

Outdoor Pikes Peak Initiative

Colorado Springs City Council

January 9, 2023



OUTDOOR
PIKES PEAK INITIATIVE

Our Discussion Today

- Why & What is OPPI
- Regional Partnerships
Background & Leadership
- Timeline and Map
- Phase One
- Phase Two
- Local Engagement



OUTDOOR
PIKES PEAK INITIATIVE

Outdoor Pikes Peak Initiative (OPPI):

Identifying and advancing priorities and innovative strategies for recreation and conservation planning for the Pikes Peak region.

**Pikes Peak region is loosely defined as El Paso, Teller, and Fremont Counties*



OUTDOOR
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The Why



Our iconic landscapes and abundant recreation opportunities contribute to quality of life and economic vitality



Unprecedented front-range growth = threats to natural resources and recreational experiences



Outdoor infrastructure - overrun and insufficient for the demand



Land managers under-resourced for the magnitude of the challenges



The need for planning - never more important to balance natural resources and recreation experiences



Rare opportunity for local communities to inform state priorities and funding (Usually top-down focus)

What this means for YOUR community

YOUR community's aspirations, concerns and priorities identified and recorded

Collaboration across boundaries with state support

Nothing has been determined yet!

Your community's input will inform process & outcomes

Research and tools made available to community leaders to inform decision making

High level projects identified

Alignment for funders to help streamline investment

Background

Governor Polis Executive Order: “I AM EXCITED TO SIGN THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER... AN EYES-WIDE-OPEN AND LOCALLY ROOTED APPROACH TO ENSURING WE REMAIN A WORLD-CLASS OUTDOOR DESTINATION WHILE PRESERVING OUR LAND, WATER, WILDLIFE, AND QUALITY OF LIFE...”

Colorado Outdoor Partnership - Launched Initiative



Great Outdoors Colorado and Colorado Parks and Wildlife Provide Funding for Grants

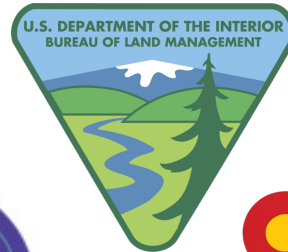
Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance (PPORA) selected as Regional Partner for the Pikes Peak region

