

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REVISED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 26-0502.01 Clare Haffner x6137

**HOUSE BILL 26-1008**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING MEASURES TO ENHANCE OUTDOOR RECREATION**  
102              **OPPORTUNITIES IN THE STATE, AND, IN CONNECTION**  
103              **THEREWITH, EXPANDING THE DIVISION OF PARKS AND**  
104              **WILDLIFE'S CAPACITY FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION**  
105              **COORDINATION, PLANNING, AND MANAGEMENT, AND MAKING AN**  
106              **APPROPRIATION.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill requires the division of parks and wildlife (division) in the

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*  
*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 24, 2026

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
March 9, 2026

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 6, 2026

department of natural resources to expand the division's capacity for outdoor recreation coordination, planning, and management and take a leading role in state-level coordination, strategic planning, and implementation of Colorado's outdoors strategy. The division is directed to, among other things, engage with relevant partners, stakeholders, and agencies to coordinate and incorporate wildlife, conservation, recreation, and climate-resilience considerations across agency planning and decision-making processes.

In addition, the division is required to support, in consultation with relevant entities, the planning, development, and maintenance of outdoor recreation infrastructure to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities while protecting private property rights, wildlife, and natural resources.

The bill also requires the division to create, and update at least annually, integrated regional outdoor recreation and conservation planning reports to inform division awareness and operational decision-making.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1. Short title.** The short title of this act is the  
3 "Colorado Outdoor Opportunities Act".

4           **SECTION 2. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
5 finds and declares that:

6           (a) It is the policy of the state of Colorado that the state's  
7 unparalleled landscapes, wildlife, public lands, and outdoor experiences  
8 be protected, conserved, and enhanced for the benefit and enjoyment of  
9 current and future generations, while protecting the state's agricultural  
10 heritage and private property rights;

11           (b) Outdoor recreation, access to quality outdoor experiences, and  
12 the conservation of lands and wildlife habitats, all within the context of  
13 a changing climate and growing population, are vital components in  
14 ensuring a thriving future for Colorado's outdoors;

15           (c) Outdoor recreation is fundamental to Colorado's economy,  
16 culture, and identity, contributing to public health, community well-being,

1 and the development of lifelong connections to the outdoors. Outdoor  
2 recreation annually contributes \$65.8 billion to Colorado's economy and  
3 supports 404,000 jobs, over 12% of the entire labor force in Colorado.

4 (d) Outdoor recreation's significant economic, fiscal, and  
5 community benefits across the state include revenue that supports public  
6 services, infrastructure, and investments, from transportation to child care  
7 and mental health services, that contribute to the health, safety, and  
8 welfare of Coloradans. It is important that these benefits be equitably  
9 distributed throughout the state to the extent possible.

10 (e) Ensuring safe, high-quality outdoor experiences through  
11 purposeful planning, coordination, and management is essential to  
12 sustaining the state's outdoor heritage;

13 (f) Connecting youth to outdoor experiences is vital for ensuring  
14 the long-term well-being of the state's residents, since research  
15 demonstrates that outdoor engagement supports improved cognitive  
16 abilities, fosters creativity and resilience, and is essential for promoting  
17 public health and reducing stress, and many communities face barriers to  
18 accessing the outdoors and the benefits of spending time in nature;

19 (g) Colorado's outdoors face significant and urgent pressures from  
20 growing populations, human disturbance, and development, alongside  
21 severe climate-driven impacts such as wildfires, drought, and rising  
22 temperatures. It is essential that the state play an active role in  
23 appropriately managing these pressures to ensure Colorado's outdoors are  
24 available for future generations.

