

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 26-0502.01 Clare Haffner x6137

**HOUSE BILL 26-1008**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Lukens and Taggart,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Marchman and Rich,**

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**House Committees**

Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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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.*

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 Ensuring safe, high-quality outdoor experiences is essential to sustaining  
5 the state's outdoor heritage.

6 (d) Connecting youth to outdoor experiences is vital for ensuring  
7 the long-term well-being of the state's residents, since research  
8 demonstrates that outdoor engagement supports improved cognitive  
9 abilities, fosters creativity and resilience, and is essential for promoting  
10 public health and reducing stress, and many communities face barriers to  
11 accessing the outdoors and the benefits of spending time in nature;

12 (e) Colorado's outdoors face significant and urgent pressures from  
13 growing populations, human disturbance, and development, alongside  
14 severe climate-driven impacts such as wildfires, drought, and rising  
15 temperatures;

16 (f) Thoughtful planning and management of outdoor recreation  
17 can support conservation goals by reducing resource impacts, improving  
18 stewardship, and sustaining the long-term health of the state's public  
19 lands;

20 (g) Colorado has a long-standing tradition of managing public  
21 lands and working landscapes to support a range of compatible uses and  
22 affirms that coordinated outdoor recreation management can occur  
23 alongside conservation, agricultural operations, and other land uses in  
24 ways that support long-term resource stewardship and community values;

25 (h) As more visitors and Coloradans participate in all forms of  
26 outdoor recreation, it is important to advance exceptional recreation  
27 experiences that are accessible, inclusive, and sustainable so that future

1 generations may continue to enjoy the state's world-class outdoor  
2 opportunities;

3 (i) To effectively manage these challenges, the state must  
4 strengthen collaboration across conservation, wildlife, agriculture, and  
5 recreation partners, local governments, Tribal governments, and federal  
6 land managers; develop shared tools and data; advance coordinated  
7 planning that recognizes that Colorado's public and private lands support  
8 multiple uses; and align funding to support voluntary, strategic actions  
9 that sustain high-quality recreation opportunities while maintaining  
10 resilient landscapes, wildlife habitat, working lands, and community  
11 values for all Coloradans;

12 (j) Colorado's outdoors strategy, developed by the department of  
13 natural resources, the division of parks and wildlife, great outdoors  
14 Colorado, the office of climate preparedness in the governor's office, and  
15 the outdoor recreation industry office in the office of economic  
16 development, in collaboration with partners and stakeholders, provides  
17 the necessary statewide vision and coordination to advance conservation,  
18 climate resilience, and outdoor recreation opportunities;

19 (k) The general assembly recognizes the role that the Colorado  
20 outdoor regional partnerships initiative, created by the governor's  
21 executive order B 2020 008, plays in convening vital perspectives,  
22 partners, and expertise in land conservation, land use, and recreation  
23 planning. The initiative is a locally driven and powerful platform for early  
24 and proactive coordination among stakeholders, helping to identify shared  
25 priorities, reduce conflict, and advance tangible outcomes for outdoor  
26 recreation and conservation statewide.

27 (l) The division of parks and wildlife engages and will continue

1 to engage in formal consultation with Tribal governments, including the  
2 Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, which are the  
3 two federally recognized tribes with reservations in Colorado, when the  
4 division is requested to do so and when issues of importance to Tribal  
5 governments arise, which issues concern outdoor recreation or division  
6 actions on state public lands that may affect Tribal sovereignty or treaty  
7 rights of the Tribal governments in Colorado, including history, culture,  
8 and natural and cultural resources;

9 (m) Meaningful engagement with tribal nations is important, and  
10 the collaborative framework developed in Colorado's outdoors strategy  
11 is crucial to support ongoing tribal participation in statewide outdoor  
12 recreation and conservation efforts;

13 (n) The outdoor recreation industry office plays a vital role in  
14 advancing outdoor recreation. The mission of the office is to champion  
15 industry, communities, and people through Colorado's great outdoors. The  
16 office is a vital partner for the division of parks and wildlife in  
17 coordinating outdoor recreation industry partnerships and supporting the  
18 division in planning and outcomes for the advancement of exceptional  
19 and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities.

20 (o) Local governments are also critical partners in outdoor  
21 recreation planning, coordination, and management, and recreation  
22 impacts communities in different ways. For example, counties and  
23 municipalities frequently experience increased and unique demands  
24 related to outdoor recreation, including emergency services. It is essential  
25 that the state work in partnership with local governments to manage these  
26 impacts and advance locally driven visions for outdoor recreation.

