timeframe*	Priority Level
CASH, COAHPERD	YMCA, youth orgs, State Parks, private industry, LiveWell, & CDPHE, CDOT, CDE, CEA, outdoor lab schools		★★
LiveWell & CDPHE	State Parks, CPRA		★★
Proposed Outdoor Rec. and Health Coalition in conjunction with the proposed Funding Coalition & Proposed Gov's Commission	CPRA, CAEE		★★
Lt. Gov, Proposed Gov's Commission	State Parks, CPRA	Summer 2008	★★★
LiveWell & CDPHE, CPRA	ACE & CDPHE, Federal, State, and Local rec. providers	2008-2013	★★★
LiveWell & CDPHE		2008-2013	★★★
VOC	CYCA, Fed, State, and Local providers		★★
CAEE, SCORP media campaign	CPRA		★★
LiveWell, CDOT, mass transit agencies, DRCOG and other regional COGS, local governments	Colorado Walks, Colorado on the Move		★★
LiveWell & CDPHE	CPRA, Outward Bound, TPL, State Parks, local rec. providers, Beckwourth, Alpino, etc.		★★
State Parks, LiveWell & CDPHE			★★
State Trails Program	Local governments, CML, DOLA, CCI		★★





Issue # 4: Funding Shortfalls for Recreation Management

Goal 4: Address funding challenges associated with maintaining and managing Colorado's outdoor recreation resources.

Objectives and Supporting Actions

Objective 4.1 Determine specific funding shortfalls for recreation management partners and identify potential solutions.

Establish a Governor's Commission or Advisory Council on Outdoor Recreation to investigate challenges facing Colorado's outdoors, including funding needs and strategies; improve interagency collaboration to leverage existing resources, and expand and generate support for statewide recreation.

Under the direction of the Governor's Commission on Outdoor Recreation, organize a coalition of local, state, federal, private industry, non-profits, and legislators to serve as a unified voice for outdoor recreation funding. The coalition will support existing efforts devoted to increasing recreation funding that will benefit Colorado in ways such as increasing LWCF apportionments, RTP enhancements, Colorado Lottery advertising, and the like.

Create and distribute a commitment form (modeled after the Active Community Environments (ACE) Task Force); have critical partners sign it, declaring their willingness to devote time and resources to the Governor's Commission and funding coalition.

Review proposed strategies to meet funding deficits (such as partnering with public health and/or transportation agencies, severance tax revision, refundable bottle deposit bill, Trails Pass, etc.); determine most significant gaps (e.g., acquisition, new construction, renovation, and maintenance) to prioritize potential allocations.

Develop a strategic plan to implement the most effective and efficient funding strategies; draft any necessary legislation to accomplish solutions.

Update the Recreation and Conservation Funding Request (compiled in FY 2004) to reflect funding needs for FY 2009; present the update to the public and state and federal legislators.

At the proposed annual forum on outdoor recreation (possibly in conjunction with the Governor's Tourism Conference), devote a breakout session to discuss funding initiatives.

Compile a comprehensive list of grants, assistance programs, and their relevant details, including eligible projects, grant amounts, deadlines, and contact information to assist managers with immediate funding needs. Post information on SCORP website, distribute widely to stakeholders, and update in future SCORP cycles.

Objective 4.2 Educate the public and decision-makers about funding needs and the benefits of outdoor recreation to generate support for implementing strategies.

Estimate the economic impact of the entire outdoor recreation industry in Colorado, including activities, retail sales, taxes, visitation, etc.

Conduct an official, comprehensive, and detailed outdoor recreation economic impact study.

Develop a communications strategy to create targeted messages for decision-makers, the general public, and recreation industry members who use the SCORP as a planning tool; determine effective methods for conveying relevant information to each group.

Coordinate a press conference to present SCORP (and strategic plan) to Lt. Governor, Governor, media partners, decision-makers, and stakeholder groups.

Launch a public awareness campaign (based on the communications strategy) about economic impacts, funding shortfalls, and benefits of outdoor recreation in conjunction with the publication of the 2008 SCORP.



