

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	1
SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION	7
1.1 LWCF Background	7
1.2 Colorado LWCF Stateside Appropriations.....	8
1.3 2008 SCORP Planning Process	12
1.3.1 Vision	12
1.4 Contents of the Plan.....	12
SECTION 2: OUTDOOR RECREATION PROVIDERS AND PARTNERS IN COLORADO	15
2.1 Overview	12
2.2 Federal Agencies.....	18
2.2.1 U.S. Forest Service	19
2.2.2 Bureau of Land Management	20
2.2.3 National Park Service	22
2.2.4 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.....	24
2.2.5 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	25
2.2.6 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	26
2.3 State Agencies	26
2.3.1 Colorado Department of Natural Resources	26
2.3.2 Colorado State Land Board.....	27
2.3.3 Colorado Division of Wildlife	29
2.3.4 Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation	32
2.3.5 Colorado State Forest Service.....	37
2.3.6 Colorado Water Conservation Board.....	38
2.3.7 Colorado Division of Water Resources.....	39
2.4 Local Governments.....	39
2.5 Outdoor Recreation Partners	41
2.5.1 Funding Sources	41
2.5.2 Private Industry Partners & Non-profit Organizations	44
2.5.3 Land Trust and Open Space Organizations.....	48
SECTION 3: OUTDOOR RECREATION TRENDS.....	53
3.1 Overview	53
3.2 Methodology	53
3.3 National Outdoor Recreation Trends (by Source)	54
3.3.1 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment	54
3.3.2 Outdoor Industry Foundation.....	56
3.3.3 Visitation Trends at Department of the Interior Sites	59
3.4. Colorado Outdoor Recreation Trends (by Source)	60
3.4.1 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment	60
3.4.2 Outdoor Industry Foundation.....	66
3.4.3 A Survey of Colorado Recreation Trends, Issues, and Needs.....	67

3.5 Colorado Outdoor Recreation Trends (by Activity)	71
3.5.1 Ascending Colorado’s Fourteeners	71
3.5.2 Boating, Off-roading, and Snowmobiling	71
3.5.3 Downhill Skiing and Snowboarding	72
3.5.4 Hunting and Fishing.....	73
3.5.5 RVing and Camping.....	74
3.5.6 Whitewater Rafting.....	76
3.5.7 Wildlife Viewing and Birding.....	77
3.5.8 Touring Colorado’s Scenic Byways.....	78
3.6 Participation in Volunteerism and Environmental Education & Interpretation	
Activities	78
3.6.1 Volunteerism	78
3.6.2 Environmental Education and Interpretation Activities.....	82
3.7 Colorado Tourism Trends	83
3.7.1 Outdoor Trips and Vacations.....	84
3.7.2 Heritage Tourism	85
3.7.3 Colorado Welcome Centers	86
3.7.4 Eisenhower Tunnel Traffic.....	86
3.8 Visitation at Public Lands	87
3.8.1 Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Colorado State Parks, and Colorado Division of Wildlife	87
3.8.2 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.....	88
3.8.3 Visitation at U.S. Forest Service Areas.....	89
SECTION 4: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY ATTRIBUTED TO OUTDOOR RECREATION	91
4.1 Economic Activity Attributed to Outdoor Recreation in the U.S	91
4.1.1 Active Outdoor Recreation	91
4.1.2 Boating.....	91
4.1.3 Golf	92
4.1.4 Horseback Riding	92
4.1.5 Off-highway Vehicle Recreation.....	92
4.2 Economic Activity Attributed to Outdoor Recreation in Colorado	93
SECTION 5: SCORP REGIONAL PROFILES	97
5.1 Introduction	97
5.1.1 Population and Demographic Trends.....	97
5.1.2 Public Lands, Recreation Attractions, and Activities	101
5.1.3 Economic Profile of Tourism in Colorado	103
5.1.4 Recreation and Open Space Grant Allocation	106
5.1.5 2007 SCORP Local Government Survey Results	110
5.2 Front Range Regional Profile	115
5.2.1 Population and Demographic Trends.....	115
5.2.2 Public Lands, Recreation Attractions, and Activities	117
5.2.3 Economic Profile of Tourism in the Front Range	120
5.2.4 Recreation and Open Space Grant Allocations.....	121
5.2.5 2007 SCORP Local Government Survey Results	122
5.3 Northeast Regional Profile	127
5.3.1 Population and Demographic Trends.....	127
5.3.2 Public Lands, Recreation Attractions, and Activities	129
5.3.3 Economic Profile of Tourism in the Northeast Region.....	130