27 (p) With approximately 60% of Colorado land in private

1 ownership, working with private landowners is also essential to the  
2 success of Colorado's outdoors strategy, and it is important to ensure that  
3 agricultural interests, private landowners, including private landowners  
4 adjacent to outdoor recreation development, and local governments are  
5 integrally involved in state efforts; wildlife habitats are protected; and  
6 private property rights are upheld as conservation and recreation  
7 management decisions are made;

8 (q) The division of parks and wildlife possesses a long history of  
9 outdoor recreation planning, management, and recreational asset delivery  
10 through its state parks system, which serves as a significant source of  
11 exceptional and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities. The  
12 division's responsibilities extend beyond state park boundaries and  
13 encompass outdoor recreation coordination, wildlife conservation, and  
14 support for partners managing lands across all jurisdictions. As a leader  
15 in outdoor recreation management, the division is well-positioned to play  
16 a critical coordinating role in advancing outdoor recreation planning and  
17 management statewide, beyond the boundaries of its current 43 state  
18 parks.

19 (r) The division of parks and wildlife assumes lead responsibility  
20 as the state's coordinating entity for advancing implementation of  
21 Colorado's outdoors strategy, in partnership with the department of  
22 natural resources, great outdoors Colorado, the outdoor recreation  
23 industry office, the office of climate preparedness, and other state and  
24 local government partners. In this role, the division facilitates early and  
25 proactive coordination and planning among agencies and stakeholders to  
26 reduce conflict, improve efficiency, and ensure accountability in  
27 advancing its goals and vision to find mutually beneficial outcomes that

1 support and maintain Colorado's world-class outdoor recreation and  
2 natural resources.

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

17 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-10-102, add (1.5),  
18 (2.5), (2.7), (2.9), (7.5), (10.5), and (13.5) as follows:

19 **33-10-102. Definitions.**

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

22 (1.5) "ACCESSIBLE EXPERIENCES" MEANS OUTDOOR RECREATION  
23 OPPORTUNITIES THAT LOWER BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION AND  
24 ENJOYMENT, SUCH AS BY MEETING THE NEEDS OF DISPROPORTIONATELY  
25 IMPACTED COMMUNITIES, GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE OR  
26 UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES, OR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING  
27 DISABILITIES, WITH THE GOAL OF ENABLING EVERYONE TO EXPLORE THE

1 OUTDOORS AND BE PART OF THE LARGER COMMUNITY REGARDLESS OF  
2 MOBILITY OR OTHER LIMITATIONS.

3 (2.5) "COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY" MEANS "COLORADO'S  
4 OUTDOORS STRATEGY: A COLLABORATIVE VISION FOR CONSERVATION,  
5 OUTDOOR RECREATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE (2025)", PREPARED, IN  
6 COLLABORATION WITH A BROAD RANGE OF PARTNERS, BY THE  
7 DEPARTMENT, THE DIVISION, GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO, THE OUTDOOR  
8 RECREATION INDUSTRY OFFICE, THE OFFICE OF CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS,  
9 AND THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, AND ANY SUBSEQUENT UPDATES.

10 (2.7) "COORDINATING PARTNERS" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT,  
11 GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO, THE OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY  
12 OFFICE, AND THE OFFICE OF CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS.

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

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

25 (10.5) "OFFICE OF CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS" MEANS THE OFFICE OF  
26 CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS CREATED IN SECTION 24-38.8-102 (1).

27 (13.5) "OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY OFFICE" MEANS THE

1 OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY OFFICE CREATED IN SECTION  
2 24-48.5-129.

3 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 33-10-119 as  
4 follows:

5 **33-10-119. Parks and outdoor recreation capacity - outdoor**  
6 **recreation coordination, planning, and management - duties of the**  
7 **division - planning reports - legislative declaration.**

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

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

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

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

1 SHOULD FACILITATE PLANNING AND DATA COORDINATION AMONG  
2 PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS TO SUPPORT COORDINATION AND  
3 ACCOUNTABILITY IN ADVANCING THE STRATEGY'S GOALS AND VISION.

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

7 (3) THE DIVISION SHALL:

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

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

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

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

23 (b) PROACTIVELY ENGAGING WITH STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL  
24 GOVERNMENT PARTNERS; TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERS; AND  
25 INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING LOCAL COMMUNITIES, PRIVATE  
26 LANDOWNERS, RECREATION AND RECREATION PROVIDER STAKEHOLDERS,  
27 CONSERVATION STAKEHOLDERS, STAKEHOLDERS REPRESENTING A

1 DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED COMMUNITY, AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
2 24-4-109 (2)(b)(II), AGRICULTURAL STAKEHOLDERS, AND WILDLIFE AND  
3 SPORTSPERSON STAKEHOLDERS, TO ENSURE THAT ALL PERSPECTIVES AND  
4 AREAS OF EXPERTISE ARE CONSIDERED IN THE DIVISION'S PLANNING AND  
5 MANAGEMENT PROCESSES;

