



B 2020 008

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Creating the Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative and Establishing the Inter-Agency Conservation and Recreation Council

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order creating the Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative and establishing the Inter-Agency Conservation and Recreation Council.

I. Background and Purpose

Colorado is known worldwide for its varied and spectacular natural landscapes, abundant wildlife, and exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities. Our State boasts the largest Rocky Mountain elk herd in the world, 58 peaks over 14,000 feet, more than 300 miles of Gold Medal fisheries, and over 700 non-game species such as the bald eagle, lynx, and river otter.

Colorado's land, water, wildlife, and recreation infrastructure have been strained by climate change and dramatic increases in our State's population, tourism, and outdoor use. Increased visitation to popular recreation areas, including Colorado State parks, have caused maintenance backlogs and management challenges. We are at a critical juncture where we must act to ensure that our State remains a world-class outdoor destination while preserving our land, water, wildlife, and quality of life.

We can meet conservation and recreation challenges head-on through thoughtful planning, strategic investment, and engagement with regional and State-level partnerships. Some Colorado communities have joined with local, State, and federal governments, land and water managers, and other local partners to address issues involving conservation, agriculture, outdoor recreation, hunting, angling, and equitable access. Statewide, conservation leaders have formed the Colorado Outdoor Partnership (the CO-OP) to address conservation and outdoor recreation challenges.

To strengthen and build upon these existing regional and State-level partnerships, this Executive Order creates the Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative (Initiative). This Initiative will convene a broad spectrum of voices to identify, create, and formalize local and regional collaborations as Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships (Regional Partnerships). Through this Initiative, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in consultation with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and the CO-OP, will establish a State-level vision for balancing recreation and conservation and to ensure equitable and sustainable access to outdoor

recreation. This vision will inform a Statewide conservation and recreation plan (Plan) that incorporates priorities set by Regional Partnerships.

This Executive Order also creates the Inter-Agency Conservation and Recreation Council (Council), which replaces the Inter-Agency Trails and Recreation Council created in Executive Order B 2018 010. Executive Order B 2018 010 was rescinded by B 2020 007. The Council will coordinate State agencies whose work impacts outdoor recreation and the conservation of natural resources.

II. Directives

To promote regional and Statewide partnerships to address Colorado's land management, conservation, recreation, and equitable access challenges, I issue the following directives:

- A. DNR, in consultation with CPW and the CO-OP, shall develop the Initiative to achieve the following goals:
 1. Ensure that Colorado's land, water, and wildlife thrive while also providing for equitable and safe access to quality outdoor recreation experiences;
 2. Convene voices from different outdoor interests, races, cultures, ages, and sectors through the Regional Partnerships to identify regional priorities and strategies;
 3. Collaborate with Regional Partnerships to develop a State-level vision and Plan for conservation and recreation; and
 4. Identify stable and long-term funding from multiple, sustainable sources to provide for the critical investments needed to conserve Colorado's landscapes, rivers, wildlife, sensitive habitats, and recreational opportunities.

- B. DNR, in consultation with CPW and the CO-OP, shall collaborate under the Initiative to achieve the following benchmarks:
 1. Develop a strategy for engaging existing and new Regional Partnerships in the Initiative by April 1, 2021;
 2. Support the ongoing establishment of Regional Partnerships that consist of members that represent, at a minimum, local, State, and federal land and water managers and also represent a balance of outdoor recreation and conservation interests, including those from underrepresented communities;

3. Consult with federally recognized tribes to determine the tribes' desired level of participation in the Initiative and Regional Partnerships;
 4. Create a resources guide for Regional Partnerships that includes best practices and access to public geospatial data by June 1, 2021;
 5. Develop measurable objectives for the State-level vision for balancing recreation and conservation and for ensuring equitable and sustainable access to outdoor recreation by April 1, 2021;
 6. Provide support for Regional Partnerships to identify priorities and strategies that are consistent with the State-level vision by June 1, 2023;
 7. Collaborate with the Regional Partnerships to incorporate their objectives as well as State-level objectives, priorities, and strategies into the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) by December 1, 2023, to be further refined, developed, and incorporated into a future Plan; and
 8. Build and support tools within the Colorado Trail Explorer application (COTREX) for land managers and volunteer organizations to implement regional priorities and strategies on a Statewide platform.
- C. The Council shall be created to support the Initiative by ensuring collaboration among State agencies whose work impacts outdoor recreation and the conservation of natural resources.
- D. The Council shall consist of the following members:
1. The Executive Director of DNR, or their designee;
 2. The Director of CPW, or their designee;
 3. The Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, or their designee;
 4. The Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Transportation, or their designee;
 5. The Executive Director of the Department of Local Affairs, or their designee;
 6. The Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, or their designee;

7. The Commissioner of the Colorado Department of Agriculture, or their designee;
8. The Director of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office, or their designee;
9. The Executive Director of the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs, or their designee;
10. The Director of the Colorado Tourism Office, or their designee; and
11. The Executive Director of Great Outdoors Colorado, or their designee.

E. The Council shall support the Initiative by:

1. Creating new goals and responsibilities for the Council by April 1, 2021;
2. Identifying and exploring long-term, stable funding opportunities to support local and regional priorities;
3. Working with the CO-OP to create a resources guide for Regional Partnerships that includes best practices and access to public geospatial data by June 1, 2021; and
4. Connecting Regional Partnerships to State agency programs and providing technical assistance to help Regional Partnerships achieve their local and regional priorities.

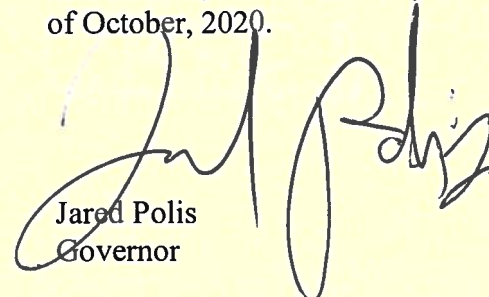
F. Agencies and Departments shall implement these directives within existing budgets and authorities.

IV Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in effect unless modified or rescinded by future Executive Order of the Governor.



GIVEN under my hand and
the Executive Seal of the State
of Colorado, this thirtieth day
of October, 2020.


Jared Polis
Governor