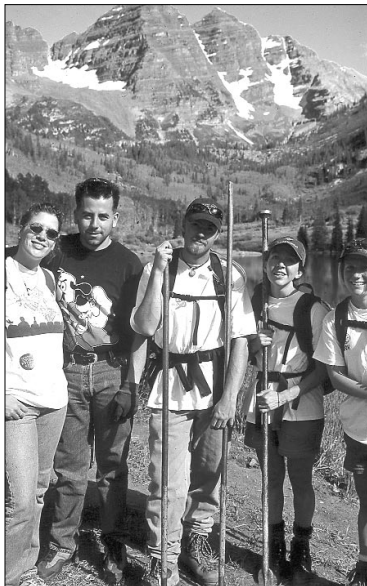


# *On Nature's Trail*

**A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE OF  
COLORADO'S STATEWIDE TRAILS SYSTEM**



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**Colorado State Parks  
January 2000**

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# On Nature's Trail

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Coloradans love the outdoors, and recreational trails are very important to them because trails let people experience nature firsthand.

This plan paints a picture of a future statewide trail system that provides a wide range of recreational opportunities for experiencing the diverse landscapes of our state.

### SEVEN STRATEGIC GOALS

The plan, which has had extensive stakeholder and public input, builds on the partnerships and accomplishments of past years in presenting strategies for:



Providing **leadership** in developing an integrated statewide trail system to meet the growing needs of residents and visitors.



Encouraging community, county, state, and federal trail **planning** of an integrated statewide trail system that preserves critical trail access points, corridors, and links.



Promoting **environmentally appropriate** trail planning, design, construction, and management.



Increasing and improving the availability of trails **information, education, and technical assistance.**



Encouraging trail **stewardship** in the state of Colorado through education, partnerships, volunteerism, and youth programs.



Promoting trail **ethics** and encouraging the proper management of trail activity conflicts by facilitating **cooperation** among recreationists, trail planners, and land management agencies.



Providing stable, long-term **funding** sources for trail planning, design, construction, and maintenance.

## **A MAJOR ROLE FOR THE STATE TRAILS PROGRAM**

As an agency with a major role in implementing the strategic plan, the Colorado State Trails Program is committed to seeing that this plan becomes a reality. At the same time, the Trails Program invites past and potential partners to join it in accomplishing this ambitious vision, a vision that can only be implemented collaboratively.

Specifically, the State Trails Program has outlined five programmatic initiatives and four new trail grant initiatives to help target resources and achieve the goals of this strategic plan.

## **NEW PROGRAM INITIATIVES**

The five new initiatives to be accomplished through new or revised programs are:

1. Promote environmentally responsible use of trails.
2. Refine the roles and responsibilities of the State Trails Committee.
3. Establish youth trail crews to maintain and build trails.
4. Administer a more efficient trail grants system.
5. Establish regional trail coordinators to better serve program constituents.

## **NEW TRAIL FUNDING INITIATIVES**

The four new funding initiatives are:

1. Reinvestment Initiative—Accomplishing major trail improvements and repairs.
2. Future Pathways Initiative—Preserving trail opportunities in a rapidly growing state.
3. Trail Planning and Capacity Building Grants—Planning and building partnerships for the future.
4. Small Grants—Helping out when a little funding can make a big difference.

## **ON NATURE'S TRAIL**

With broad support and cooperation, these new initiatives hold promise of helping Coloradans realize a fulfilling and diverse trails vision, one that puts them on nature's trail.

## *Coloradans' profound love of the outdoors*

Coloradans love spending time in the outdoors. A public survey conducted to guide this plan found that a vast majority (75 percent) of those surveyed said that outdoor activities are important to the quality of life in Colorado.

Trails are the principal means used by people to get into nature and, at the same time, they are an important means for managing people's impacts on the landscapes they visit.

Colorado's diverse trails are used for many types of recreation, from backcountry hiking to urban strolling, from mountain biking to horseback riding, from snowmobiling to cross-country skiing, and from bird watching to using off-highway vehicles, such as all-terrain vehicles. With all of these forms of recreation Coloradans typically are seeking ways of enjoying nature or spending time outdoors with family and friends.

### **COLORADO TRAILS SYSTEM IS DIVERSE**

Colorado has one of the most diverse trail systems in the nation. In large part this is made possible by our state's wide ranging landscapes, from vast, open plains with contrasting wooded river corridors to majestic 14,000-foot peaks with skirts of dense forest.

The richness of trails is also due to the diverse kinds of people who have chosen to make Colorado their home (or vacation destination) and the varied ways they choose to enjoy the outdoors.

Land ownership is another major factor contributing to the diversity of trails. The federal government owns nearly 37 percent of our state. Although there is no comprehensive tally of the number of trails managed by agencies such as the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service, these agencies are very important providers of trails and other recreation facilities.

The State of Colorado is another important trail provider through systems developed within state parks and also in

conjunction with major highway constructions projects, such as Highway C-470, which rings parts of Denver.

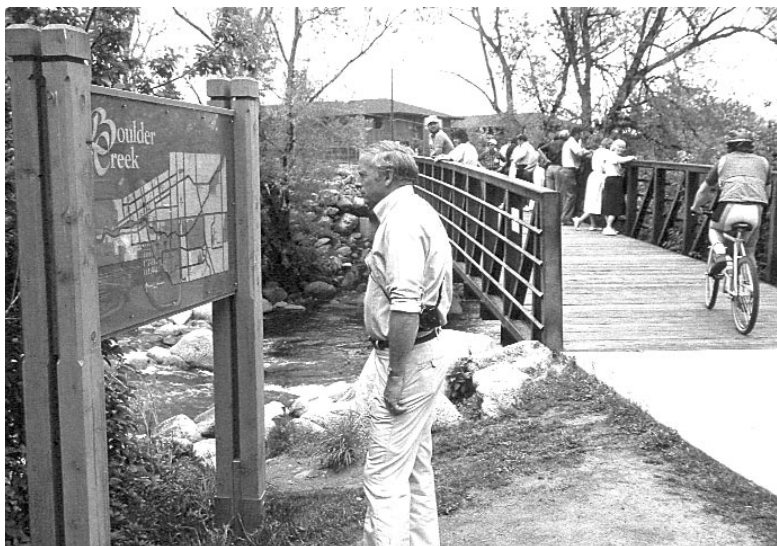
In addition to these federal and state agencies, many towns, cities, and counties have developed—often collaboratively—lengthy trail systems. Since 1971, Colorado State Parks has had an active trails program that has helped fund such trails around the state and aided trail providers in other ways.

Increasingly, nonprofit organizations or clubs, including those made up of users of off-highway vehicles and snowmobiles, are taking active roles in developing and maintaining trails on their own or others' lands.

Private landowners are also important contributors to the statewide trail system. Some, such as downhill ski area operators, actively promote the use of their areas as summer trail systems, offering ski lift access for hikers and bikers. Others contribute by allowing trail recreationists to cross their land.

The broader network of trails that criss-cross our state are illustrated below and on the following pages.