Over 15 Coalitions across the State now and growing

Plans roll up into State Plan in 2026



Leadership

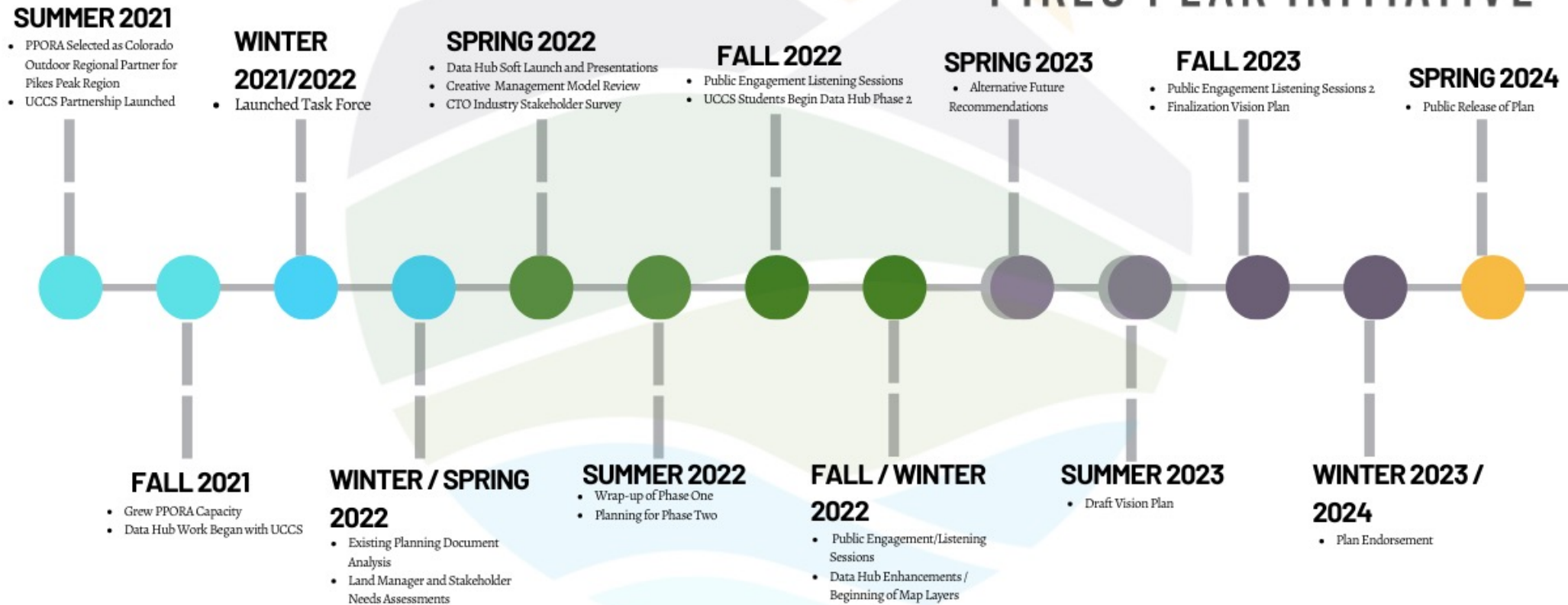