25 (h) Thoughtful planning and management of outdoor recreation  
26 and associated infrastructure should consider economic, fiscal, and  
27 service-related impacts on local communities and regions and can support

1 conservation goals by reducing resource impacts, improving stewardship,  
2 and sustaining the long-term health of the state's public lands;

3 (i) Colorado has a long-standing tradition of managing public  
4 lands and working landscapes to support a range of compatible uses and  
5 affirms that coordinated outdoor recreation management can occur  
6 alongside conservation, agricultural operations, and other land uses in  
7 ways that support long-term resource stewardship and community values;

8 (j) As more visitors and Coloradans participate in all forms of  
9 outdoor recreation, it is important to advance exceptional recreation  
10 experiences that are accessible, inclusive, and sustainable so that future  
11 generations may continue to enjoy the state's world-class outdoor  
12 opportunities;

13 (k) To effectively manage these challenges, the state must  
14 formalize and strengthen collaboration across conservation, wildlife,  
15 agriculture, and recreation partners, local governments, Tribal  
16 governments, and federal land managers, including by soliciting rural  
17 perspectives; develop shared tools and data; advance coordinated  
18 planning that recognizes that Colorado's public and private lands support  
19 multiple uses; and align funding to support voluntary, strategic actions  
20 that sustain high-quality recreation opportunities while maintaining  
21 resilient landscapes, wildlife habitat, working lands, and community  
22 values for all Coloradans;

23 (l) Colorado's outdoors strategy, developed by the department of  
24 natural resources, the division of parks and wildlife, great outdoors  
25 Colorado, the office of climate preparedness in the governor's office, and  
26 the outdoor recreation industry office in the office of economic  
27 development, in collaboration with partners and stakeholders, provides

1 the necessary statewide vision and coordination to advance conservation,  
2 climate resilience, and outdoor recreation opportunities. One strength of  
3 Colorado's outdoors strategy is its voluntary approach that allows partners  
4 to leverage opportunities that support locally determined needs.

5 (m) The general assembly recognizes the role that the Colorado  
6 outdoor regional partnerships initiative, created by the governor's  
7 executive order B 2020 008, plays in convening vital perspectives,  
8 partners, and expertise in land conservation, land use, and recreation  
9 planning. The initiative is a locally driven and powerful platform for early  
10 and proactive coordination among stakeholders, helping to identify shared  
11 priorities, reduce conflict, and advance tangible outcomes for outdoor  
12 recreation and conservation statewide. It is the intent of the general  
13 assembly that the initiative remains a voluntary and locally derived  
14 process with opportunities for stakeholder engagement, including county  
15 governments.

16 (n) The division of parks and wildlife engages and will continue  
17 to engage in formal consultation with Tribal governments, including the  
18 Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, which are the  
19 two federally recognized tribes with reservations in Colorado, when the  
20 division is requested to do so and when issues of importance to Tribal  
21 governments arise, which issues concern outdoor recreation or division  
22 actions on state public lands that may affect Tribal sovereignty or treaty  
23 rights of the Tribal governments in Colorado, including history, culture,  
24 and natural and cultural resources;

25 (o) Meaningful engagement with tribal nations is important, and  
26 the collaborative framework developed in Colorado's outdoors strategy  
27 is crucial to support ongoing tribal participation in statewide outdoor

1 recreation and conservation efforts;

2 (p) The outdoor recreation industry office plays a vital role in  
3 advancing outdoor recreation. The mission of the office is to champion  
4 industry, communities, and people through Colorado's great outdoors. The  
5 office is a vital partner for the division of parks and wildlife in  
6 coordinating outdoor recreation industry partnerships and supporting the  
7 division in planning and outcomes for the advancement of exceptional  
8 and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities.

9 (q) Local governments are critical partners in outdoor recreation  
10 planning, coordination, and management, and recreation impacts  
11 communities in different ways. The rapid increase in demand for outdoor  
12 recreation is challenging local governments' ability to maintain access and  
13 provide related services. For example, counties and municipalities  
14 frequently experience increased and unique demands related to outdoor  
15 recreation, including emergency services. Counties are well suited to  
16 convene area partners and play a critical role in identifying and  
17 addressing localized impacts of recreation, and state coordination should  
18 incorporate local perspectives to reduce unintended burdens on  
19 community infrastructure and services. It is essential that the state work  
20 in partnership with local governments to manage these impacts and  
21 advance locally driven visions for outdoor recreation.