**Neighborhood and community trails** are those close to where most Coloradans live. They typically receive heavy use. Examples include Denver's Platte River and Cherry Creek Trails, Fort Collins' Poudre River Trail, El Paso County's Fountain Creek Regional Trail, and the Boulder Creek Trail (shown here.) (Photo: Stuart Macdonald)





Some trails are **“star attractions”** — especially well-known and sought out by residents and visitors alike. Examples are Glenwood Canyon’s Hanging Lake Trail and the Lake Dillon Trail (shown above). *(Photo: Stuart Macdonald)*

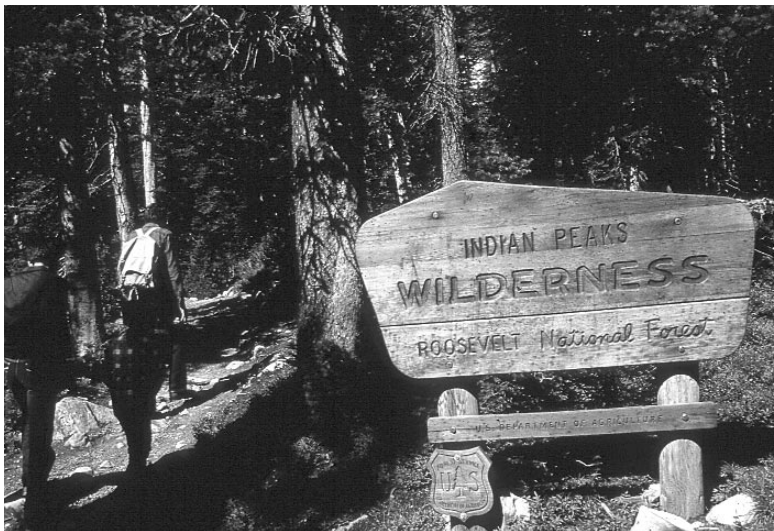


**Greenway trails** are planned together with the broader conservation corridors they sit within. The South Platte River and St. Vrain Greenways, Colorado River State Park, and the Roaring Fork Riverway (shown here) are prime examples. *(Photo: Stuart Macdonald)*





**The Continental Divide Trail**, which travels the full length of the state north to south, is a National Scenic Trail. It is commonly used by weekend or short-term hikers, but also by some vigorous "through-hikers."  
*(Photo: Colorado State Parks)*



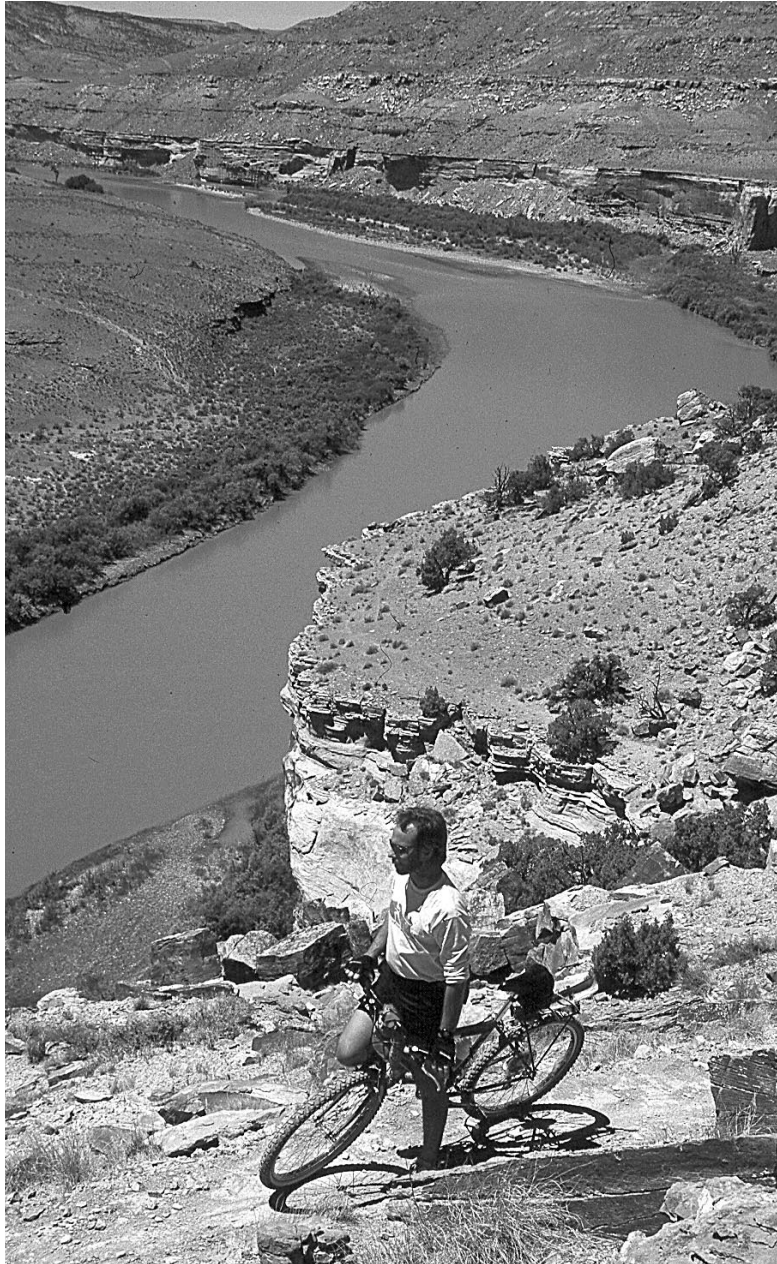
**Wilderness trails** are within national wilderness areas, where mechanized and motorized travel are not allowed. Shown here is the Indian Peaks Trail in Boulder County's Indian Peaks Wilderness Area. *(Photo: Colorado State Parks)*



**Cross-country ski trails**, including public and private groomed trails, sometimes also have ski schools associated with them. Well-known trails include those in Frisco, Carbondale, Chicken Creek, and Loveland Pass. (Photo: ©1996 Brian Litz)



As a result of snowmobile registration fees administered by Colorado State Parks and efforts of volunteer snowmobile grooming clubs across the state, **winter trails** in the backcountry are made more readily accessible for all. A particularly well know example is the Sunlight to Powderhorn Trail. (Photo: Western Slope Snowmobile Assoc.)



**Mountain bike trails** are gaining in popularity in the state and include some extensive systems, sometimes even accommodating overnight trips. Examples of the more extensive include the systems at Crested Butte and Winter Park, and Kokopelli's Trail (shown here). (Photo: Stuart Macdonald)



**Equestrian trails** may be found in many parts of the state and often see other types of recreational use as well. This trail is in Colorado State Forest State Park. (Photo: Colorado State Parks)



**Historic trails** that were used by early explorers and pioneers today typically are either adjacent to or under highways. Examples include the Santa Fe, Old Spanish, Overland, and Smoky Hill Trails. (Photo: Stuart Macdonald)



Increasingly sought out as “trophy” climbs, **“Fourteeners” trails** lead to the tops of most of Colorado’s mountains over 14,000 feet. (Photo: ©1996 Brian Litz)



**Highway right-of-way trails** are built adjacent to highways such as I-70 over Vail Pass and through Glenwood Canyon (shown here) and C-470 in the Metro Denver area. They can serve recreational users as well as commuters, who walk, bike, or in-line skate to work. (Photo: Stuart Macdonald)



**Trails for motorized use** accommodate motorcycles, snowmobiles, and all-terrain and four-wheel drive vehicles. Examples include those in the Grand Lake area and Summit County (shown here), and the Rampart Range trail system. (Photo: Stuart Macdonald)



**Summer trails** that in winter are parts of ski areas, in "off-season" become extensive trail systems for hikers and bikers. Ski lifts are sometimes used to transport hikers and mountain bikers up mountains. Winter Park (shown here), Aspen, and Snowmass are examples. (Photo: ©1999 Rod Walker, courtesy Winter Park Resort)



Quintessentially Coloradan, **hut-to-hut trails** allow skiers to traverse dramatic winter landscapes and stay overnight in huts, lodges, or yurts. The Tenth Mountain Division Hut System, shown here, and San Juan Hut System, are two of the better known. (Photo: ©1999 Scott Messina.)



**Backcountry trails** in national parks and forests, or lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, are shared by hikers, horses, and mountain bikers (except in designated wilderness areas). They also are used by cross-country skiers and snowmobilers when there is enough snow and where they are allowed. The Rainbow Trail in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains is an example. (Photo: Western Slope Snowmobile Assoc.)

# How trails are funded and built

Creating trails, as with other public facilities, has depended on an erratic supply of funding from a variety of programs and agencies. Cities, towns, counties, and recreation districts have built most trails in populated areas of the state. Increasingly, trails activists are turning to volunteers and businesses for important contributions in getting trails built.

## THE LOTTERY'S IMPACT ON TRAILS FUNDING

Since the 1980s, revenue from the Colorado Lottery has been the largest single source of funds for trails, both directly to local governments and through state grants administered by Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and Colorado State Parks. Additional funds come from the snowmobile and off-highway vehicle registration programs.