Suggested Lead Implementer(s)	Potential Collaborative Partners and Resources	Suggested Timeframe*	Priority Level
SCORP Implementation Team	Ski areas, Bicycle CO, OIA, CDPHE, CPRA, CDOT, COGs, hunting and fishing orgs., CAST, CCI, CMC, CFI, VOC, CYCA, CTO, TPL, TNC, CO Lottery, GOCO, state, federal, and local agencies etc.	Fall 2008	★★★
Proposed Gov's Commission	Ski areas, Bicycle CO, OIA, CDPHE, State Parks, CPRA, CDOT, COGs, hunting and fishing orgs., CAST, CCI, CMC, CFI, VOC, CYCA, CTO, TPL, TNC, CO Lottery, GOCO, etc.	Fall 2008	★★★
Proposed funding coalition leaders			★
Proposed Gov's Commission	Ski areas, Bicycle CO, OIA, CDPHE, CPRA, CDOT, COGs, hunting and fishing orgs., CAST, CCI, CMC, CFI, VOC, CYCA, CTO, TPL, TNC, CO Lottery, GOCO, etc.	2008-2013	★★★
Proposed Gov's Commission	Ski areas, Bicycle CO, OIA, CDPHE, State Parks, CDOT, COGs, hunting and fishing orgs., CAST, CCI, CMC, CFI, VOC, CYCA, CTO, TPL, TNC, CO Lottery, federal, state, and local agencies, etc.	2008-2009	★★★
OIA	Proposed Gov's Commission, Sen. Salazar's office, proposed rec. funding coalition		★★
State Parks	Proposed Gov's Commission, proposed funding coalition		★★
State Parks, CPRA	LWCF grant		★★
SCORP Steering Committee	CSU, CU, DU	Summer 2008	★★★
Proposed Gov's Commission	CSU, CU, DU		★★
SCORP Steering Committee	Kaiser Permanente	Spring 2008	★★★
SCORP Steering Committee	SCORP Implementation Team	Fall 2008	★★★
SCORP Steering Committee, Proposed Gov's Commission	CTO, CCI, CML, CPRA	Fall 2008	★★★





Issue # 4: Funding Shortfalls for Recreation Management (Cont'd)

Objectives and Supporting Actions

Objective 4.3 *Improve the tracking of local, regional, and statewide recreation demands, economic activity related to outdoor recreation, and current funding initiatives and needs.*

Recommend that future Longwoods and Runyan tourism economic impact studies separate outdoor recreation expenditures on overnight leisure trips from other leisure activity expenditures, such as visiting museums and zoos.

Develop a data clearinghouse to track recreation demands, funding gaps, economic benefits, etc.

Devote a portion of a full-time employee, contractor, and/or a seasonal position's time to creating the clearinghouse, updating information, organizing the funding coalition, and tracking implementation of SCORP recommendations.

Suggested implementation timeframes provided only for TopTen priority actions.





Suggested Lead Implementer(s)	Potential Collaborative Partners and Resources	Suggested Timeframe*	Priority Level
CTO	SCORP Implementation Team	Summer 2008	★★★
OIA	CPRA, SCORP St. Com, State Parks		★★
State Parks	LWCF grant		★★





Issue # 5: Improved integration of outdoor recreation interests and needs in land use and other relevant planning efforts

Goal 5: Sufficiently account for outdoor recreation needs in local, regional, and statewide planning efforts.

Objectives and Supporting Actions

Objective 5.1 Further integrate outdoor recreation and public lands interests within community and regional land use planning.

Encourage the inclusion of park, open space, trails and other outdoor recreation assets in community master plans or comprehensive plans through the development and dissemination of model master plan elements for parks, open spaces, and trails.

Distribute standards and definitions related to sizing, location, and service area for parks and open spaces and seek adoption by CML, CCI, and other local government associations (or create information if it does not already exist).

Promote coordinated planning between local, county, state, and federal recreation managers to provide for connectivity and interconnection between different public lands by including outside agency representatives on planning advisory panels as stakeholders in the planning process.

Promote Active Community Environments (ACE) (under the CDPHE) community strategies and action steps in community planning efforts.

Objective 5.2 Incorporate outdoor recreation and public lands into local, regional, and state planning processes.

Work with CDOT and local transportation authorities to promote "complete street policies" that will accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians, and which may provide for recreation opportunities.

Encourage a public lands agency or outdoor recreation representative to be appointed to the Colorado Tourism Office Board once a vacancy is available.

Create a liaison between outdoor recreation interests and CDOT through the placement of an outdoor recreation representative on STAC or a similar advisory group.

Develop grant award incentive processes that encourage local governments to develop parks and recreation facilities to utilize multi-modal access and linkages. Distribute model incentive processes and language to grant-making entities.