22 (r) With approximately 60% of Colorado land in private  
23 ownership, working with private landowners is also essential to the  
24 success of Colorado's outdoors strategy, and it is important to ensure that  
25 agricultural interests, private landowners, including private landowners  
26 adjacent to outdoor recreation development, and local governments are  
27 integrally involved in state efforts; wildlife habitats are protected; and

1 private property rights are upheld as conservation and recreation  
2 management decisions are made;

3 (s) The division of parks and wildlife possesses a long history of  
4 outdoor recreation planning, management, and recreational asset delivery  
5 through its state parks system, which serves as a significant source of  
6 exceptional and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities. The  
7 division's responsibilities extend beyond state park boundaries and  
8 encompass outdoor recreation coordination, wildlife conservation, and  
9 support for partners managing lands across all jurisdictions. As a leader  
10 in outdoor recreation management, the division is well-positioned to play  
11 a critical coordinating role in advancing outdoor recreation planning and  
12 management statewide, beyond the boundaries of its current 43 state  
13 parks. It is the intent of the general assembly to formalize the division's  
14 role in meeting these responsibilities, without diminishing the division's  
15 long-standing responsibilities.

16 (t) The division of parks and wildlife assumes lead responsibility  
17 as the state's coordinating entity for advancing implementation of  
18 Colorado's outdoors strategy, in partnership with the department of  
19 natural resources, great outdoors Colorado, the outdoor recreation  
20 industry office, the office of climate preparedness, and other state and  
21 local government partners. In this role, the division facilitates early and  
22 proactive coordination and planning among agencies and stakeholders to  
23 reduce conflict, improve efficiency, and ensure accountability in  
24 advancing its goals and vision to find mutually beneficial outcomes that  
25 support and maintain Colorado's world-class outdoor recreation and  
26 natural resources.

27 (2) The general assembly further finds the need to expand and

1 strengthen the division of parks and wildlife's capacity for the  
2 coordination, planning, development, and management of Colorado's  
3 outdoor recreation to ensure the state's recreation opportunities provide  
4 high-quality visitor experiences that are responsibly managed to align  
5 natural resources, wildlife, agricultural heritage, private property, and  
6 public safety. The general assembly further recognizes that 36% of  
7 Colorado is federal public land and a significant amount of recreation in  
8 Colorado occurs on federal public lands; therefore, there is a growing  
9 need for the division to support recreation management and stewardship  
10 on federal public lands, which necessitates increased staff capacity and  
11 enhanced coordination with federal land management agencies, without  
12 expenditures from the wildlife cash fund created in section 33-1-112  
13 (1)(a), Colorado Revised Statutes.

14 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-10-102, **add** (1.5),  
15 (2.5), (2.7), (2.9), (7.5), (10.5), and (13.5) as follows:

16 **33-10-102. Definitions.**

17 As used in articles 10 to 15 of this title 33, unless the context  
18 otherwise requires:

19 (1.5) "ACCESSIBLE EXPERIENCES" MEANS OUTDOOR RECREATION  
20 OPPORTUNITIES THAT LOWER BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION AND  
21 ENJOYMENT, SUCH AS BY MEETING THE NEEDS OF DISPROPORTIONATELY  
22 IMPACTED COMMUNITIES, GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE OR  
23 UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES, OR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING  
24 DISABILITIES, WITH THE GOAL OF ENABLING EVERYONE TO EXPLORE THE  
25 OUTDOORS AND BE PART OF THE LARGER COMMUNITY REGARDLESS OF  
26 MOBILITY OR OTHER LIMITATIONS.

27 (2.5) "COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY" MEANS "COLORADO'S

1 OUTDOORS STRATEGY: A COLLABORATIVE VISION FOR CONSERVATION,  
2 OUTDOOR RECREATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE (2025)", PREPARED, IN  
3 COLLABORATION WITH A BROAD RANGE OF PARTNERS, BY THE  
4 DEPARTMENT, THE DIVISION, GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO, THE OUTDOOR  
5 RECREATION INDUSTRY OFFICE, THE OFFICE OF CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS,  
6 AND THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, AND ANY SUBSEQUENT UPDATES.