5.3.4 Recreation and Open Space Grant Allocations.....	132
5.3.5 2007 SCORP Local Government Survey Results.....	132
5.4 Northwest Regional Profile	137
5.4.1 Population and Demographic Trends.....	137
5.4.2 Public Lands, Recreation Attractions, and Activities	139
5.4.3 Economic Profile of Tourism in the Northwest Region.....	141
5.4.4 Recreation and Open Space Grant Allocations.....	143
5.4.5 2007 SCORP Local Government Survey Results	143
5.5 South Central Regional Profile	149
5.5.1 Population and Demographic Trends.....	149
5.5.2 Public Lands, Recreation Attractions, and Activities	151
5.5.3 Economic Profile of Tourism in the South Central Region	154
5.5.4 Recreation and Open Space Grant Allocations.....	155
5.5.5 2007 SCORP Local Government Survey Results	156
5.6 Southeast Regional Profile	161
5.6.1 Population and Demographic Trends.....	161
5.6.2 Public Lands, Recreation Attractions, and Activities	163
5.6.3 Economic Profile of Tourism in the Southeast Region.....	165
5.6.4 Recreation and Open Space Grant Allocations.....	166
5.6.5 2007 SCORP Local Government Survey Results	167
5.7 Southwest Regional Profile.....	171
5.7.1 Population and Demographic Trends.....	171
5.7.2 Public Lands, Recreation Attractions, and Activities	173
5.7.3 Economic Profile of Tourism in the Southwest Region.....	175
5.7.4 Recreation and Open Space Allocations.....	177
5.7.5 2007 SCORP Local Government Survey Results.....	177
SECTION 6: PRIORITY RECREATION ISSUES AND INFLUENCES	183
6.1. Methodology	183
6.2 Environmental Change.....	186
6.2.1 Climate Change.....	186
6.2.2 Water Resources.....	188
6.2.3 Forest Health.....	190
6.2.4 Invasive Species.....	195
6.3 Population and Demographic Changes.....	197
6.3.1 Population Growth.....	197
6.3.2 Aging of the Baby Boomers.....	201
6.3.3 Millennials	202
6.3.4 Changing Ethnicity	202
6.4 Public Health and Recreation	206
6.4.1 Increasing Rates of Obesity	206
6.4.2 Connecting Children to the Outdoors through Recreation	210
6.5 Funding Shortfalls for Recreation Management	211
6.5.1 Public Perception about Funding Priorities and Needs	211
6.5.2 Local Government Providers	213
6.5.3 Significant State Recreation Providers	213
6.5.4 Federal Agencies.....	216
6.5.5 Key Recreation Grant Funding Programs.....	219

6.6 Integration of Recreation Interests in Land Use and Other Relevant Planning

Efforts	222
6.6.1 Local Planning Efforts	222
6.6.2 Regional and Statewide Planning Efforts	223

SECTION 7: 2008 SCORP STRATEGIC PLAN227

7.1 Implementing the Strategic Plan	227
7.1.1 Strategic Framework Tables	230
7.1.2 Key Recommendations	244

Appendices

A. Public Survey Report	247
B. Local Government Survey Summary	269
C. Information Resources	279
D. Wetlands Component	293
E. Acronyms	305

