

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

Chair of Committee

February 23, 2026
Date

Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

HB26-1008 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee on Appropriations with favorable recommendation:

- 1 Amend printed bill, page 3, line 9, strike "stress;" and substitute "stress,
2 and many communities face barriers to accessing the outdoors and the
3 benefits of spending time in nature;".
- 4 Page 3, after line 17 insert:
 - 5 "(g) Colorado has a long-standing tradition of managing public
6 lands and working landscapes to support a range of compatible uses and
7 affirms that coordinated outdoor recreation management can occur
8 alongside conservation, agricultural operations, and other land uses in
9 ways that support long-term resource stewardship and community
10 values;".
- 11 Reletter succeeding paragraphs accordingly.
- 12 Page 3, line 25, strike "tribal nations," and substitute "Tribal
13 governments,".
- 14 Page 3, line 26, after "data;" insert "advance coordinated planning that
15 recognizes that Colorado's public and private lands support multiple
16 uses;".
- 17 Page 4, after line 17 insert:
 - 18 "(l) The division of parks and wildlife engages and will continue
19 to engage in formal consultation with Tribal governments, including the
20 Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, which are the
21 two federally recognized tribes with reservations in Colorado, when the

1 division is requested to do so and when issues of importance to Tribal
2 governments arise, which issues concern outdoor recreation or division
3 actions on state public lands that may affect Tribal sovereignty or treaty
4 rights of the Tribal governments in Colorado, including history, culture,
5 and natural and cultural resources;"

6 Reletter succeeding paragraphs accordingly.

7 Page 5, after line 1 insert:

8 "(o) Local governments are also critical partners in outdoor
9 recreation planning, coordination, and management, and recreation
10 impacts communities in different ways. For example, counties and
11 municipalities frequently experience increased and unique demands
12 related to outdoor recreation, including emergency services. It is essential
13 that the state work in partnership with local governments to manage these
14 impacts and advance locally driven visions for outdoor recreation."

15 Reletter succeeding paragraphs accordingly.

16 Page 5, line 5, after "landowners," insert "including private landowners
17 adjacent to outdoor recreation development,"

18 Page 5, line 25, after "local" insert "government".

19 Page 6, line 9, strike "recognizes the" and substitute "recognizes that 36%
20 of Colorado is federal public land and a significant amount of recreation
21 in Colorado occurs on federal public lands; therefore, there is a".

22 Page 6, line 12, strike "agencies." and substitute "agencies, without
23 expenditures from the wildlife cash fund created in section 33-1-112
24 (1)(a), Colorado Revised Statutes."

25 Page 6, line 13, after "**add**" insert "(1.5),".

26 Page 6, line 14, after "(2.7)," insert "(2.9),".

27 Page 6, after line 17 insert:

28 "(1.5) "ACCESSIBLE EXPERIENCES" MEANS OUTDOOR RECREATION
29 OPPORTUNITIES THAT LOWER BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION AND
30 ENJOYMENT, SUCH AS BY MEETING THE NEEDS OF DISPROPORTIONATELY
31 IMPACTED COMMUNITIES, GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE OR

1 UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES, OR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING
2 DISABILITIES, WITH THE GOAL OF ENABLING EVERYONE TO EXPLORE THE
3 OUTDOORS AND BE PART OF THE LARGER COMMUNITY REGARDLESS OF
4 MOBILITY OR OTHER LIMITATIONS."

5 Page 6, strike lines 18 through 23 and substitute:

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

13 Page 6, after line 26 insert:

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

22 Page 7, line 23, before "RECREATION" insert "EXCEPTIONAL AND
23 SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR".

24 Page 8, line 1, after "LOCAL" insert "GOVERNMENT".

25 Page 8, line 4, after "RECREATION" insert "AND RECREATION PROVIDER".

26 Page 8, line 17, after "WILDLIFE," insert "AGRICULTURAL,".

27 Page 9, line 2, after "LOCAL" insert "GOVERNMENT".

28 Page 9, line 5, after "RECREATION" insert "AND RECREATION PROVIDER".

29 Page 9, line 6, before "AGRICULTURAL" insert "STAKEHOLDERS
30 REPRESENTING A DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED COMMUNITY, AS
31 DEFINED IN SECTION 24-4-109 (2)(b)(II),".