7 (2.7) "COORDINATING PARTNERS" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT,  
8 GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO, THE OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY  
9 OFFICE, AND THE OFFICE OF CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS.

10 (2.9) "EXCEPTIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION"  
11 MEANS THE BROAD RANGE OF NATURE- AND PLACE-BASED EXPERIENCES  
12 THAT ARE ENJOYED BY A DIVERSITY OF PEOPLE AND THAT PROVIDE  
13 HIGH-QUALITY, INCLUSIVE, AND ACCESSIBLE EXPERIENCES FOR PRESENT  
14 AND FUTURE GENERATIONS WHILE RESPECTING THE LONG-TERM  
15 ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES, WILDLIFE  
16 POPULATIONS, WORKING LANDS, AND COMMUNITIES UPON WHICH THOSE  
17 EXPERIENCES DEPEND.

18 (7.5) "GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO" MEANS THE GREAT  
19 OUTDOORS COLORADO PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY ARTICLE XXVII OF THE  
20 STATE CONSTITUTION AND IMPLEMENTED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60 OF  
21 THIS TITLE 33.

22 (10.5) "OFFICE OF CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS" MEANS THE OFFICE OF  
23 CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS CREATED IN SECTION 24-38.8-102 (1).

24 (13.5) "OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY OFFICE" MEANS THE  
25 OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY OFFICE CREATED IN SECTION  
26 24-48.5-129.

27 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 33-10-119 as

1 follows:

2 **33-10-119. Parks and outdoor recreation capacity - outdoor**  
3 **recreation coordination, planning, and management - duties of the**  
4 **division - planning reports - legislative declaration.**

5 (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

6 (a) IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE DIVISION PERPETUATE THE WILDLIFE  
7 RESOURCES OF THE STATE, PROVIDE A HIGH-QUALITY STATE PARKS  
8 SYSTEM, AND PROVIDE ENJOYABLE AND SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR  
9 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES THAT EDUCATE AND INSPIRE CURRENT AND  
10 FUTURE GENERATIONS TO SERVE AS ACTIVE STEWARDS OF THE STATE'S  
11 NATURAL RESOURCES;

12 (b) THE DIVISION, PURSUANT TO SECTION 33-9-101, PROVIDES A  
13 COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM DESIGNED TO OFFER THE GREATEST POSSIBLE  
14 VARIETY OF EXCEPTIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION  
15 OPPORTUNITIES TO STATE RESIDENTS AND VISITORS; AND

16 (c) THE DIVISION IS BEST POSITIONED TO SERVE AS THE STATE'S  
17 COORDINATING ENTITY FOR ADVANCING IMPLEMENTATION OF  
18 COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY, IN COLLABORATION WITH  
19 COORDINATING PARTNERS AND OTHER STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL  
20 GOVERNMENT PARTNERS; TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS; AND INTERESTED  
21 STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING LOCAL COMMUNITIES, PRIVATE LANDOWNERS,  
22 RECREATION AND RECREATION PROVIDER STAKEHOLDERS, CONSERVATION  
23 STAKEHOLDERS, AGRICULTURAL STAKEHOLDERS, AND WILDLIFE AND  
24 SPORTSPERSON STAKEHOLDERS. IN THIS ROLE, THE DIVISION SHOULD  
25 FACILITATE PLANNING AND DATA COORDINATION AMONG PARTNERS AND  
26 STAKEHOLDERS TO SUPPORT COORDINATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN  
27 ADVANCING THE STRATEGY'S GOALS AND VISION.

1           (2) THE DIVISION SHALL DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN THE  
2 ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY SUFFICIENT TO EFFECTIVELY EXECUTE THE  
3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION.