GOCO provides important funding for trails projects. In 1999 GOCO contributed \$1,000,000 to the State Trails program for recreational trails grants. GOCO also makes funding available for trails planning through their "Planning and Capacity Building" grants program.

This program currently funds trail planning as part of larger open space planning efforts. GOCO also funds large trail projects

### Levels of funding for trails have increased 14-fold over the past ten years.

Fiscal Year	State Parks Lottery	GOCO* (State Parks share)	GOCO (Local Govts.)
99-00	100,000	500,000	500,000
98-99	100,000	468,000	513,400
97-98	100,000	355,000	402,100
96-97	100,000	360,000	400,000
95-96	100,000	350,000	750,000
94-95	150,000		1,000,000
93-94	175,000		
92-93	100,000		
91-92	100,000		
90-91	100,000		

\* GOCO: Great Outdoors Colorado

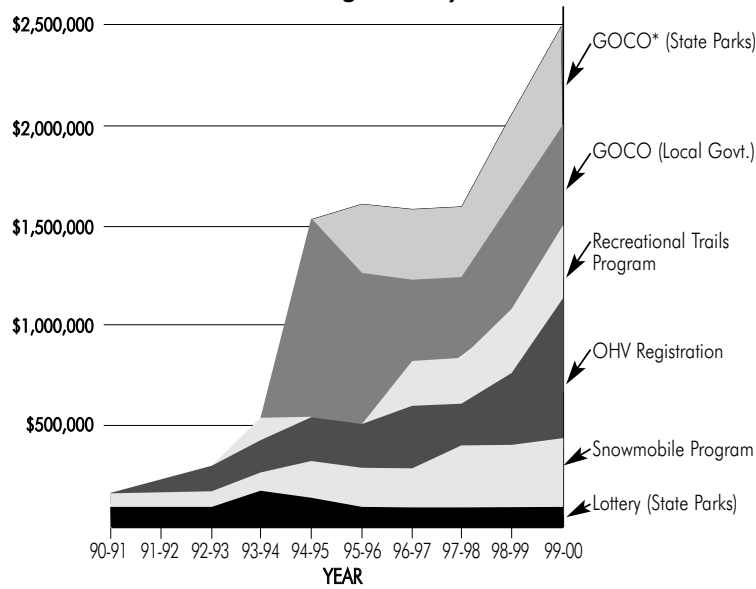


through their Legacy grants program. These multi-year, multi-jurisdictional open space projects often contain a trails element.

**FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT**

The US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management are two federal agencies that have shared trail construction expenses and technical expertise with Colorado communities.

**Over the last ten years both the levels and sources of funding for Colorado trails has increased significantly.**



RTP**	OHV*** Registration	Snowmobile Registration	Annual total
363,689	700,000	342,000	2,395,689
327,294	350,000	312,063	1,988,597
234,000	195,250	312,063	1,598,413
233,942	300,000	196,000	1,589,942
	218,660	196,000	1,614,660
	216,780	183,000	1,549,780
113,480	158,392	96,300	527,872
	135,475	81,000	316,475
	49,744	81,000	230,744
		71,000	171,000

\*\* RTP: Recreational Trails Program (federal funds) \*\*\* OHV: Off-highway vehicles

### STATE TRAILS FUNDS AWARDED ANNUALLY

Each year the State Recreational Trails Committee, assisted by State Parks and GOCO staff, award grants for building trails around the state. (The use of snowmobile and Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) funds is restricted to projects that benefit those uses.) The state also administers federal funds from the Recreational Trail Program (RTP), formerly known as Symms Act funds.

### MAJOR INCREASES IN TRAILS FUNDING

As indicated in the table and graph on the previous pages, the resources for funding all types of Colorado trails have increased dramatically during the past 10 years. In 1999, the State Trails Program awarded nearly \$2.4 million to trail projects around the state from this range of funding sources. That total was just \$171,000 in FY 1990-91. With this increase comes the responsibility for the State Trails Program to make the wisest and most efficient uses of these moneys available to Colorado's trail managers and recreationists.

## *How this strategic plan was developed*

Late in 1998, the State Trails Program initiated a planning process to develop a strategic framework for making decisions about what trail priorities to pursue and how best to fund them. That process resulted in the plan you are now reading.

A citizen Steering Committee was appointed and experts in strategic planning and public input from the University of Colorado's Center for Public-Private Sector Cooperation were asked to assist State Trails Program staff in crafting the plan.

### **BROAD PUBLIC INPUT**

Broad input was sought in developing this plan. To understand public views, two surveys were completed. First, a statewide scientific telephone survey was conducted with a representative sample of 602 registered voters to determine patterns of trail use, values regarding trails, and priorities for allocating resources.

A separate mail survey was sent to a sample of registered off-highway vehicle owners; 787 surveys were completed and returned. The mail survey examined patterns of use, attributes of preferred riding areas, and priorities for allocating resources from the perspective of those who use off-highway vehicles.

In addition, other surveys recently conducted by Colorado State Parks, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and Great Outdoors Colorado were reviewed for content relevant to trails.

Stakeholders—land managers, trail developers, and organized trail recreationist groups, as well as members of environmental groups—contributed to the process in several ways. First, a special session was held at the biennial Colorado State Trails Symposium to invite comment.

Second, 160 stakeholders responded to a comprehensive questionnaire addressing trends in trail management and use, trail needs, State Trails Program role and management, as well as priorities for resource allocation.

Third, 72 stakeholders attended focus group meetings held in Pueblo, Glenwood Springs, Thornton, and Durango, to discuss at length a number of trail-related issues and strategic options.

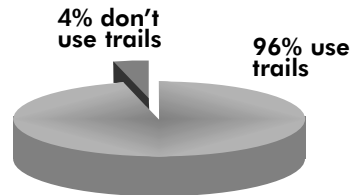
Key points of public input are summarized in the next section.

# What the public thinks about trails

This strategic plan responds to issues and concerns that were identified through a broad range of public input, including a telephone survey of the public. The broader, recurring themes are described here.

Other issues identified during public involvement are described in documents listed at the end of this plan.

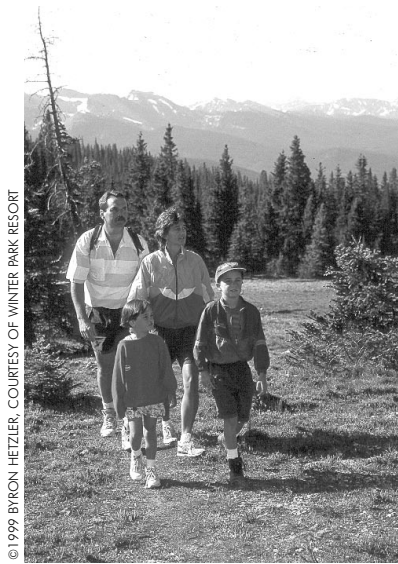
**The vast majority of Coloradans use the state's trail system.** Only 4 percent of the public say they don't use trails at all.



**People use trails close to home.** Trails within towns or cities close to people's homes receive the most use, with over half the households in the state reporting use of these trails at least 20 times in a typical year. About one third report using backcountry trails with similar frequency.

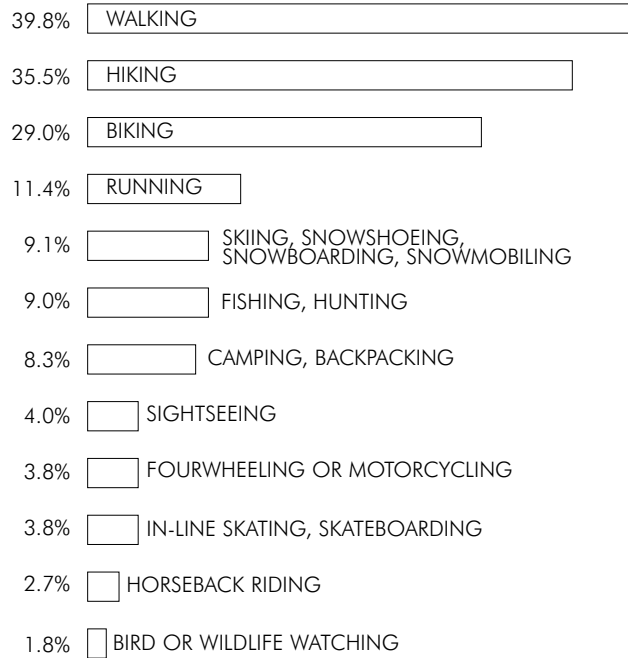
**Use of trails is purposeful.** The most common reasons people (75 percent or more) give for valuing trails are to see or enjoy nature and to have fun with family and friends. Sixty percent or more also say they value trails for getting exercise and maintaining health or seeing wildlife.