- 1 Page 9, line 13, strike "ACCESS" and substitute "ACCESS, AGRICULTURAL
2 WORKING LANDS,".
- 3 Page 9, line 18, after "CONSERVATION," insert "AGRICULTURE,".
- 4 Page 10, line 10, after "FOR" insert "EXCEPTIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE".
- 5 Page 10, line 17, strike "AND".
- 6 Page 10, strike line 23 and substitute "PROPERTY RIGHTS, AGRICULTURAL
7 OPERATIONS ON WORKING LANDS, WILDLIFE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES;
8 AND
9 (c) IN CARRYING OUT THE DUTIES DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION
10 (5), APPLY AN INTEGRATED APPROACH THAT CONSIDERS OUTDOOR
11 RECREATION ACCESS, VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT, CONSERVATION,
12 WILDLIFE HABITAT, WORKING LANDS, AND LONG-TERM RESOURCE
13 STEWARDSHIP SO THAT THESE USES, TAKEN TOGETHER, BEST MEET
14 PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS WITHOUT PERMANENT IMPAIRMENT OF THE
15 PRODUCTIVITY OR HEALTH OF THE STATE'S NATURAL RESOURCES, TO THE
16 EXTENT PRACTICABLE AND CONSISTENT WITH STATE LAW.".
- 17 Page 11, line 1, after "PLANNING," insert "STRATEGIC FINANCIAL
18 INVESTMENT,".
- 19 Page 11, line 4, after "FEDERAL" insert "GOVERNMENT".
- 20 Page 11, line 19, after "LOCAL" insert "GOVERNMENT".
- 21 Page 11, line 21, after "RECREATION" insert "AND RECREATION
22 PROVIDER".
- 23 Page 12, line 16, strike the second "AND".
- 24 Page 12, line 20, strike "DIVISION." and substitute "DIVISION; AND
25 (I) CONSIDER AVAILABLE FUNDING SOURCES TO ENABLE
26 STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS TO ADVANCE CONSERVATION, RECREATION, AND
27 CLIMATE-RESILIENCE EFFORTS WITHIN THE DIVISION.".
- 28 Page 13, line 4, strike "OR".
- 29 Page 13, line 6, strike "JURISDICTION." and substitute "JURISDICTION; OR
30 (c) ALTERS OR DIMINISHES THE DIVISION'S EXISTING STATUTORY
31 RESPONSIBILITIES TO PERPETUATE THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES OF THE STATE

1 AND TO MANAGE AND IMPROVE THE STATE PARKS SYSTEM. THE
2 AUTHORITY SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION COMPLEMENTS THE DIVISION'S
3 MISSION AND EXISTING OBLIGATIONS;

4 (d) SUPERSEDES, ABROGATES, OR IMPAIRS THE RIGHT TO DIVERT
5 WATER AND APPLY WATER TO BENEFICIAL USES IN ACCORDANCE WITH
6 SECTION 6 OF ARTICLE XVI OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, COMPACTS
7 ENTERED INTO BY THE STATE, ARTICLES 80 TO 92 OF TITLE 37, OR STATE
8 COURT DETERMINATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE DETERMINATION AND
9 ADMINISTRATION OF WATER RIGHTS. A PERSON SHALL NOT CONSTRUE,
10 ENFORCE, OR APPLY THIS SECTION TO CAUSE OR RESULT IN MATERIAL
11 INJURY TO WATER RIGHTS; OR

12 (e) REQUIRES, MANDATES, OR OTHERWISE COMPELS A PUBLIC OR
13 PRIVATE LANDOWNER TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO LAND FOR RECREATIONAL
14 PURPOSES OR ALTERS EXISTING STATE LAWS GOVERNING PROPERTY
15 RIGHTS, EASEMENTS, OR LANDOWNER LIABILITY."

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