4           (3) THE DIVISION SHALL:

5           (a) ENSURE THAT OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ARE PRIORITIZED  
6 AND REPRESENTED WITHIN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE DIVISION; AND

7           (b) DEVELOP THE CAPACITY OF THE DIVISION TO INCREASE  
8 COORDINATION BETWEEN OUTDOOR RECREATION, WILDLIFE,  
9 AGRICULTURAL, AND CLIMATE-RESILIENCE EFFORTS AND INTERAGENCY  
10 PLANNING AND ACTIVITIES.

11           (4) IN IMPLEMENTING SUBSECTIONS (2) AND (3) OF THIS SECTION,  
12 THE DIVISION SHALL FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING GOALS:

13           (a) STRENGTHENING THE DIVISION'S CAPACITY FOR COORDINATED  
14 RECREATION MANAGEMENT, PARTICULARLY AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL, TO  
15 ANTICIPATE AND WORK THROUGH POTENTIAL CONFLICTS, BY  
16 COORDINATING AND INCORPORATING WILDLIFE, CONSERVATION,  
17 RECREATION, AND CLIMATE-RESILIENCE CONSIDERATIONS ACROSS  
18 DIVISION PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING AND IN ALIGNMENT WITH  
19 LOCAL PERSPECTIVES;

20           (b) PROACTIVELY ENGAGING WITH STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL  
21 GOVERNMENT PARTNERS; TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS; AND INTERESTED  
22 STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING LOCAL COMMUNITIES, PRIVATE LANDOWNERS,  
23 RECREATION AND RECREATION PROVIDER STAKEHOLDERS, CONSERVATION  
24 STAKEHOLDERS, STAKEHOLDERS REPRESENTING A DISPROPORTIONATELY  
25 IMPACTED COMMUNITY, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 24-4-109 (2)(b)(II),  
26 AGRICULTURAL STAKEHOLDERS, AND WILDLIFE AND SPORTSPERSON  
27 STAKEHOLDERS, TO ENSURE THAT ALL PERSPECTIVES AND AREAS OF

1 EXPERTISE ARE CONSIDERED IN THE DIVISION'S PLANNING AND  
2 MANAGEMENT PROCESSES;

3 (c) ADVANCING AND FORMALIZING INTERNAL PROCESSES TO  
4 BETTER INTEGRATE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCE  
5 MANAGEMENT INTO THE DIVISION'S CORE OPERATIONS, ENSURING  
6 COORDINATION BETWEEN RECREATION ACCESS, AGRICULTURAL WORKING  
7 LANDS, AND WILDLIFE AND HABITAT STEWARDSHIP;

8 (d) COORDINATING AND BALANCING THE DIVISION'S  
9 PARTICIPATION IN EXTERNAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING PUBLIC PLANNING,  
10 FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT, AND LEGISLATIVE ENGAGEMENT, TO  
11 ENSURE THAT RECREATION, WILDLIFE, CONSERVATION, AGRICULTURE, AND  
12 COMMUNITY PRIORITIES ARE CONSISTENTLY REPRESENTED;

13 (e) COLLABORATING CLOSELY WITH COORDINATING PARTNERS TO  
14 LEAD ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER STATE AGENCIES TO ADVANCE A  
15 COORDINATED AND UNIFIED APPROACH TO ENHANCING OUTDOOR  
16 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES, MANAGEMENT, AND PLANNING AT THE  
17 STATE LEVEL;

18 (f) PROACTIVELY ENGAGING WITH TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS  
19 THROUGH THE FRAMEWORK COLLABORATIVELY DEVELOPED IN  
20 COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY, ENSURING THAT TRIBAL  
21 PERSPECTIVES AND PRIORITIES, TREATY RIGHTS, AND CULTURAL  
22 PRIORITIES ARE MEANINGFULLY INCORPORATED INTO STATEWIDE  
23 PLANNING AND COORDINATION PROCESSES; AND