**The typical Colorado household uses trails of all types about 78 times a year** (as estimated from the survey data). Favorite trail activities are walking and hiking, camping, and biking.



© 1999 BYRON HETZLER, COURTESY OF WINTER PARK RESORT

**When asked what their one or two favorite trail activities are, respondents in greatest numbers mentioned walking, hiking, and biking.** The other activities mentioned by more than 1 percent of the time are listed below.



**Trail conflicts are growing.** While much of the public may not personally see conflicts in their use of trails, trail managers say such conflicts are increasing with higher levels and more diverse uses of trails.

**Trails can accommodate diverse uses.**

Colorado's trail system is diverse and, with coordination and education, it can accommodate diverse uses, say trail managers.

*(Photo: Stuart Macdonald)*





**People want to be educated about the places they experience through trails.** Specifically, they want more information about nature and history. (Photo: Colorado State Parks)

**The State Trails Program has important roles to play.** The Program can provide significant leadership, funding, and technical assistance to the trails community.

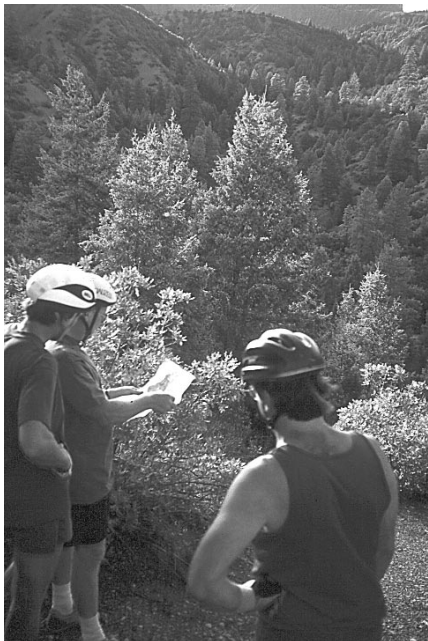


**Youth, volunteers, and those with disabilities deserve greater opportunities.** The public wants better access for people with disabilities and greater opportunities for youth and other volunteers. (Photo: Colorado State Parks)



**People want to be better stewards of nature.** Over three-quarters of the public believes “better protection of natural features and wildlife habitat” should be a high priority in allocating resources. They want to protect open space and build trails in places where nature won’t be harmed. (Photo: ©1999 Wendy Shattil/Bob Rozinski, Courtesy Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge)

**There is some concern over how specific funds are directed.** Those who use motorized trail vehicles pay a registration fee that goes to help create and maintain trails for their use, but some believe (incorrectly) that their funds go to support trails for non-motorized use.



**Trails opportunities may be disappearing.**

Rapid rates of development in Colorado mean that some potential trail corridors and access points may be lost if steps are not taken now to preserve these once-in-a-lifetime opportunities.

**The current trail system needs care.** The current trail system is aging and needs better maintenance. Maintaining or rebuilding existing trails is a high priority for over 70 percent of the public. (Photo: Stuart Macdonald)

## Others' observations

**A**dditional insights for planning the state's trail system were obtained from discussions with state agency personnel. These insights included:

- **The state's population is growing rapidly** and there is increasing demand for trails.
- **Trails are an important management tool.** When carefully planned, managed, and used, trails help reduce the impact of people on nature.
- **Even trails have impacts.** There is an increasing awareness that trails themselves have environmental impacts and that not all areas are appropriate for trails.
- **Declining federal resources for managing trails has ramifications** throughout the state's trails system. Increasing numbers of people are using trails on federal lands, but federal resources for managing these trails have not kept pace. To fill the gap, Colorado's resources (both public and private) have had to be devoted to some of these projects. Clearly, members of the trails community need to work with federal trail planners on travel management plans on federal lands because these plans affect the whole trail system.
- **The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may have a great impact on Colorado trails.** ADA standards and guidelines for trail accessibility are only now being developed and they may have great financial ramifications for Colorado trails, if sweeping changes are required for greater accessibility on new and rebuilt trails.
- **The current State Trails grants program could be tailored to the wider range of situations encountered by trail builders.** Making small, large, and multi-year grants available for trail projects might better reflect the needs and challenges of those seeking funding.



# *State Trails Program vision and mission*

**B**ased on the public and stakeholder input described above, the planning team developed a vision for Colorado trails and a new mission statement for the State Trails Program.

## **THE VISION FOR COLORADO'S TRAILS**

The vision for a statewide trail system for Colorado includes several key elements:

- Colorado's trail system will allow Coloradans to experience the state's diverse landscapes in a range of ways.
- Trails are developed with sensitivity to the environment and in ways that complement other land uses (e.g., people can use trails to commute to work or school or get other places they want to go.)
- Trails are well maintained.
- Conflict among trail users and impacts to trail settings are minimized through design, management, and education.
- The public has access to maps and other information they need to find the trail experiences they seek.
- The system is a collaborative effort among public and private entities, with the State Trails Program providing leadership in accomplishing this vision.

## **MISSION FOR THE STATE TRAILS PROGRAM**

The new mission of the State Trails Program is to be the major facilitator in accomplishing this vision through promoting understanding and stewardship of Colorado's outdoors by providing opportunities for the public to use and support Colorado's diverse system of trails.

## Realizing the vision

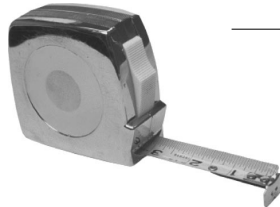
Public comment to date has revealed strong support for the elements of the vision described above. The vision, however, is very ambitious and will require strategic actions and considerable cooperation.

To focus efforts, the vision has been translated into seven strategic goals, shown below (not in any priority order).

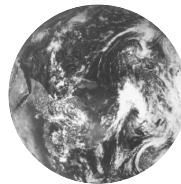
### SEVEN STRATEGIC GOALS



**LEADERSHIP:** Provide leadership in developing an integrated statewide trail system to meet the growing needs of our residents and visitors.



**PLANNING:** Encourage community, county, state, and federal trail planning of an integrated statewide trail system that preserves critical trail access points, corridors, and system links.



**ENVIRONMENT:** Promote environmentally appropriate trail planning, design, construction, and management.



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**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Increase and improve the availability of trail information, education, and technical assistance.



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**STEWARDSHIP:** Encourage trail stewardship in the state of Colorado through education, partnerships, volunteerism, and youth programs.



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**ETHICS AND COOPERATION:**

Promote trail ethics and encourage the proper management of trail activity conflicts by facilitating communication among user groups, trail planners, and land management agencies.



---

**FUNDING:** Provide stable, long-term funding sources for trail planning, design, construction, and maintenance.

## THE ROLE OF THE STATE TRAILS PROGRAM

The Colorado State Trails Program is committed to implementing these strategic goals and playing a major role in achieving the statewide vision.

Program staff members have identified steps they believe are best taken by the Trails Program. These are outlined on the following pages.

They also invite collaborators. Other agencies and organizations will be needed to help implement these steps, as well as develop other supportive strategies.

## OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTION STRATEGIES

Objectives for achieving each of the seven strategic goals are given below. Also shown are possible action strategies, and parenthetically, who would take the lead, and the time frame for accomplishing the action. (Potential lead groups are the Colorado State Parks Board [Board], State Trails Committee [Committee], Colorado State Parks State Trails Program staff [Staff], and proposed State Trails Program regional staff [Regional Staff].)



### **LEADERSHIP GOAL. Provide leadership in developing an integrated statewide trail system to meet the growing needs of residents and visitors.**

**1.** Provide leadership in the trails community and advise the State Parks Board on trail-related issues to support implementation of the strategic plan.