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

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

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

21 (f) PROACTIVELY ENGAGING WITH TRIBAL NATIONS THROUGH THE  
22 FRAMEWORK COLLABORATIVELY DEVELOPED IN COLORADO'S OUTDOORS  
23 STRATEGY, ENSURING THAT TRIBAL PERSPECTIVES AND PRIORITIES ARE  
24 MEANINGFULLY INCORPORATED INTO STATEWIDE PLANNING AND  
25 COORDINATION PROCESSES; AND

26 (g) SERVING AS A CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INFORMATION ON BEST  
27 PRACTICES, TOOLS, AND STRATEGIES, INCLUDING THROUGH

1       ADVANCEMENT OF THE COLORADO OUTDOORS STRATEGY TOOLKIT, TO  
2       SUPPORT INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INCLUSIVE PLANNING PROCESSES AT ALL  
3       LEVELS.

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

10           (a) PROVIDE PROACTIVE APPROACHES TO VISITOR USE  
11       MANAGEMENT TO FOSTER OUTCOMES THAT SUPPORT IMPROVED OUTDOOR  
12       RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES, NATURAL RESOURCE  
13       CONSERVATION, AND PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE HABITATS AND WORKING  
14       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; AND

22           (c) IN CARRYING OUT THE DUTIES DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION  
23       (5), APPLY AN INTEGRATED APPROACH THAT CONSIDERS OUTDOOR  
24       RECREATION ACCESS, VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT, CONSERVATION,  
25       WILDLIFE HABITAT, WORKING LANDS, AND LONG-TERM RESOURCE  
26       STEWARDSHIP SO THAT THESE USES, TAKEN TOGETHER, BEST MEET  
27       PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS WITHOUT PERMANENT IMPAIRMENT OF THE

1 PRODUCTIVITY OR HEALTH OF THE STATE'S NATURAL RESOURCES, TO THE  
2 EXTENT PRACTICABLE AND CONSISTENT WITH STATE LAW.

3 (6) CONSISTENT WITH THE DIVISION'S MISSION AND THE  
4 OBJECTIVES OF COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY, THE DIVISION SHALL  
5 WORK TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION, WILDLIFE  
6 CONSERVATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE OUTCOMES THROUGH  
7 COLLABORATION, DATA INTEGRATION, PROACTIVE PLANNING, STRATEGIC  
8 FINANCIAL INVESTMENT, AND REPORTING. TO FULFILL ITS DUTIES RELATED  
9 TO STATEWIDE OUTDOOR COORDINATION, THE DIVISION SHALL:

10 (a) LEAD AND COORDINATE ACROSS STATE, LOCAL, AND FEDERAL  
11 GOVERNMENT PARTNERS AND TRIBAL NATIONS PARTICIPATING IN  
12 REGIONAL OUTDOOR PARTNERSHIPS AND RELATED VOLUNTARY EFFORTS  
13 ASSOCIATED WITH COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY; AND

14 (b) (I) DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A RECURRING INTERNAL  
15 COORDINATION AND REPORTING PROCESS, INCLUDING BY CREATING  
16 PLANNING REPORTS, TO INTEGRATE DATA, PRIORITIES, AND OUTCOMES  
17 FROM WILDLIFE, RECREATION, CLIMATE RESILIENCE, AND REGIONAL  
18 OUTDOOR PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS, ENSURING ALIGNMENT WITH THE GOALS  
19 OF COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY AND OTHER DIVISION EFFORTS  
20 BOTH REGIONALLY AND ACROSS THE DIVISION. IN CREATING PLANNING  
21 REPORTS, THE DIVISION SHALL:

22 (A) INTEGRATE AND SUMMARIZE KEY METRICS, OUTCOMES,  
23 OPPORTUNITIES, NEEDS, AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FROM STATEWIDE  
24 AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES;

25 (B) COLLABORATE WITH STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL  
26 GOVERNMENT PARTNERS; TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERS; AND  
27 INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING LOCAL COMMUNITIES, PRIVATE

1 LANDOWNERS, RECREATION AND RECREATION PROVIDER STAKEHOLDERS,  
2 CONSERVATION STAKEHOLDERS, AGRICULTURAL STAKEHOLDERS, AND  
3 WILDLIFE AND SPORTSPERSON STAKEHOLDERS;

4 (C) ESTABLISH PROCESSES WITH STATE GOVERNMENT ENTITIES  
5 AND ASSOCIATED PARTNERS, SUCH AS THE OUTDOOR RECREATION  
6 INDUSTRY OFFICE AND THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO PROGRAM, TO  
7 IMPROVE COORDINATION AND EFFICIENCY ACROSS AGENCY PARTNERS;