24 (g) SERVING AS A CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INFORMATION ON  
25 VOLUNTARY BEST PRACTICES, TOOLS, AND STRATEGIES, INCLUDING  
26 THROUGH ADVANCEMENT OF THE COLORADO OUTDOORS STRATEGY  
27 TOOLKIT, TO SUPPORT INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INCLUSIVE PLANNING

1 PROCESSES AT ALL LEVELS.

2 (5) CONSISTENT WITH THE MISSION AND DIRECTIVES OF THE  
3 DIVISION OUTLINED IN THIS ARTICLE 10, AND AS THE STATE AGENCY WITH  
4 PRIMARY COORDINATING RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXCEPTIONAL AND  
5 SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING, SUSTAINABLE VISITOR  
6 USE MANAGEMENT, AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COORDINATION, THE  
7 DIVISION SHALL:

8 (a) PROVIDE PROACTIVE APPROACHES TO VISITOR USE  
9 MANAGEMENT, WHICH APPROACHES CONSIDER ON-THE-GROUND CAPACITY  
10 TO SUPPORT VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE, AND  
11 COORDINATION, TO FOSTER OUTCOMES THAT SUPPORT IMPROVED  
12 OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES, NATURAL  
13 RESOURCE CONSERVATION, AND PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE HABITATS AND  
14 WORKING LANDS;

15 (b) IN ALIGNMENT WITH COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY,  
16 SUPPORT THE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND MAINTENANCE OF OUTDOOR  
17 RECREATION FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS  
18 STATEWIDE, WITH THE GOAL OF ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE AND  
19 EXCEPTIONAL OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES WHILE PROTECTING PRIVATE  
20 PROPERTY RIGHTS, AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS ON WORKING LANDS,  
21 WILDLIFE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES;

22 (c) COORDINATE AND CONSULT WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO  
23 IDENTIFY POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
24 ASSOCIATED WITH OUTDOOR RECREATION USE, INCLUDING OPPORTUNITIES  
25 TO MITIGATE THESE IMPACTS, COMMUNICATE EXISTING FUNDING  
26 OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DIVISION, AND GIVE  
27 APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES,

1 JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITIES, AND REGIONAL PLANNING EFFORTS TO  
2 ENSURE A COOPERATIVE AND COMPLEMENTARY APPROACH TO ACHIEVING  
3 OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT; AND

4 (d) IN CARRYING OUT THE DUTIES DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION  
5 (5), APPLY AN INTEGRATED APPROACH THAT CONSIDERS OUTDOOR  
6 RECREATION ACCESS, VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT, CONSERVATION,  
7 WILDLIFE HABITAT, WORKING LANDS, AND LONG-TERM RESOURCE  
8 STEWARDSHIP SO THAT THESE USES, TAKEN TOGETHER, BEST MEET  
9 PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS WITHOUT PERMANENT IMPAIRMENT OF THE  
10 PRODUCTIVITY OR HEALTH OF THE STATE'S NATURAL RESOURCES, TO THE  
11 EXTENT PRACTICABLE AND CONSISTENT WITH STATE LAW.

12 (6) CONSISTENT WITH THE DIVISION'S MISSION AND THE  
13 OBJECTIVES OF COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY, THE DIVISION SHALL  
14 WORK TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION, WILDLIFE  
15 CONSERVATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE OUTCOMES THROUGH  
16 COLLABORATION, DATA INTEGRATION, PROACTIVE PLANNING, STRATEGIC  
17 FINANCIAL INVESTMENT, AND REPORTING. TO FULFILL ITS DUTIES RELATED  
18 TO STATEWIDE OUTDOOR COORDINATION, THE DIVISION SHALL:

19 (a) LEAD AND COORDINATE ACROSS STATE, LOCAL, AND FEDERAL  
20 GOVERNMENT PARTNERS AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATING IN  
21 REGIONAL OUTDOOR PARTNERSHIP PLANNING EFFORTS AND RELATED  
22 VOLUNTARY EFFORTS ASSOCIATED WITH COLORADO'S OUTDOORS  
23 STRATEGY; AND