Map of Partnerships across Colorado



OPPI Timeline

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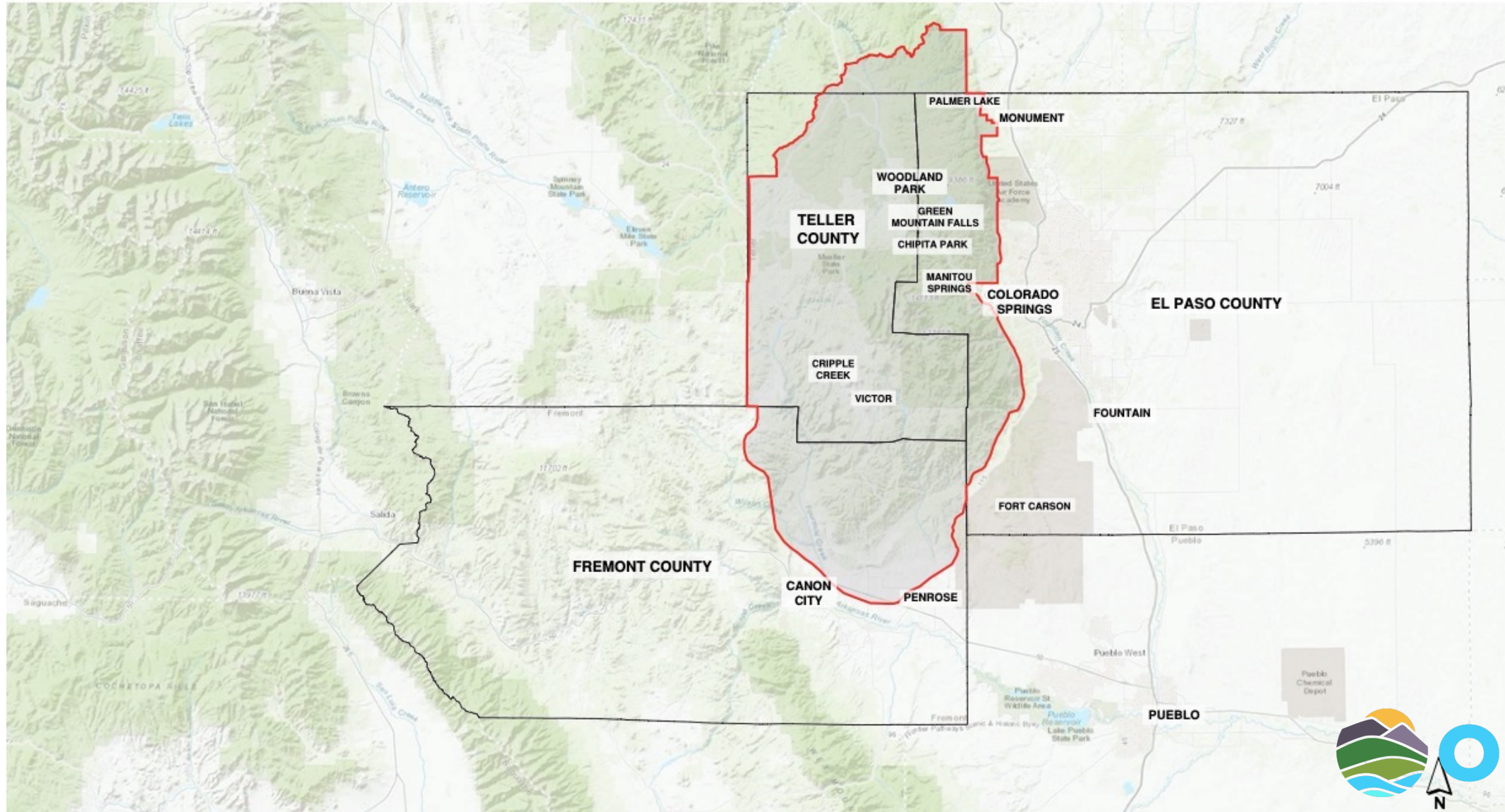