- Develop a Parks Board policy on Trails Committee responsibilities. (*Board, Committee; Staff; July 1999*)
- Implement the Statewide Strategic Trails Plan. (*Staff; On-going*)
- Report annually on progress to Parks Board. (*Staff; On-going*)
- Develop a subcommittee structure for grants selection to reflect new grants programs. (*Staff; On-going*)

**2.** Balance trail development priorities among urban, rural, and backcountry areas while providing a variety of trail activities and types so a diverse, integrated trail system develops.

- Review grants application criteria and adopt new criteria as needed. *(Committee, Staff; July 1999)*
- Develop a small grants program that meets the needs of small communities and organizations. *(Committee; July 1999)*
- Develop a Future Pathways Initiative grants program to assist in funding larger trail projects that may disappear if not funded in a timely fashion. *(Committee; July 1999)*
- Identify gaps in trails systems and grant applications for trail projects in counties with few or no trails. *(Committee, Staff; On-going)*
- Encourage trails that meet the needs of a diverse population, including those who are physically challenged. *(Committee; On-going)*
- See Objective 1 under the Planning goal. *(Committee; On-going)*

**3.** Provide local, regional, and statewide leadership to help coordinate and enhance diverse trails efforts.

- Establish a pilot Regional Trail Coordinator position in the State Parks' West Region and, if successful, institute such positions in each of the other three regions. *(Staff, Regional Staff; July 1999 for a pilot)*
- Adopt an annual work program for the Trails Committee that highlights leadership activities for each year. *(Committee; Jan. 2000)*
- Support the dedication of trail easements on appropriate open space projects, including those funded by GOCO. *(Committee; On-going)*

**4.** Encourage public input on trail plans and projects in response to the desires of the broader citizenry.

- Ensure that the grant selection process is a fair, public process. *(Staff, Committee; July 1999)*
- Have the Trails Committee review and approve the grant process and schedule each year. *(Staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Ensure public input in the grant selection process and standardize application packets. *(Staff, Committee; On-going)*
- The Trails Committee will recommend grants for approval to the Parks Board. Public input also will be solicited at this public Board meeting. *(Staff, Committee; On-going)*

- Continue surveys and other public preference investigations. (Staff, Committee; *On-going*)
- Encourage participation in local, county, state, and federal trail planning. (Staff, Committee; *On-going*)



**PLANNING GOAL. Encourage community, county, state, and federal trail planning of an integrated statewide trail system that preserves critical trail access points, corridors, and system links.**

- 1.** Create a trail planning and capacity building grants program to foster sound trail planning.

  - Create a Planning and Capacity Grants Subcommittee. Support local and community planning as part of an integrated statewide trail system. (Staff, Committee; *On-going*)
  - Work with GOCO staff to ensure integration with GOCO-funded trail planning projects. (Staff, Committee; *On-going*)
- 2.** Encourage local communities, counties, and federal agencies to complete trail plans, especially in cooperation with conservation or general land-use planning, so trails are built within a broader planning framework and options are preserved as development occurs.

  - Identify and adopt criteria in the trail planning grants program that support trail plans developed in conjunction with conservation or general land-use planning. (Staff, Committee; *Sept. 1999*)
  - Complete a federal lands trail needs assessment. (Staff, Committee; *July 2000*)
  - Adopt criteria in all trail grant applications giving credit for good trail planning. (Staff, Committee; *On-going*)
  - Work with transportation planners. (Staff, Committee; *On-going*)
  - Encourage trail connectivity and linkages, as appropriate. (Staff, Committee; *On-going*)
- 3.** Integrate the needs of all trail users in recognition of a “family of uses,” each of which deserves appropriate places to enjoy our state’s trails.

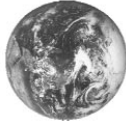
- Integrate the needs of non-motorized, OHV, snowmobile, and other trail users into overall program goals. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Be general trails advocates, not spokespersons for specific trail uses. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Structure subcommittees to encourage user group input. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Inventory and map trails statewide. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Assist in developing a long-range Snowmobile Program plan. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; July 2000)*
- Develop a long-range OHV plan. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; July 2001)*

#### **4.** Plan and design trails to be sustainable.

- Fund sustainable trail projects. *(Staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Encourage the use of up-to-date trail design standards. *(Staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Encourage the use of sustainable construction materials. *(Staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Identify the factors that help improve and promote trail sustainability. *(Staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Monitor and evaluate trail projects to determine levels of sustainability. *(Staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Fund major improvements and repairs in an effort to bring aging trails up to standard. *(Staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Fund research on trail sustainability. *(Staff, Committee; On-going)*

#### **5.** Address conflicts through appropriate trail planning, design, and management.

- Encourage trail planning and design that take into account the specific needs of varying modes of travel. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Encourage trail monitoring to determine potential conflicts before incidents occur. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Encourage the use of consistent trail signing. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Help provide adequate trail opportunities for all enthusiasts. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; On-going)*



**ENVIRONMENT GOAL. Promote environmentally appropriate trail planning, design, construction, and management.**

- 1.** Fund only environmentally appropriate trail projects to ensure trails do not degrade our public lands.
  - Review trail grant selection criteria each year. *(Committee; On-going)*
  - Have all grants reviewed by an environmental review panel. *(Staff; On-going)*
  - Verify NEPA compliance on all trail grants where it is legally required. *(Staff; On-going)*
  - Provide information and case studies on environmentally sensitive trail development. *(Staff; On-going)*
  
- 2.** Support trail planning and management activities that view trails in a broader landscape perspective, and thereby help ensure trail alignments that are well suited to their natural settings.
  - Work with land managers to encourage trail planning that is sensitive to broader ecological concerns. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; Ongoing)*
  - Seek input from scientists and natural resource professionals. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; Ongoing)*
  - Have Regional Trail Coordinators take a lead in this area. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; Ongoing)*
  - Monitor and evaluate completed trail projects. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; Ongoing)*
  - See Objective 2 under the Leadership goal. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; Ongoing)*
  
- 3.** Support research efforts that lead to broader understanding of how trails impact our environment.
  - Fund research projects through the planning grant process. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; Ongoing)*
  - Compile information on trail-related impacts. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; Ongoing)*
  - Work with the Division of Wildlife in an effort to understand better how trails impact wildlife. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; Ongoing)*



- Encourage the identification of sensitive habitat areas that may not be suitable for future trails. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; Ongoing)*



**COMMUNICATIONS GOAL. Increase the availability of and improve trails information, education, and technical assistance.**

1. Create and maintain a statewide trails information clearinghouse.
  - Determine what trails information and maps are most useful to the public. *(Staff; On-going)*
  - Maintain and update a “Trails Resource List” of helpful publications and information. *(Staff; On-going)*
  - Provide trail information and maps on the Internet as a convenient and cost-effective way of reaching a large audience. *(Staff; On-going)*
2. Provide technical assistance concerning trail planning, design, construction, maintenance and management to enhance the quality of such efforts.
  - Produce a guide for local governments, land trusts, and other organizations on how to develop trails. *(Staff; May 2001)*
  - Provide specialized training for program staff. *(Staff; On-going)*
  - Provide expertise concerning ADA trail issues. *(Staff; On-going)*
  - Continue to sponsor the biennial trails symposium. *(Staff; On-going)*
3. Use the Internet and computer technology to provide up-to-date information relating to the State Trails Program.
  - Publish important on-going Trail Program documents over the Internet. *(Staff; On-going)*
  - Experiment with Internet survey tools to provide up-to-date information. *(Staff; On-going)*
  - Populate the Trails Program web site with useful tips and information. *(Staff; On-going)*
  - Develop a marketing plan. *(Staff; May 2000)*

- Develop a process for Internet site administration including updates. *(Staff; May 2000)*
- Investigate public-private partnership to compile a statewide trail database. *(Staff; May 2000)*



**STEWARDSHIP GOAL. Encourage trail stewardship in the State of Colorado through education, partnerships, volunteerism, and youth programs.**

**1.** Promote trail volunteerism, youth programming, and educational programming which fosters stewardship of our trails and public lands.