24 (b) (I) DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A RECURRING INTERNAL  
25 COORDINATION AND REPORTING PROCESS, INCLUDING BY CREATING  
26 PLANNING REPORTS, TO INTEGRATE DATA, PRIORITIES, AND OUTCOMES  
27 FROM WILDLIFE, RECREATION, CLIMATE RESILIENCE, AND REGIONAL

1 OUTDOOR PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS, ENSURING ALIGNMENT WITH THE GOALS  
2 OF COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY AND OTHER DIVISION EFFORTS  
3 BOTH REGIONALLY AND ACROSS THE DIVISION. IN CREATING PLANNING  
4 REPORTS, THE DIVISION SHALL:

5 (A) INTEGRATE AND SUMMARIZE KEY METRICS, OUTCOMES,  
6 OPPORTUNITIES, NEEDS, PERFORMANCE INDICATORS, AND ECONOMIC  
7 IMPACTS AND BENEFITS FROM STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES;

8 (B) COLLABORATE WITH STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL  
9 GOVERNMENT PARTNERS; TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS; AND INTERESTED  
10 STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING LOCAL COMMUNITIES, PRIVATE LANDOWNERS,  
11 RECREATION AND RECREATION PROVIDER STAKEHOLDERS, CONSERVATION  
12 STAKEHOLDERS, AGRICULTURAL STAKEHOLDERS, AND WILDLIFE AND  
13 SPORTSPERSON STAKEHOLDERS;

14 (C) ESTABLISH PROCESSES WITH STATE GOVERNMENT ENTITIES  
15 AND ASSOCIATED PARTNERS, SUCH AS THE OUTDOOR RECREATION  
16 INDUSTRY OFFICE AND THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO PROGRAM, TO  
17 IMPROVE COORDINATION AND EFFICIENCY ACROSS AGENCY PARTNERS;

18 (D) APPLY PROACTIVE AND ADAPTIVE APPROACHES TO THE  
19 DEVELOPMENT OF EXCEPTIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION  
20 OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT LONG-TERM RESOURCE VIABILITY;

21 (E) IDENTIFY AREAS OF ALIGNMENT AND POTENTIAL CONFLICT  
22 AMONG RECREATION, WILDLIFE, CONSERVATION, AGRICULTURAL, AND  
23 COMMUNITY PRIORITIES AND CHARACTER AND FACILITATE  
24 COLLABORATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING PROCESSES WITH RELEVANT  
25 PARTNERS TO SUPPORT MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL OUTCOMES;

26 (F) ENGAGE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
27 REGIONAL PRIORITIES AND ASSOCIATED PLANNING EFFORTS AND PROJECTS

1 WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION AND GIVE APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION TO  
2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES AND REGIONAL PLANNING EFFORTS TO  
3 ENSURE A COOPERATIVE AND COMPLEMENTARY APPROACH TO OUTDOOR  
4 RECREATION PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT;

5 (G) EMPLOY DATA-INFORMED MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR  
6 PLANNING AND INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC LANDS AND REGIONAL OUTDOOR  
7 RECREATION RESOURCES TO SUPPORT SHARED UNDERSTANDING AND  
8 INFORMED DECISION-MAKING AMONG PARTNERS;

9 (H) INCORPORATE CLIMATE-RESILIENCE STRATEGIES FOR  
10 REGIONAL OUTDOOR RECREATION AND CONSERVATION PLANNING TO  
11 ADVANCE THE RESILIENCE AND ADAPTABILITY OF THE STATE'S NATURAL  
12 AND COMMUNITY ASSETS;

13 (I) COORDINATE ACROSS THE DIVISION TO ENSURE THE BEST  
14 AVAILABLE INFORMATION, INPUT, AND COLLABORATION. IN PARTICULAR,  
15 THE DIVISION SHALL ENSURE COORDINATION BETWEEN WILDLIFE,  
16 RECREATION, AND CLIMATE-RESILIENCE EFFORTS WITHIN THE DIVISION.