Map of Area of Study & 3 Counties

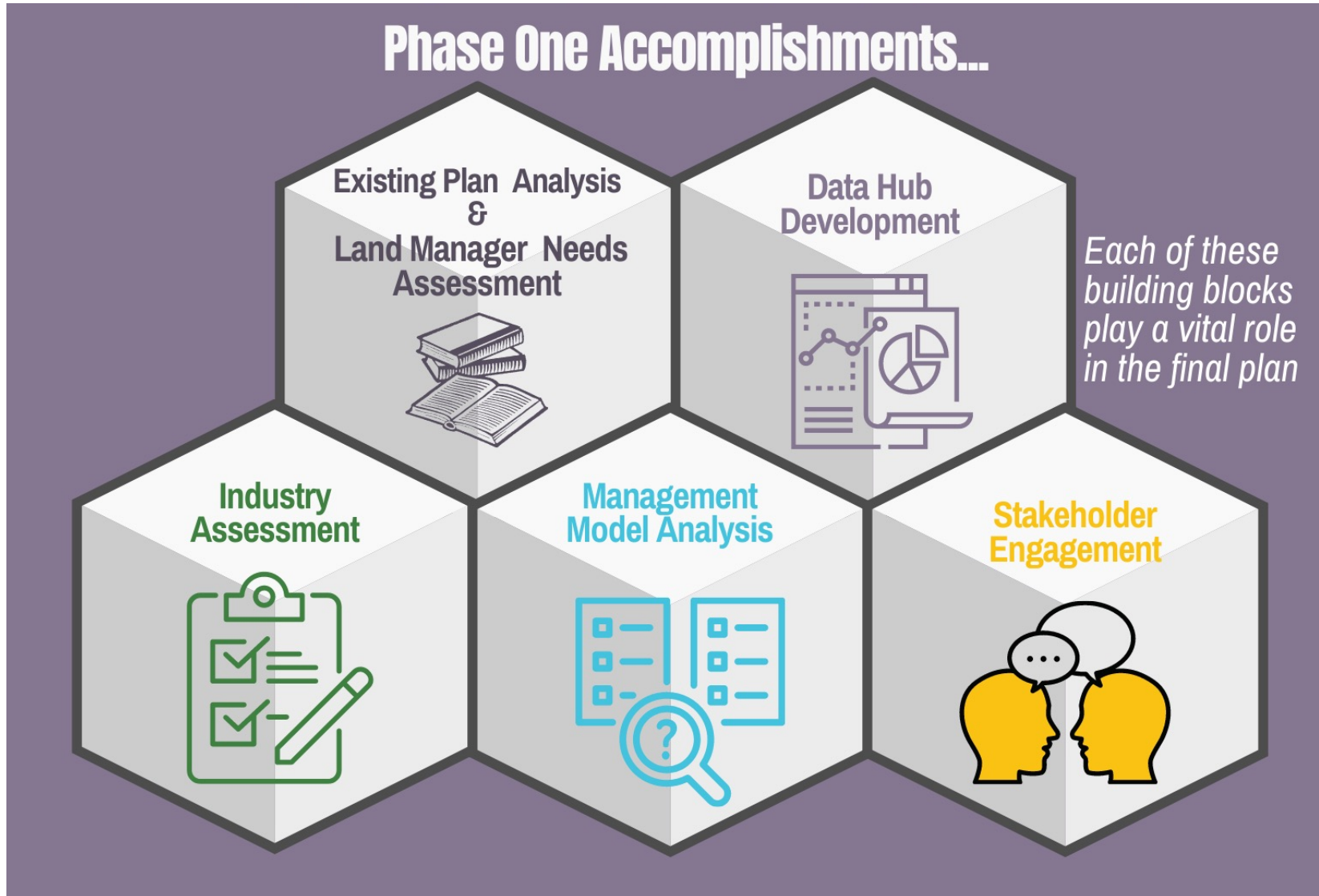
OPPI STUDY AREA

LEGEND

 AREA OF FOCUS



Initiative Goals & Progress: Phase One (2021-2022)



Existing Plan Analysis & Land Manager Assessment



Plans Recap

- 100+ regional and statewide plans researched and analyzed
- Organized based off location and type
- Identified goals
- Addressed existing and future growth concerns affecting natural resources and recreation

Land Manager Recap

- Feedback received representing 32 plans
- 5 questions asked
- Summary of Consistent Feedback:
 - Plans are still relevant
 - Funding is a challenge for staffing and additional projects
 - Concerns for maintaining existing let alone adding projects
 - Agencies desire partnership, collaboration, and coordinated effort

Data Hub Development with UCCS

WILDLIFE HABITAT IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION

PRIVATE MEMBER | PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

SUMMARY

THIS DATA DASHBOARD COMPARE HABITAT AREA FOR IMPORTANT SPECIES ESTABLISHED BY COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACROSS TELLER, EL PASO, AND FREMONT COUNTIES. USERS CAN INTERACT WITH MAPS AND CHARTS TO UNDERSTAND HOW HABITAT VARIES ACROSS THE THREE COUNTIES IN COLORADO'S PIKES PEAK REGION.

DETAILS

BACKGROUND BACKGROUND

FEBRUARY 22, 2022 DATE UPDATED

JANUARY 26, 2022 PUBLISHED DATE

PUBLIC ANYONE CAN SEE THIS CONTENT

NO LICENSE PROVIDED REQUEST PERMISSION TO USE

Habitat Data for Pikes Peak Region

Toggle Pie Charts for Selected Habitat View

El Paso County Crucial Habitat (sq m)

Elk Production Area 29.7M	Elk Production Area 14.9M
Elk Production Area 30.5M	Elk Production Area 7M
Elk Production Area 12.6M	Elk Production Area 2.5M
Elk Production Area 9.6M	Elk Production Area 14.5M
Elk Migration Corridor 78.8M	CPW State Wildlife Area and Parks 2.9M
CPW State Wildlife Area and Parks 18.3M	Bighorn Sheep Winter Range 63.2M
Bighorn Sheep Production Area 17.2M	Bighorn Sheep Production Area 18.2M
Bighorn Sheep Production Area 45.8M	Bighorn Sheep Production Area 3.6M
Bighorn Sheep Production Area 79M	Bighorn Sheep Winter Range 83.1M
Bighorn Sheep Migration Corridor 232.4M	