- Use capacity building grants to support volunteer trail organizations and projects. *(Staff, Committee; Ongoing)*
- Encourage and support volunteer organizations that promote trail stewardship. *(Staff, Committee; Ongoing)*
- Provide funding support for youth corps and youth crews. *(Staff, Committee; Ongoing)*

**2.** Help coordinate and promote volunteer trail activities, youth programming, and trail education.

- Promote volunteerism on the State Trails website. *(Staff; Ongoing)*
- Network with volunteer organizations and coordinate trail activities. *(Staff; Ongoing)*
- Regional Trail Coordinators will coordinate youth trail crews. *(Staff; Ongoing)*
- Support efforts that help educate the public concerning appropriate trail use. *(Regional staff; Ongoing)*

**3.** Use volunteers and youth crews to provide much-needed maintenance of our state's trails.

- Use capacity building grants to support youth crews and volunteer maintenance projects. *(Staff, Committee; Ongoing)*
- Encourage and support volunteer organizations that provide maintenance services through capacity building grants. *(Staff, Committee; Ongoing)*



**ETHICS AND COOPERATION GOAL. Promote trail ethics and encourage the proper management of trail activity conflicts by facilitating communication among recreationists, trail planners, and land management agencies.**

**1.** Work with clubs and trail related organizations of all kinds to understand better the needs of the public at large and those of specific user groups.

- Attend club and trail organization meetings. *(Staff; On-going)*
- Continue survey activities. *(Staff; On-going)*
- Subscribe to trail user publications. *(Regional staff; On-going)*
- Monitor future trends and changes in activity preferences. *(Regional staff; On-going)*
- Monitor demographic changes. *(Regional staff; On-going)*

**2.** Promote inclusion and respect of all trail users as part of the State Trails Program.

- Respect the needs and differences of different trail enthusiasts. *(Staff, Regional staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Work with enthusiasts and organizations to promote trail ethics. *(Staff, Regional staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Create opportunities for diverse trails groups to work together on trail projects to help manage conflicts by increasing awareness of other users' needs. *(Staff, Regional staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Design the State Trails newsletter for and distribute it to a wider audience. *(Staff, Regional staff, Committee; On-going)*

**3.** Develop a State Trail Ambassador or other trail support programs.

- Develop contacts in each county of the state who are familiar with the purpose and the goals of the State Trails Program. *(Staff, Regional staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Develop a constituency of support for the Trails Program. *(Staff, Regional staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Sponsor outreach efforts. *(Staff, Regional staff, Committee; On-going)*

- Implement a Trail Ambassador Program at high-use trailheads. *(Staff, Regional staff, Committee; On-going)*



**FUNDING GOAL. Provide stable, long-term funding sources for trail planning, design, construction, and maintenance.**

- 1.** Administer a customer-friendly grants program to ensure the fair, efficient, and timely distribution of trail program funds.

  - Hire a grants administrator. *(Staff; July 1999)*
  - Develop a grant tracking system and work for more timely distribution of funds. *(Staff; July 1999)*
  - Develop a yearly work schedule and work program for grants approval and administration *(Staff, On-going)*
  - Work to eliminate all customer complaints. *(Staff, On-going)*
  - Standardize grants application packet. *(Staff, On-going)*
  - Review application criteria to ensure equitable fund distributions. *(Staff; On-going)*
  - Develop a policy for dealing with unspent (over-due) grants. *(Staff; On-going)*
- 2.** Examine and pursue additional funding sources so that more, worthy projects can be supported in a timely manner.

  - Create targeted funding initiatives for the purpose of implementing the strategic plan. *(Committee; On-going)*
  - Pursue additional GOCO funding for the State Trails Program. *(Committee; On-going)*
  - Pursue innovative funding sources such as private funding and industry sponsorships *(Staff; On-going)*
  - Investigate a “Friends of State Trails” program. *(Staff; On-going)*
  - Investigate a “State Trails Foundation” concept. *(Staff; On-going)*
  - Pursue additional federal matching funds for projects on federal lands. *(Staff; On-going)*
- 3.** Develop partnerships with trail supporters, wildlife groups, open space advocates, land trusts, local governments, and private industry to pursue mutually beneficial projects.

- Work cooperatively with federal land management agencies. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Encourage the integration of trails and trail planning in open space and land-use planning projects. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Attend organizational meetings of potential partners and solicit cooperation. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; On-going)*
- Secure long-range funding for Snowmobile capital program. *(Staff, Regional Staff, Committee; On-going)*

## Implementing the Plan

The seven strategic goals envisioned in this plan are intended to be a road map for the next ten years. Successful implementation will depend on broadening and strengthening collaborative partnerships with public and private interests.

Commitment to trails begins at the citizen and community level. Communities, counties, agencies, and citizen groups must work together to take care of our existing trails and fund new trail projects.

The State Trails Program is committed to a dual role: responding to those local priorities while providing the leadership to forge local components into an integrated, statewide system.

To respond to the most pressing issues identified through the public input process, the Steering Committee and State Trails Program staff have identified nine initiatives for the near term; five are programmatic and four are new grants initiatives.

### **FIVE NEW PROGRAM INITIATIVES**

Through the use of currently available resources, the State Trails Program will pursue five initiatives to respond to concerns raised by trail managers, recreationists and the general public:

## 1. PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE USE OF TRAILS.

All groups surveyed in the strategic planning process identified habitat protection as a top priority. It was identified as the number one funding priority by the general public and was one of the most frequently mentioned concerns in the focus groups and stakeholder questionnaires. The Trails Program will:

- Continue to refine and improve the environmental review process initiated during the past two trails grant cycles.
- Continue to publicize and initiate research into environmentally responsible trail design and use.
- Require federal agencies to verify compliance with NEPA requirements in trail project decisions.
- Make grants available to plan environmentally sound trails.



"PLANNING TRAILS WITH WILDLIFE IN MIND," ARTIST: ROBIN FARRINGTON

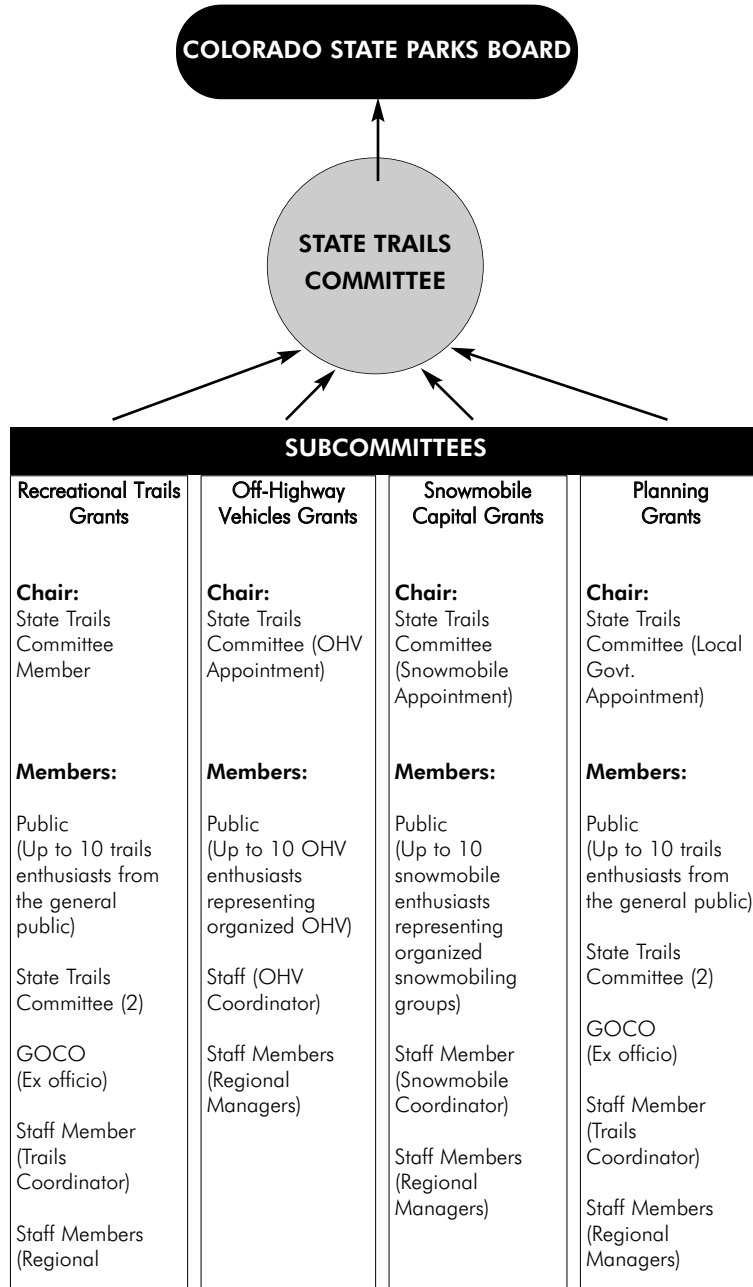
## 2. REFINE THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STATE TRAILS COMMITTEE.