Encourage alternative modes of transportation and non-motorized access and linkages to parks and outdoor recreation sites by working with CDOT, RTD, and other transportation agencies to develop alternative transportation options for recreation destinations.

Encourage non-motorized transportation for parks and recreation areas by allowing bicycles on park roadways and providing racks.

Support basin-wide collaborative arrangements similar to the Arkansas River Voluntary Flow Management Program to ensure streamflow management considers recreation interests.

Participate in the next update of the Colorado Comprehensive Wildlife Action Strategy (coordinated by CDOW) to addresses priorities protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Objective 5.3 Ensure that recreation interests are represented in future planning and permitting processes relevant to major land use decisions.

Work with federal agencies in updating land use plans (e.g., resource management plans and forest plans) to ensure that goals and objectives reflect public outdoor recreation needs, including those of sportsmen and outfitters.

Work with the Department of Natural Resources to revise the distribution of the severance tax to assist CDOW sites and state parks that are particularly affected by oil and gas development on the Western Slope.

Work cooperatively with water providers to operate water development projects in ways that meet recreation interests and needs.

Actively participate in public scoping during NEPA permitting processes associated with potential projects or federal actions that may potentially affect outdoor recreation.

*Suggested implementation timeframes provided only for Top Tier priority actions.



Potential Lead Implementer(s)	Potential Collaborative Partners and Resources	Recommended Timeframe*	Priority Level
DOLA	CML, CCI, Local gov. rec providers	2008-2009	★★★
CPRA	CML, CCI, Local gov. rec providers	2009	★★★
Federal, state, and local rec. providers	DOLA	2008-2013	★★★
CDPHE	Local rec. providers, CPRA, LiveWell & CDPHE, Proposed Gov's Commission	2008-2013	★★★
CDPHE, DOLA	Bicycle Colorado, CDPHE, State Trails Program	2008-2013	★★★
CTO, SCORP Steering Committee, Proposed Gov's Commission	Federal, state, and local agencies and rec. stakeholders	2008-2013	★★★
SCORP Steering Committee	CDOT		★★
GOCO, Colorado State Trails Program	CDPHE, Bicycle Colorado		★★
Federal, state, and local agencies	COGs, CDOT, LiveWell CO & CDPHE		★★
Federal, state, and local agencies	CPRA, Bicycle Colorado, LiveWell CO & CDPHE		★★
Federal, state, and local agencies			★★
CDOW	Federal, state, and local agencies and rec. stakeholders		★★
Sportsmen's groups, outfitters, outdoor rec interests	BLM, USFS	2008-2013	★★★
State Parks, CDOW, Proposed Gov's Commission	Colorado Outfitters Association, CWF, NWF	2008	★★★
Sportsmen's groups, CDOW, FWS	Municipal water providers, BOR		★★
Sportsmen's groups, CO Outfitters Assoc., outdoor rec. interests	CDOW, CWF, State Parks, FWS		★★





CONCLUSION

Key Recommendations

Embedded within the SCORP Strategic Plan are several recommendations integral to its successful implementation. Executing the suggestions are essential for Colorado to meet the goals, objectives, and supporting actions outlined in the Strategic Plan. Further, taking these actions directly influence whether the likelihood that other strategic plan elements will be achieved. Descriptions of these key implementation recommendations are provided below.

Key Implementation Recommendation #1:

Form a Governor's Commission or Statewide Advisory Council on Colorado's Outdoors to implement key policies related to recreation and open space initiatives.

A Governor's Commission would provide a unified voice that represents statewide outdoor recreation interests. The SCORP document, particularly the Strategic Plan, would provide the Commission with a platform to analyze the most pertinent trends, issues, and needs related to outdoor resources, including the key implementation considerations. This group may lead the implementation of goals, objectives, and suggested actions set forth in the Strategic Plan and form policy relevant to outdoor recreation.

At a minimum, a Statewide Advisory Council comprised of several SCORP Steering Committee Members (as well as policy makers and a representative from the Governor's Office and the Lt. Governor's Office) should convene and meet semi-annually to review plan elements that need to be implemented, initiate discussions with stakeholder groups, organize lead implementers, gather resources necessary to spur action on key items in the SCORP Strategic Plan, and review progress.

Key Implementation Recommendation #2:

Coordinate an annual mini-conference or summit on outdoor recreation in conjunction with the Governor's Tourism Conference (or as a stand-alone event) to continue fostering sustainable partnerships, assessing policy initiatives, identifying stakeholder roles and agency niches, and tracking progress in implementing priority recommendations.