Fremont County Crucial Habitat (Square Meters)

Teller County Crucial Habitat

Recreation Layers (3 County)

Business Assets (All County)

Category

UCCS University of Colorado Colorado Springs

HOME CATALOG TERMS OF SERVICE PRIVACY POLICY CONTACT US

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2021 OUTDOOR PARTICIPATION TRENDS REPORT

STATE OUTDOOR BUSINESS ALLIANCE NETWORK (SOBAN) REPORT

OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (OIA) PARTICIPATION REPORT

BUREAU ECONOMIC ANALYSIS (BEA)

INDUSTRY STATISTICS

COLORADO OUTDOOR RECREATION SATellite ACCOUNT (ORSAT)

OUTDOOR RECREATION BOUNDABLE (ORB): ECONOMIC IMPACT

COLORADO COLLEGE, STATE OF THE ROCKIES

OUTDOOR PIKES PEAK DATA HUB SNAPSHOT

Dashboard

WILDFIRES, LAND COVER, AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION

Feature Layer

REFINERIES PIKES PEAK REGION

Feature Layer

POWER PLANTS PIKES PEAK REGION

Web Map

CPW CRITICAL HABITAT FOR PIKES PEAK REGION

Feature Layer

CPW SPECIES HABITAT FOR THE PIKES PEAK REGION

THIS IS A FEATURE LAYER CONTAINING DATA HOSTED BY COLORADO PARKS ON WILDLIFE ON HABITAT. THE ORIGINAL DATA WAS CLIPPED TO...

Feature Layer

HABITAT FOR SPECIES IN PIKES PEAK REGION CPW

THIS LAYER HOSTS ALL SPECIES HABITAT IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION. ALL DATA IS IN A SINGLE LAYER.

Habitat Data for Pikes Peak Region

Legend for Species in Pikes Peak Region CPW Habitat for Species in Pikes Peak Region CPW

- Multi Deer Winter Concentration Area
- Elk Production Area
- Elk Production Area
- Elk Winter Concentration Area
- Bighorn Sheep Production Area
- Elk Winter Concentration Area



Industry Assessment with Colorado Tourism Office



PIKES PEAK REGION OUTDOOR INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDER REPORT

2022

Photo Credit: Front Range Climbing

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OPPORTUNITIES UNVEILED

There were a number of areas where negative sentiment was expressed, highlighting some key areas of need in the region.

ONLY 11% Feel there are ample enforcement personnel, **11%** Feel funding for land managers is sufficient

ONLY 16% Feel funding for conservation & stewardship projects is sufficient

ONLY 33% Feel outdoor recreation infrastructure (parking, bathrooms, etc.) is well maintained

67% Feel increasing visitation is having a negative impact on public lands & community resources

ONLY 36% Feel our outdoor industry is reaching underserved communities

Over 1/3 of respondents shared further insights in open-ended questions. 122 responses were coded and sorted and are available at PPORA.org

INDUSTRY BENCHMARKING- BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS

The following section dives into industry benchmarking of the Pikes Peak region's outdoor businesses and nonprofits. This section provides better understanding of the current state of the region's outdoor industry and better equips PPORA to support and advocate for the industry.

PPORA plans to repeat the questions from the Outdoor Industry Stakeholder Survey in several years to evaluate changes, growth, and continued challenges in our area.

The following data breaks down annual revenue, employee wages, and seasonal workforce between businesses and nonprofits. (See the Executive Summary at the beginning of this report for additional, summarized benchmarks.)

Fewer responses make up this section due to hesitation in providing more sensitive information. Although helpful to better understand the current state of the industry, the small sample should be taken with consideration and broad assumptions and characterizations from the data should be avoided.

YEAR 2022

The following data points pertain to respondents' business and organizational insights.