Stakeholders and focus groups stressed the need for the Trails Program to provide overall leadership in trails statewide. State Parks, working with the Department of Natural Resources, the State Parks Board and agency partners, will:

- Appoint Trails Committee members who are community leaders with a range of statewide perspectives.
- Refocus Committee responsibilities on developing and pursuing policies that will advance strategic plan goals.
- Create sub-committees to assist the Committee in reviewing grant applications.
- Formalize a Parks Board policy on Committee responsibilities and operating procedures.
- Formalize grant selection subcommittees. (See opposite page.)



To help refine the roles and responsibilities of the State Trails Committee, four grant selection subcommittees will be formalized as shown below.



**3. ESTABLISH YOUTH TRAIL CREWS TO MAINTAIN AND BUILD TRAILS.** The public survey revealed a high priority for devoting Trails Program resources to expanding opportunities for youth to participate in outdoor activities. This priority matches up well with goals identified by the State Parks Board and the GOCO Strategic Plan. The Program will:

- Implement a new partnership with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and the Colorado Youth Corps Association to employ youth for trail construction and maintenance.
- Pursue multi-year commitments with GOCO to fund trail crews.
- Expand the use of federal Recreational Trails Program funds to support youth crews.



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**4. ADMINISTER A MORE EFFICIENT TRAIL GRANTS SYSTEM.** Dissatisfaction with State Parks' administration of trail grants was expressed by 12 percent of Program stakeholders and was listed as a significant barrier by focus group participants. The Program will:

- Hire additional staff with the sole responsibility of processing grants and monitoring project progress and completion.
- Improve computerized databases and grant tracking systems.
- Significantly reduce the turn-around time between when grants are approved to when contracts are executed and between requests for reimbursements and payment.



COREL CORPORATION

**5. ESTABLISH REGIONAL TRAIL COORDINATORS TO BETTER SERVE PROGRAM CONSTITUENTS.** More than half of the general public identified educational programs and information as a funding priority, stakeholders identified information and technical assistance as the third highest funding priority and focus groups identified trail user education and balancing trail use conflicts as a major issue. The Program will:



- Implement a pilot program to place a regional trail coordinator in State Parks' West Region in 1999. Duties will include assisting trail constituents in environmentally sound trail planning and design, conducting educational programs on trail use ethics, and facilitating decision-making on trail uses on federal lands, on-the-trail contacts, and working with youth trail crews.
- Consider placing three additional regional trail coordinators statewide in future years, based on the success of the pilot program.



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#### FOUR NEW FUNDING INITIATIVES

Four new trail grant initiatives are proposed as part of this plan to address important areas identified through public comment and the work of the Steering Committee. Target levels of funding at which these initiatives could make a significant impact on the issues they are designed to address are identified below.

To carry out these new initiatives, existing resources can be re-focused on these new grant categories to some extent. Still, new funding will be needed to meet the identified target levels.

Evidence of demand for the existing programs can be found in the large numbers of grant application submittals received each year and the amounts of matching funding coming from other sources.

In 1999, for example, an investment of \$1.3 million granted for general recreational trails grants went to projects with total estimated costs of \$12.7 million. (In the same grant cycle \$3.7 million was requested.)

It is a goal of the State Trails Program to achieve the projected funding levels within ten years.

Four new trail grants initiatives are proposed.

New Funding Initiative	Target Funding Levels	Prospective Funding Sources
1. Reinvestment Initiative—Accomplishing major trail improvements and repairs.	\$500,000- \$1,000,000	State Parks GOCO OHV Federal RTP Snowmobile Program
2. Future Pathways Initiative—Preserving trail opportunities in a rapidly growing state.	\$500,000- \$1,000,000	State Parks GOCO OHV Federal RTP
3. Trail Planning and Capacity Building Grants—Planning and building partnerships for the future.	\$150,000- \$300,000	State Parks OHV GOCO Federal RTP
4. Small Grants—Helping out when a little funding can make a big difference.	\$150,000- \$300,000	State Parks GOCO OHV

## 1. REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE—MAJOR TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS

The public input process revealed a strong desire to take better care of trails that already exist. Maintaining and rebuilding existing trails was identified as the second highest funding priority in the public survey, and was one of the top concerns in the OHV survey, the Stakeholders’ survey, focus groups, and interviews with important leaders. Funding is clearly needed to repair our state’s aging trail system.



KELVIN SHING, COURTESY VOC

This new grants initiative would help fund major repairs and access-related trail improvements.

Target Funding Level: \$500,000 - \$1,000,000 annually

## 2. FUTURE PATHWAYS INITIATIVE—PRESERVING TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES IN A RAPIDLY GROWING STATE

Over 50 percent of the general public surveyed expressed a preference for investments in links that connect trail systems together. Similar concerns arose in the Stakeholders’ survey, the focus groups, the OHV survey and interviews with important leaders. In addition, the GOCO Strategic Plan identifies a need to invest in regional trail systems.



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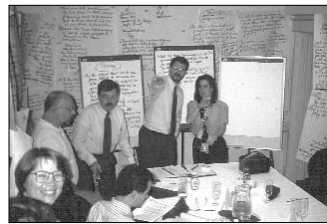
Yet in a period of rapid growth in Colorado, opportunities to take advantage of available access or trail alignments are rapidly disappearing. Discussions with the larger local government agencies that tend to tackle the bulk of this work indicate that large, multi-year grants would be the most efficient means of accomplishing these goals.

The past practice of capping maximum grants at less than \$100,000 meant that some of these large projects did not even apply for a grant that would have only limited impact on a substantial funding need. Larger grant awards would also have the advantage of reducing repetitive applications and overall administrative costs.

Target Funding Level: \$500,000 - \$1,000,000 annually

## 3. TRAIL PLANNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS—PLANNING AND BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE FUTURE

The Stakeholders’ survey and the focus group discussions tended to focus on the agencies and organizations with the responsibility to plan and build trails, as well as those groups involved in regional and federal lands trail planning efforts. While not registering as high as trail maintenance and construction needs, these groups voiced concern that more assistance was needed to fund planning efforts.



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These discussions also brought out that investing in volunteer groups to organize trail rehabilitation and construction projects can

be a cost-effective means to achieve goals while fostering community “ownership” in trail systems. Also highlighted was a need for funding to finance trail-related research projects, especially those related to studying environmental impacts of trails.

Target Funding Level: \$150,000 - 300,000

#### **4. SMALL GRANTS—SOMETIMES A LITTLE FUNDING CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE**

During the discussions with the focus groups and among Steering Committee members, it was obvious that small communities may not have the staff or resources to compete with larger jurisdictions in the grant process.

For similar reasons, GOCO’s initiation of a small grants process has been enthusiastically received by these smaller communities, whose needs tend to be more modest in scope. A streamlined, less complicated grant application process will be designed to facilitate this new small grant category.



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Target Funding Level: \$150,000 - 300,000

#### **CHANGES TO THE TRAILS GRANTS PROGRAM**

The existing trails grants program will be modified to reflect the four new trails grants initiatives described above. The table on the following pages shows these recommended changes to the grants program.

The existing grants program will be changed to implement the four new trails grant initiatives. New components are italicized.

