

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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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.**

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.

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.

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.** (1) 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:

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

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

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