OUTLOOK

82% of respondents feel positive about their 12-month outlook

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	N/A
My business/organization has a strong pool of employees from which to draw	0.00%	6.52%	6.52%	28.26%	54.90%	4.35%
My business/organization has a strong pool of employees from which to draw	10.87%	17.39%	28.09%	21.74%	10.87%	13.04%
My business/organization is significantly impacted by the current rise in the cost of doing business	2.17%	8.70%	28.09%	28.09%	30.47%	6.52%
My business/organization operations are significantly impacted by the current great supply chain challenges	2.17%	17.39%	28.26%	19.57%	23.91%	8.70%

And while 33% of respondents agree or strongly agree they have a strong pool of employees to draw from, there are 28% that disagree or strongly disagree with that sentiment.

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	N/A
I support my business/organization to have strong relationships with diverse stakeholder groups within the industry and throughout the community	4.35%	8.70%	17.39%	28.26%	39.30%	4.35%

RELATIONSHIPS

92% of respondents recognize the importance of relationships with diverse stakeholder groups throughout the community.

and... and large, all respondents agree or strongly agree that they have good relationships



INDUSTRY SURVEY TAKE-AWAYS

There were a number of responses that were positive. Here are some of the top positive responses:



ASPIRATIONS FOR OUTDOORS IN PIKES PEAK REGION

These text answers were summarized and categorized and then put in order of greatest number of responses here:

- More/new trails for a variety of users
- Educate users on responsible practices
- Expand recreational opportunities to spread use
- Increase youth engagement
- Sustain our finite outdoor recreation resources
- Need for more planning & collaboration within our industry
- More minority engagement in outdoor recreation

THE FULL TEXT OF RESPONDENT ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND AT PPORA.ORG



Innovative Management & Funding Model Analysis

Colorado Trail

Location: Colorado
Size: 567 miles
Established: 1974
Land Manager: Colorado Trail Foundation
Partners: USFS
Model: Non-profit
Fee: No daily fee



Nonprofit / Public Partnership

The Colorado Trail was developed over many years through the efforts of thousands of volunteers, dedicated financial support and coordinating with the US Forest Service. The Trail is designated as US Forest Service Trail #1276. The Colorado Trail runs through six national

Tahoe Rim Trail

Location: Nevada, Colorado
Size: 170 mile loop
Established: Began 1982, Completed 2001
Land Manager: Tahoe Rim Trail Association
Partners: Counties, USFS, State Park
Model: Non-profit
Fee: No daily fee



Nonprofit / Public Partnership

The Tahoe Rim Trail Association (TRTA) works in partnership with the US Forest Service and the Nevada Division of State Parks as the primary stewards of the Tahoe Rim Trail. The Tahoe Rim Trail system is maintained and enhanced by the Tahoe Rim Trail Association, which practices and inspires stewardship and provides access to the natural beauty of the Lake Tahoe region.

The TRT volunteer community annually contributes efforts with an investment of over \$400,000. The TRT Association has 8 full time staff. Construction, maintenance and management of the trail has been driven by volunteers. Funding for the organization comes from user fees, membership and grants. Increased development in the surrounding area puts indirect pressure on the Trail resources, such as climate impacts, climate change impacts (especially wildfire), transportation to trailheads, and trailhead facilities.

Take Aways

1. National Recreation Trail Designation.

2. Involvement of youth programs to inspire a next generation of hikers.

3. Working with local businesses that benefit from increased regional tourism as a result of the Trail, to provide funding for Trail maintenance costs.

4. Management Plan which spells out responsibilities of all partners or organizations involved, signage plan, list of

Pikes Peak Region Application

1. Narrow focus vs. broad perspective. A trail has specific management criteria that may not apply to diverse recreation activities in the Pikes Peak Region. Not all trail management practices apply to other forms of recreation or natural resource management.