EXISTING GRANTS	NEW/REVISED GRANTS
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**RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANTS**

<p><b>Before</b> →</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail construction</li> <li>• Volunteer project support</li> <li>• Access or easement acquisition</li> <li>• Design</li> <li>• Limited capital improvements associated with the trail (i.e., lighting)</li> </ul> <p>Individual project funding: Up to \$150,000 Total Funded in 1999: \$1,392,852</p>	<p><b>After (revised)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail construction</li> <li>• <i>Major improvements and repairs initiative</i></li> <li>• <i>Future Pathways Initiative (grants over \$100,000)</i></li> <li>• Volunteer project support</li> <li>• Access or easement acquisition</li> <li>• Design</li> <li>• Limited capital improvements associated with the trail (e.g., lighting)</li> </ul> <p>Individual project funding: Up to \$250,000 Target Funding Level: \$2,000,000-\$2,500,000</p>
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**OHV PROGRAM GRANTS**

<p><b>Before</b> →</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail construction</li> <li>• Trailhead facilities</li> <li>• Major improvements and repairs</li> <li>• Signing</li> <li>• Volunteer project support</li> <li>• Access or easement acquisition</li> <li>• Design</li> <li>• Educational and safety programs</li> </ul> <p>Individual project funding: Up to \$150,000 Total Funded in 1999: \$761,121</p>	<p><b>After (revised)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail construction</li> <li>• Trailhead facilities</li> <li>• Major improvements and repairs</li> <li>• Signing</li> <li>• Volunteer project support</li> <li>• Access or easement acquisition</li> <li>• Design</li> <li>• Educational and safety programs</li> </ul> <p>Individual project funding: No limit Target Funding Level: \$750,000-\$1,250,000</p>
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### SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM CAPITAL GRANTS

**Before** →

- Snowmobile grooming equipment
- Parking lots
- Storage/maintenance facilities
- Trail markers

Individual projects funding: No limit  
Total Funded in 1999: \$70,837

**After (revised)**

- Snowmobile grooming equipment
- Parking lots
- Storage/maintenance facilities
- Trail markers

Individual projects funding: No limit  
Target Funding Level: \$318,000

### PLANNING AND CAPACITY GRANTS

**New**

- Trail plans
- Trail related research
- Support for volunteer trail organizations

Individual project funding: \$50,0000  
Target Funding Level: \$150,00-300,000

### SMALL GRANTS

**New**

- Trail construction
- Small improvements and repairs
- Volunteer project support
- Access or easement acquisition
- Design
- Limited capital improvements associated with the trail (i.e., lighting)

Individual project funding: Less than \$25,000  
Target Funding Level: \$150,000-300,000

## *Afterword: Trails for a new millennium*

The future holds many changes for the people and landscapes of Colorado. If we are wise stewards of our natural, fiscal, and community resources, we can harness those changes to create the trail system envisioned in this plan. Much effort by many partners will be required over the coming years, but the end result will be unprecedented outdoor opportunities for Coloradans to enrich their lives in ways they hold dear.

With broad support and cooperation, these new initiatives hold promise of helping Coloradans realize a fulfilling and diverse trails vision—one that puts them on nature's trail.

### *Supporting documents*

The following documents, available from Colorado State Parks, provided important input to the planning process.

**"A Survey of Public Opinion on Trails and Related Outdoor Activities,"** The Centers—The Norwest Public Opinion Research Program, University of Colorado at Denver, March 1999.

**"Colorado OHV User Survey Summary of Results—Final Report,"** Tom Crimmins (Trails Consultant), January 1999.

### *Sources of information*

#### **Colorado State Parks**

State Trails Program, 1313 Sherman,  
Room 618, Denver, CO 80203, Fax  
303-866-3206;  
[www.dnr.state.co.us/trails/](http://www.dnr.state.co.us/trails/)  
Stuart Macdonald, State Trails  
Coordinator, 303-866-3203 x 306,  
e-mail: [MacTrail@aol.com](mailto:MacTrail@aol.com);  
Jack Placchi, OHV Program Manager,  
303-866-3203 x 338, e-mail:  
[COtrails@aol.com](mailto:COtrails@aol.com)  
Dave Hause, Snowmobile Program  
Coordinator, 303-791-1954, e-mail:  
[david.hause@state.co.us](mailto:david.hause@state.co.us)

#### **Information on wildlife, critical habitat, and species of concern**

Colorado Division of Wildlife Regional  
Service Centers: Denver 303-291-  
7277; Colorado Springs 719-473-  
2945; Grand Junction 970-248-  
7175  
Colorado Natural Heritage Program:  
970-491-1150  
Colorado Natural Areas Program:  
303-866-3437  
*Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind.*  
(available free from the State Trails  
Program) or download from  
[www.dnr.state.co.us/trails/planning\\_](http://www.dnr.state.co.us/trails/planning_trails.html)  
[trails.html](http://www.dnr.state.co.us/trails/planning_trails.html)

**For projects on USDA Forest Service land**

Call 303-275-5350 and dial zero to obtain contact information for the Ranger District in which your project is located. Francisco Valenzuela, US Forest Service, 740 Simms, Lakewood, CO 80225, 303-275-5045

**For projects on Bureau of Land Management lands**

For trails information, call 303-239-3716. For wildlife information, call 303-239-3723; Or contact: Tina McDonald, Bureau of Land Management, 2850 Youngfield, Lakewood, CO 80215, 303-239-3716 [www.co.blm.gov/recreation.htm](http://www.co.blm.gov/recreation.htm)

**Colorado Department of Transportation**

Gay Page, Bicycle/Pedestrian Program, Colorado Dept. of Transportation, 4201 E. Arkansas Ave., Denver, CO 80222, 303-757-9982

**Great Outdoors Colorado**

Lise Angeenbrug, 1600 Broadway, #1650, Denver, CO 80202, 303- 863-7522

**Colorado Mountain Club**

A hiking club that disseminates information about the Rocky Mountains and encourages the preservation of nature and scenery: [www.entertain.com/cmc/index.html](http://www.entertain.com/cmc/index.html)

**Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition**

A volunteer organization devoted to protecting motorized recreation in Colorado: [www.cohvco.org/](http://www.cohvco.org/)

**Colorado Snowmobile Association**

A volunteer organization to advance, promote, and preserve the sport of snowmobiling in Colorado: [www.sledcity.com](http://www.sledcity.com)

**Colorado Trail Foundation**

Recruits and trains volunteers for trail construction, coordinates the Adopt-A-Trail maintenance program, and distributes information on Colorado Trail activities, trail crews, and publications: [www.coloradotrail.org/](http://www.coloradotrail.org/)

**Colorado Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs**

Information on events, clubs across Colorado, and 4WD areas: [www.cohvco.org/ca4wdci](http://www.cohvco.org/ca4wdci)

**Colorado Horsemen's Council**

An advocacy group for equestrians and trail riders: [www.cohoco.com/](http://www.cohoco.com/)

**Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado**

Promotes volunteerism, provides assistance to communities and agencies, and sponsors major work projects every year: 303-715-1010; [www.voc.org](http://www.voc.org)

Resources from other states or national organizations

**American Trails**

Resources and Library: [www.outdoorlink.com/amtrails/](http://www.outdoorlink.com/amtrails/)

**International Mountain Bicycling Association**

Promotes mountain bicycling opportunities which are environmentally and socially responsible: [www.greatoutdoors.com/imba/](http://www.greatoutdoors.com/imba/)

**South Carolina Trails Program**

Trails management, including searchable bibliographies and information on funding, construction, and greenways: [www.sctrails.net/trails/trails\\_mgmt.html](http://www.sctrails.net/trails/trails_mgmt.html)

**North Carolina University**

[www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/rrea/retrailstoc.html](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/rrea/retrailstoc.html)

*Acronyms*

- ADA.** Americans with Disabilities Act
- ATV.** All-terrain vehicle
- CSA.** Colorado Snowmobile Association
- GOCO.** Great Outdoors Colorado
- NEPA.** National Environmental Policy Act
- OHV.** Off-highway vehicles
- RTP.** Recreational Trails Program
- VOC.** Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado