

## CHAPTER 179

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**NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**HOUSE BILL 26-1008**

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Lukens and Taggart, Bacon, Boesenecker, Brown, Camacho, Clifford, Duran, Espenoza, Froelich, Goldstein, Hamrick, Joseph, Lieder, Lindsay, Mauro, McCormick, Nguyen, Paschal, Phillips, Rutinel, Smith, Stewart K., Story, Woodrow, McCluskie, English, Soper, Titone, Valdez;  
also SENATOR(S) Marchman and Rich, Jodeh, Roberts, Wallace, Coleman.

**AN ACT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) Outdoor recreation is fundamental to Colorado's economy, culture, and identity, contributing to public health, community well-being, and the development of lifelong connections to the outdoors. Outdoor recreation annually contributes

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*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.*

\$65.8 billion to Colorado's economy and supports 404,000 jobs, over 12% of the entire labor force in Colorado.

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

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

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

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

(h) Thoughtful planning and management of outdoor recreation and associated infrastructure should consider economic, fiscal, and service-related impacts on local communities and regions and can support conservation goals by reducing resource impacts, improving stewardship, and sustaining the long-term health of the state's public lands;

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

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

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

(l) Colorado's outdoors strategy, developed by the department of natural resources, the division of parks and wildlife, great outdoors Colorado, the office of climate preparedness in the governor's office, and the outdoor recreation industry office in the office of economic development, in collaboration with partners and stakeholders, provides the necessary statewide vision and coordination to advance conservation, climate resilience, and outdoor recreation opportunities. One strength of Colorado's outdoors strategy is its voluntary approach that allows partners to leverage opportunities that support locally determined needs.

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

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

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

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

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

(r) With approximately 60% of Colorado land in private ownership, working with private landowners is also essential to the success of Colorado's outdoors strategy, and it is important to ensure that agricultural interests, private landowners, including private landowners adjacent to outdoor recreation development, and local governments are integrally involved in state efforts; wildlife habitats are protected; and private property rights are upheld as conservation and recreation management decisions are made;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

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

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

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

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

(3) THE DIVISION SHALL:

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

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

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

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

(b) PROACTIVELY ENGAGING WITH STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERS; TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS; AND INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING LOCAL COMMUNITIES, PRIVATE LANDOWNERS, RECREATION AND RECREATION PROVIDER STAKEHOLDERS, CONSERVATION STAKEHOLDERS, STAKEHOLDERS REPRESENTING A DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED COMMUNITY, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 24-4-109 (2)(b)(II), AGRICULTURAL STAKEHOLDERS, AND WILDLIFE AND SPORTSPERSON STAKEHOLDERS, TO ENSURE THAT ALL PERSPECTIVES AND AREAS OF EXPERTISE ARE CONSIDERED IN THE DIVISION'S PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT PROCESSES;

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

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

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

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

(g) SERVING AS A CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INFORMATION ON VOLUNTARY BEST PRACTICES, TOOLS, AND STRATEGIES, INCLUDING THROUGH ADVANCEMENT OF THE COLORADO OUTDOORS STRATEGY TOOLKIT, TO SUPPORT INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INCLUSIVE PLANNING PROCESSES AT ALL LEVELS.

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

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

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

(c) COORDINATE AND CONSULT WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE ASSOCIATED WITH OUTDOOR RECREATION USE, INCLUDING OPPORTUNITIES TO MITIGATE THESE IMPACTS, COMMUNICATE EXISTING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE THROUGH

THE DIVISION, AND GIVE APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES, JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITIES, AND REGIONAL PLANNING EFFORTS TO ENSURE A COOPERATIVE AND COMPLEMENTARY APPROACH TO ACHIEVING OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT; AND

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(F) ENGAGE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL PRIORITIES AND ASSOCIATED PLANNING EFFORTS AND PROJECTS WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION AND GIVE APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES AND REGIONAL PLANNING EFFORTS TO ENSURE A COOPERATIVE AND COMPLEMENTARY APPROACH TO OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT;

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

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

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

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

(II) THE DIVISION SHALL:

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

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

(7) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION:

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

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

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

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

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

(8) IN 2027 AND 2028, THE DIVISION SHALL INCLUDE, DURING ITS "SMART ACT" HEARING REQUIRED BY SECTION 2-7-203, AN UPDATE ON THE EFFORTS DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION, INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING REPORTS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (6)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION AND THE MONEY THAT THE DIVISION UTILIZED TO COMPLY WITH THIS SECTION.

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

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

Approved: May 27, 2026