2. Large amount of organization and structure required for the level of volunteer involvement

3. Complex land ownership.

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area

Location: Colorado
Size: 150 miles
Established: 1989
Land Manager: BLM and Colorado Parks & Wildlife
Partners: BLM, CPW, USFS
Model: Government
Fee: Varies per use

The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) was created in 1989 with the passage of Colorado State House Bill 1253.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) manages the recreation under a Cooperative Management Agreement (CMA) with the BLM and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and includes the Cooperative Management Lands (CML), which is a defined area adjacent to the river where recreation related activities occur.

Through this partnership, the AHRA provides visitors with outstanding recreation opportunities and care for the nationally significant natural resources of the Upper Arkansas River Valley. CPW maintains a Citizen Task Force comprising of no more than 16 members to serve as representatives of eight public interests. The CTF shall provide recommendations to CPW for the management of the AHRA.

Key Take Aways

1. Funded through passes, fees, outfitter permits, lottery/GOCO, grants, registrations, sales and donations.

2. Implementation of the management plan is accomplished through the Cooperative Management Agreement that creates a partnership between the BLM, CPW, and the U.S. Forest Service.

3. Diverse management approach. Multiple agencies must work together. Where conflict over goals and objectives occurs, balance and compromise should be found that recognizes the value of authorized recreational activities without diminishing

Pikes Peak Region Application

1. Create CML, Cooperative Management Lands, among multiple entities.

2. Evaluate fee structure in conjunction with grants.

North Slope Recreation Area

Location: Colorado
Size: 2,267 acres
Established: 1992
Land Manager: Colorado Springs Utilities
Partners: City, USFS, State, County, Pikes Peak Highway
Model: Government
Fee: \$4 per person

Colorado Springs Utilities, an enterprise of the City of Colorado Springs, owns and operates the North Slope Recreation Area for the management of water supply, storage, and infrastructure protection and manages the lands and forests to reduce impacts from insects and disease, wildfire, and erosion. The North Slope Recreation Area was opened by city resolution and involved planning and stakeholder involvement regarding recreation management.

Pikes Peak America's Mountain provides rangers to patrol the properties and manage the recreation area and access. Allowable activities include hiking, biking, and limited fishing and boating in select reservoirs. Utilities owns approximately 3,900 acres in the North Slope.

Key Take Aways

1. Utilities works closely with forest and land managers to stretch dollars and expand work into adjacent lands, not operated by Utilities, but are part of the watershed. Utilities has partnered with the U.S. Forest Service and Colorado State Forest Service to implement forest improvement and fire mitigation plans.

2. The majority of Utilities work completed through the Pikes Peak Watershed Forest Management Program has occurred on the North Slope. It is estimated that \$1.7 million has been spent on wildfire mitigation as related to forest restoration and wildfire hazard reduction from 2000-2013, averaging \$1,000/acre.

Pikes Peak Region Application

1. Scope of services provided is heavily focused on fire mitigation and forest restoration and expanding partnerships with multiple agencies to manage forests.

2. Permit system in place to collect a small fee towards maintenance and patrol of the areas arranged with a recreation manager.

3. Funding methods include passes, fees, permits, GOCO, federal and state grants and funding agreements.



Stakeholder Engagement



OPPI Task Force



PPORA Advisory
Council



Industry
Stakeholder Survey



Initiative Goals & Progress: Phase Two (2022-2024)

Phase Two Elements 2022-2024

- Public Engagement throughout the Pikes Peak Region
- Data Hub Enhancement & Refinement
- Creation of Multi-Layer Mapping Tool
- Identification of Conservation & Recreation Priorities
- Drafted & Finalized Plan
- Plan Endorsement & Adoption

More Detailed Information on Website!