Continuing to develop partnerships with the many groups (government, non-for-profit organizations, and private interests) that are interconnected with recreation is essential to managing outdoor recreation holistically and effectively in Colorado. To avoid duplication of effort and leverage limited resources, interests must be organized and tracked. In addition to building sustainable partnerships, the proposed mini-conference or summit would focus on the strategies outlined in the 2008 SCORP Strategic Plan, address policy solutions to the issues and influences identified in the SCORP, and create a mechanism to collaborate with the members of the proposed Governor's Commission (or Statewide Advisory Council) on Colorado's Outdoors.

Formation of a Governor's Commission on Colorado's Outdoors would help implement important policy initiatives related to outdoor recreation.

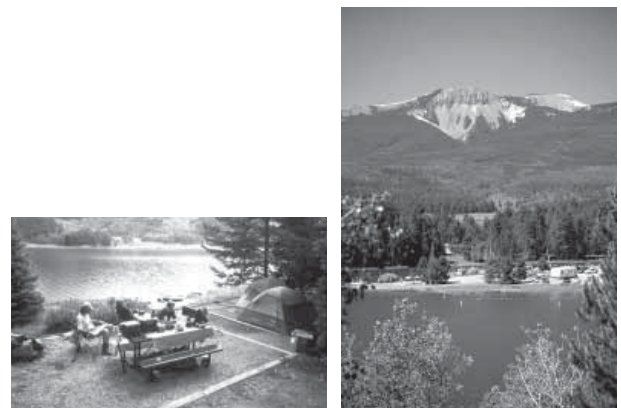


Key Implementation Recommendation #3:

Educate Colorado’s citizens about the many important issues affecting outdoor recreation and the benefits of outdoor recreation through coordinated public outreach and environmental education efforts.

After closely examining each goal, objective, and suggested action, the Steering Committee concluded that none of the SCORP Strategic Plan recommendations can be accomplished without comprehensive education efforts. Colorado residents need to better understand the range of issues affecting outdoor recreation and potential solutions to address these issues. Colorado residents must be better educated about the physical, mental, and emotional benefits of outdoor recreation to inspire them to become active in the outdoors. This educational campaign also should address known barriers to being outdoors.

Aside from improving public awareness about outdoor recreation benefits and opportunities, efforts to educate the public about the environment should be made to further the initiatives in the Strategic Plan and reconnect citizens to the outdoors. This education serves to raise environmental literacy and creates responsible and engaged citizens who think critically and make responsible decisions. Through participation in outdoor recreation activities that foster environmental education and immersion in nature, children can develop learning and problem-solving skills, and become adults who are prepared for the challenges and opportunities in life of the twenty-first century.





Acronym	Full Name
ACE	Active Community and Environments Task Force
ARC	American Recreation Coalition
BLM	United States Bureau of Land Management
BOR	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
CAEE	Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education
CASH	Child and Adolescent School Health
CAST	Colorado Association of Science Teachers
CCI	Colorado Counties, Inc.
CDE	Colorado Department of Education
CDOT	Colorado Department of Transportation
CDOW	Colorado Division of Wildlife
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
CEA	Colorado Education Association
CFI	Colorado Fourteeners Initiative
CMC	Colorado Mountain Club
CML	Colorado Municipal League
CNAP	Colorado Natural Areas Program
COAHPERD	Colorado Association of Health, Physical Education, Rec., and Dance
COGs	Councils of Governments
COPAN	Colorado Physical Activity and Nutrition Program
CORRP	Colorado Outdoor Recreation Resource Project
CPRA	Colorado Parks and Recreation Association
CSFS	Colorado State Forest Service
CTO	Colorado Tourism Office
CWCB	Colorado Water Conservation Board
CWF	Colorado Wildlife Federation
CYCA	Colorado Youth Corps Association
DNR	Colorado Department of Natural Resources
DOLA	Colorado Department of Local Affairs
DRCOG	Denver Regional Council of Governments
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
GOCO	Great Outdoors Colorado
LiveWell	LiveWell Colorado
NPS	U.S. National Park Service
NWF	National Wildlife Federation
OEDIT	Office of Economic Development & International Trade
OIA	Outdoor Industry Association
RMCO	Rocky Mountain Climate Organization
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SRCA	Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance
State Parks	Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TPL	Trust for Public Land
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
VOC	Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado
YMCA	YMCA





www.coloradoscorp.org



Printed with soy inks on recycled paper.
30% POST CONSUMER WASTE