

Department of Natural Resources

Update on Tribal Engagement Priorities



American Indian Affairs Interim Study Committee
August 14th, 2024



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Agenda

1. Department Overview
2. Strategic Priority
3. Existing Tribal Relations Efforts & Goals



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DNR Mission & Vision

The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is:

To manage and conserve Colorado's natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of people today and tomorrow.

DNR's vision:

Colorado will be a national leader in promoting the responsible use and conservation of natural resources for this and future generations.

DNR Strategic Priority on Tribal Engagement

Through the development of a Tribal Relations Program, cooperatively build capacity within and across DNR for consistent, meaningful Tribal government-to-government and greater Native/Indigenous community engagement. This strategic priority should be woven into all policy areas; budget planning; programs and projects, including grant funding; staff training; and internal operations.



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DNR Overview

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Existing Efforts & Goals



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Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)

CPW Mission: To perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state, to provide a quality state parks system, and to provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado's natural resources.

- State Parks and Public Lands
 - Legislative Proposal on Free State Park Access for Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian Tribes
 - Special Use Permit and Ceremonial/Traditional Practices
 - Ongoing Tribal Consultation at Fishers Peak State Park
 - Indigenous Storytelling Project (initial development stage)
- Wildlife, Hunting, and Fishing
 - Conducts Tribal consultation and regular engagement on wildlife matters.
 - Co-management of Brunot Treaty Area - hunting, fishing, and gathering treaty rights.
- Colorado Outdoors Strategy - Development of Tribal Engagement Guidance Framework

Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and the Division of Water Resources (DWR)



CWCB Mission: To conserve, develop, protect, and manage Colorado's water for present and future generations.

- Upper Colorado River Commission
- Ongoing Efforts to Support Tribal Federal Water Rights
- Other Efforts to Support Tribal Priority Projects
- CWCB Board

DWR Mission: To administer the waters of the State to maximize lawful beneficial use, ensure that dams and water wells are properly constructed and safe, and provide information about water resources to the public.

- Ongoing Coordination with Tribes as Water Users

Energy & Carbon Management Commission (ECMC)

ECMC Mission: To regulate the development and production of oil & gas, deep geothermal resources, the capture and sequestration of carbon, and the underground storage of natural gas in a manner that protects public health, safety, welfare, wildlife resources and the environment.

- Refining Internal Processes to Ensure Early Tribal Engagement
- Ensuring Tribal Consultation in Proposed Legislation and Rulemaking
 - Renewable Energy Siting Bill
 - Proposed Geothermal Rules
- September 2023 Southern Ute/ECMC Leadership Meeting



State Land Board (SLB)

SLB Mission: To manage an endowment of assets held in perpetual, intergenerational public trusts for the financial support of Colorado's public schools and other public institutions to generate reasonable and consistent income over time by protecting and enhancing the long-term productivity and sound stewardship of working trust lands.



- Protection of Cultural Resources through Asset Management Plans
- Supporting Tribal Access to Culturally Important Lands
- Building Partnerships that Help Protect Cultural Areas of Significance
- State Land Board Leases with Tribes



Division of Forestry - Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS)



CSFS Mission: To achieve stewardship of Colorado's diverse forest environments for the benefit of present and future generations.

- CSFS in collaboration with the Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program is actively working towards further enhancing areas of collaboration and partnerships with the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian Tribes.
- Ongoing CSFS Service Agreement with the Ute Mountain Ute to support forest management and wildfire mitigation efforts.
- Forest Health Council Tribal Engagement on Prescribed Burning
- CSFS Recruitment Efforts

Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety (DRMS) and The Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC)

DRMS Mission: To return Colorado's mined lands to a beneficial use. The Mined Land Reclamation Board is the Regulatory Authority under statute.

CAIC Mission: To provide avalanche information, education and promote research for the protection of life, property, and the enhancement of the State's economy.



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Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board (CGNAB)

CGNAB Mission: To evaluate proposals concerning name changes, new names, and name controversies of geographic features and certain public places in the State and make official recommendations to the Governor. Final and official recommendations by the Governor are then provided to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names, which has final approval authority for standardizing the names of geographic and natural features.

- The CGNAB consists of 15 Governor appointed representatives to ensure diverse representation:
 - Colorado General Assembly, local governments, Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, Center of the American West, Colorado Geological Survey, Tourism/Outdoor Recreation Industry; History Colorado; Colorado Department of Local Affairs; Cultural Learning Institutions; and DNR.
- The CGNAB conducts early outreach and seeks meaningful engagement and feedback from Tribal governments on naming and renaming proposals pending before the Board.

Questions?



Daphne Gervais, DNR Director of Legislative
Affairs, daphne.gervais@state.co.us

Stacy Coleman, DNR Assistant Director for
Tribal Affairs, stacy.coleman@state.co.us



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