17 (J) CONSIDER AVAILABLE FUNDING SOURCES TO ENABLE  
18 STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS TO ADVANCE CONSERVATION, RECREATION, AND  
19 CLIMATE-RESILIENCE EFFORTS WITHIN THE DIVISION.

20 (II) THE DIVISION SHALL:

21 (A) REFER TO THE PLANNING REPORTS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION  
22 (6)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION TO INFORM DIVISION PLANNING, INVESTMENT,  
23 AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND OUTREACH TO EXTERNAL  
24 STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS; AND

25 (B) UPDATE THE PLANNING REPORTS AT LEAST ANNUALLY TO  
26 REFLECT THE LATEST KNOWLEDGE AND ANY ASSOCIATED PLANNING  
27 UPDATES AND FACILITATE IMPROVED AWARENESS AND COORDINATION

1        WITHIN THE DIVISION AND AMONG THE DIVISION AND OTHER AGENCIES.

2            (7) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION:

3            (a) REQUIRES ACTION OR PARTICIPATION FROM A PRIVATE OR  
4        NON-STATE-GOVERNMENT ENTITY; ■

5            (b) GRANTS THE DIVISION DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY OVER  
6        MATTERS THAT ARE WITHIN ANOTHER ENTITY'S JURISDICTION;

7            (c) ALTERS OR DIMINISHES THE DIVISION'S EXISTING STATUTORY  
8        RESPONSIBILITIES TO PERPETUATE THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES OF THE STATE  
9        AND TO MANAGE AND IMPROVE THE STATE PARKS SYSTEM. THE  
10        AUTHORITY SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION COMPLEMENTS THE DIVISION'S  
11        MISSION AND EXISTING OBLIGATIONS.

12           (d) SUPERSEDES, ABROGATES, OR IMPAIRS THE RIGHT TO DIVERT  
13        WATER AND APPLY WATER TO BENEFICIAL USES IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
14        SECTION 6 OF ARTICLE XVI OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, COMPACTS  
15        ENTERED INTO BY THE STATE, ARTICLES 80 TO 92 OF TITLE 37, OR STATE  
16        COURT DETERMINATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE DETERMINATION AND  
17        ADMINISTRATION OF WATER RIGHTS. A PERSON SHALL NOT CONSTRUE,  
18        ENFORCE, OR APPLY THIS SECTION TO CAUSE OR RESULT IN MATERIAL  
19        INJURY TO WATER RIGHTS.

20           (e) REQUIRES, MANDATES, OR OTHERWISE COMPELS A PUBLIC OR  
21        PRIVATE LANDOWNER TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO LAND FOR RECREATIONAL  
22        PURPOSES OR ALTERS EXISTING STATE LAWS GOVERNING PROPERTY  
23        RIGHTS, EASEMENTS, OR LANDOWNER LIABILITY.

24           (8) IN 2027 AND 2028, THE DIVISION SHALL INCLUDE, DURING ITS  
25        "SMART ACT" HEARING REQUIRED BY SECTION 2-7-203, AN UPDATE ON  
26        THE EFFORTS DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION, INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION OF  
27        THE PLANNING REPORTS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (6)(b)(I) OF THIS

1 SECTION AND THE MONEY THAT THE DIVISION UTILIZED TO COMPLY WITH  
2 THIS SECTION.

3 **SECTION 5. Appropriation.**        For the 2026-27 state fiscal  
4 year, \$444,015 is appropriated to the department of natural resources.  
5 This appropriation is from the parks and outdoor recreation cash fund  
6 created in section 33-10-111 (1), C.R.S. To implement this act, the  
7 department may use this appropriation as follows, \$436,025 for state park  
8 operations in the division of parks and wildlife, which amount is based on  
9 an assumption that the division will require an additional 4.1 FTE.

10

      

11 **SECTION 6. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
12 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
13 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
14 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a  
15 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
16 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
17 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
18 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
19 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
20 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.