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

11 (E) IDENTIFY AREAS OF ALIGNMENT AND POTENTIAL CONFLICT  
12 AMONG RECREATION, WILDLIFE, CONSERVATION, AGRICULTURAL, AND  
13 COMMUNITY PRIORITIES AND FACILITATE COLLABORATIVE  
14 PROBLEM-SOLVING PROCESSES WITH RELEVANT PARTNERS TO SUPPORT  
15 MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL OUTCOMES;

16 (F) EMPLOY DATA-INFORMED MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR  
17 PLANNING AND INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC LANDS AND REGIONAL OUTDOOR  
18 RECREATION RESOURCES TO SUPPORT SHARED UNDERSTANDING AND  
19 INFORMED DECISION-MAKING AMONG PARTNERS;

20 (G) INCORPORATE CLIMATE-RESILIENCE STRATEGIES FOR  
21 REGIONAL OUTDOOR RECREATION AND CONSERVATION PLANNING TO  
22 ADVANCE THE RESILIENCE AND ADAPTABILITY OF THE STATE'S NATURAL  
23 AND COMMUNITY ASSETS; ■

24 (H) COORDINATE ACROSS THE DIVISION TO ENSURE THE BEST  
25 AVAILABLE INFORMATION, INPUT, AND COLLABORATION. IN PARTICULAR,  
26 THE DIVISION SHALL ENSURE COORDINATION BETWEEN WILDLIFE,  
27 RECREATION, AND CLIMATE-RESILIENCE EFFORTS WITHIN THE DIVISION;

1 AND

2 (I) CONSIDER AVAILABLE FUNDING SOURCES TO ENABLE  
3 STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS TO ADVANCE CONSERVATION, RECREATION, AND  
4 CLIMATE-RESILIENCE EFFORTS WITHIN THE DIVISION.

5 (II) THE DIVISION SHALL:

6 (A) REFER TO THE PLANNING REPORTS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION  
7 (6)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION TO INFORM DIVISION PLANNING, OUTREACH,  
8 INVESTMENT, AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES; AND

9 (B) UPDATE THE PLANNING REPORTS AT LEAST ANNUALLY TO  
10 REFLECT THE LATEST KNOWLEDGE AND ANY ASSOCIATED PLANNING  
11 UPDATES AND FACILITATE IMPROVED AWARENESS AND COORDINATION  
12 WITHIN THE DIVISION AND AMONG THE DIVISION AND OTHER AGENCIES.

13 (7) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION:

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

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

18 (c) ALTERS OR DIMINISHES THE DIVISION'S EXISTING STATUTORY  
19 RESPONSIBILITIES TO PERPETUATE THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES OF THE STATE  
20 AND TO MANAGE AND IMPROVE THE STATE PARKS SYSTEM. THE  
21 AUTHORITY SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION COMPLEMENTS THE DIVISION'S  
22 MISSION AND EXISTING OBLIGATIONS;

23 (d) SUPERSEDES, ABROGATES, OR IMPAIRS THE RIGHT TO DIVERT  
24 WATER AND APPLY WATER TO BENEFICIAL USES IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
25 SECTION 6 OF ARTICLE XVI OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, COMPACTS  
26 ENTERED INTO BY THE STATE, ARTICLES 80 TO 92 OF TITLE 37, OR STATE  
27 COURT DETERMINATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE DETERMINATION AND

1 ADMINISTRATION OF WATER RIGHTS. A PERSON SHALL NOT CONSTRUE,  
2 ENFORCE, OR APPLY THIS SECTION TO CAUSE OR RESULT IN MATERIAL  
3 INJURY TO WATER RIGHTS; OR

4 (e) REQUIRES, MANDATES, OR OTHERWISE COMPELS A PUBLIC OR  
5 PRIVATE LANDOWNER TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO LAND FOR RECREATIONAL  
6 PURPOSES OR ALTERS EXISTING STATE LAWS GOVERNING PROPERTY  
7 RIGHTS, EASEMENTS, OR LANDOWNER LIABILITY.

8 **SECTION 5. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2026-27 state fiscal  
9 year, \$444,015 is appropriated to the department of natural resources.  
10 This appropriation is from the parks and outdoor recreation cash fund  
11 created in section 33-10-111 (1), C.R.S. To implement this act, the  
12 department may use this appropriation as follows:

13 (a) \$436,025 for state park operations in the division of parks and  
14 wildlife, which amount is based on an assumption that the division will  
15 require an additional 4.1 FTE; and

16 (b) \$7,990 for vehicle lease payments in the executive director's  
17 office.

18 **SECTION 6. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
19 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
20 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
21 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a  
22 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
23 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
24 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
25 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
26 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
27 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.