www.outdoorpikespeakinitiative.org

Created the OPPI Website

www.outdoorpikespeakinitiative.org

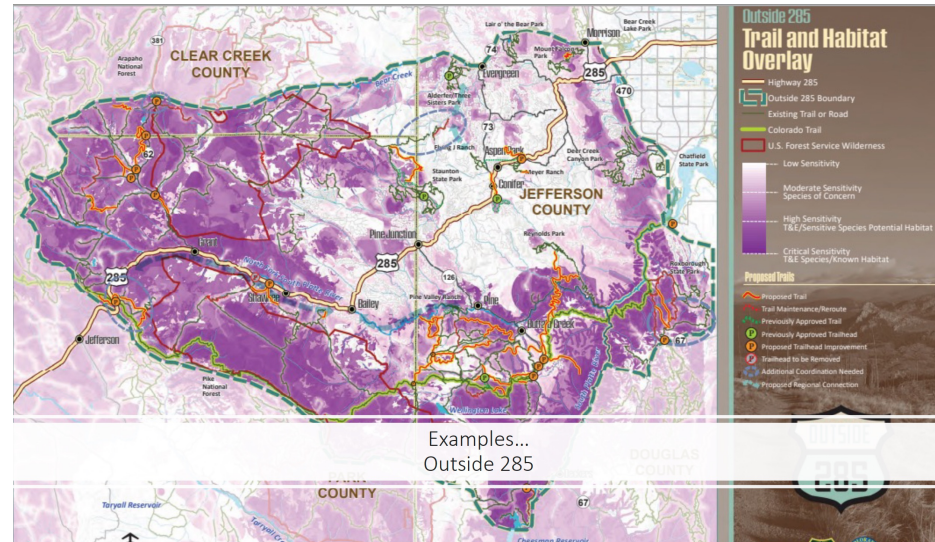
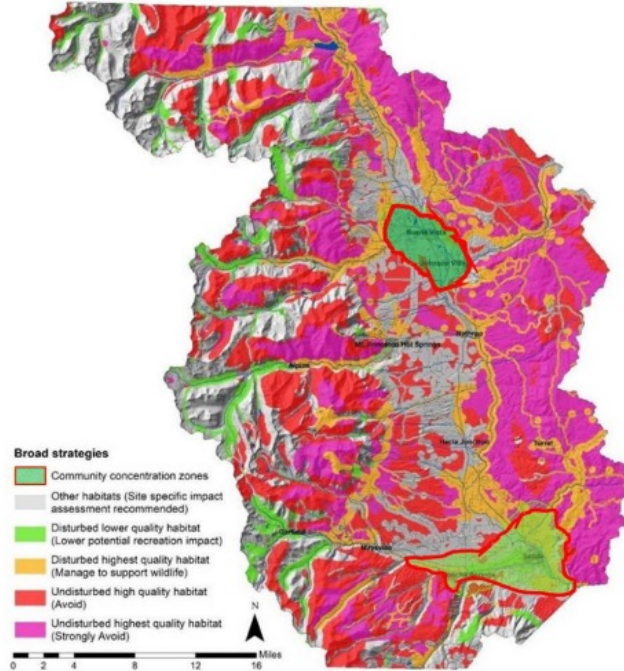
- Overview/ Timeline/ Leadership
- Mission/ Vision/ Values/ Goals
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Get Involved/ Listening Sessions
- Outdoor Pikes Peak Data Hub
- Industry Stakeholder Reports
- Analysis of Existing Plans



Multi-Layer Mapping Tool

Mapping data to help identify areas where trail and recreation development may be more or less suitable and areas where additional conservation efforts would be beneficial.

Chaffee County Recreation Planning for Wildlife Tool



Listening Sessions & Teller County Commissioners Meeting

- 1/23 – Cheyenne Mtn Jr Hi, Colorado Springs
- 1/24 – Heritage Center, Cripple Creek, 5:00-6:30 PM
- 1/25 – Ute Pass Cultural Ctr, Woodland Park, 5:00-6:30 PM
- 1/26 – Pathfinder Park, Florence/Canon City
- 1/27 – Pikes Peak State College, S. Colorado Springs
- 1/28 – Library 21c, N. Colorado Springs

Teller County Commissioners Meeting

➤ Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 9:30 a.m.





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Our Ask:

- Participate in Process
- Encourage Others to Participate
- Vocal/Formal Support

Questions?

More Detailed Information on Website!

www.outdoorpikespeakinitiative.org