Tables

Table 1: Total Colorado Stateside LWCF Apportionment	9
Table 2: Acres Managed by Federal Agency and SCORP Region.....	18
Table 3: National Park Service Units in Colorado	23
Table 4: Corps of Engineer Sites in Colorado	26
Table 5: Acres Managed by State Agency and by SCORP Region.....	27
Table 6: Statewide Recreation Programs Managed by State Parks	33
Table 7: Acres Managed by Type of Local Government and by SCORP Region	39
Table 8: Inventory of Local Government Facilities Statewide and by SCORP Region	41
Table 9: Private Industry Associations in Colorado (Listed alphabetically).....	44
Table 10: Non-Profit Organizations (Listed Alphabetically)	45-47
Table 11: Acres Managed by Land Trusts and Open Space Organizations by SCORP Region	49
Table 12: Major Land Trusts & Open Space Organizations	51
Table 13: Outdoor Recreation Trends- Sources of Information.....	53
Table 14: Participation Rates for the Some of the Most Popular Activities in the U.S. (2006).....	54
Table 15: Human-Powered Activities, National Participation in 2005 and Percent Changes between 2004-2005.....	57
Table 16: The Most Popular Active Outdoor Activities Among Youth in 2006 (by Number of Outings Annually).....	58
Table 17: Ranges for Colorado Participation Numbers	60
Table 18: The 30 Most Popular Activities in Colorado by Number of Participants (1995 – 2006) (All Settings and Categories).....	62
Table 19: Participation in Active Outdoor Recreation Activities (2005).....	66
Table 20: Frequency of Outdoor Recreation During the Past Year.....	68
Table 21: Distance Traveled to Recreate.....	69
Table 22: Outdoor Recreation Destination Preferences	70
Table 23: Preferences for Services at Outdoor Recreation Destinations	70
Table 24: Accommodation Preferences for Overnight Stays	85
Table 25: Annual Visitation at FWS Sites in Colorado.....	88
Table 26: National Forest Visitation in Colorado	89
Table 27: Economic Activity Attributed to Outdoor Recreation in Colorado.....	95

Table 28: Projected Population Growth for Colorado (by Region)	99
Table 29: Public Land Acres (Open to Recreation Use) and Public Acres Per Capita (by Region)	102
Table 30: Estimated Travel Impacts for Colorado (in Millions).....	104
Table 31: Inception Dates for Grant Programs	107
Table 32: Recreation and Open Space Grants by SCORP Region (through 2007)	107
Table 33: Statewide Summary of Recreation Facilities and Lands Managed by Local Governments	111
Table 34: Statewide Summary of Local Government Agency Characteristics	112
Table 35: Priority Issues for Local Governments	113
Table 36: Priority Recreation Needs for Local Governments.....	114
Table 37: Projected Population Growth for the Front Range Region	117
Table 38: Estimated Travel Impacts for the Front Range Region.....	120
Table 39: Front Range Recreation and Open Space Grants by County (through 2007)	122
Table 40: Front Range Region Recreation Facilities	123
Table 41: Front Range Region Agency Characteristics	124
Table 42: Priority Issues for Local Governments in the Front Range Region.....	125
Table 43: Priority Needs for Local Government in the Front Range Region	126
Table 44: Projected Population Growth for the Northeast Region	127
Table 45: Estimated Travel Impacts for the Northeast Region	131
Table 46: Northeast Region Recreation and Open Space Grants by County (through 2007).....	132
Table 47: Northeast Region Recreation Facilities.....	133
Table 48: Northeast Region Agency Characteristics.....	134
Table 49: Priority Issues for Local Governments in the Northeast Region	135
Table 50: Priority Needs for Local Governments in the Northeast Region.....	136
Table 51: Projected Population Growth for the Northwest Region	139
Table 52: Estimated Travel Impacts for the Northwest Region	142
Table 53: Northwest Region Recreation and Open Space Grants by County (through 2007).....	143
Table 54: Northwest Region Recreation Facilities	144
Table 55: Northwest Region Agency Characteristics	145
Table 56: Priority Issues for Local Governments in the Northwest Region	146
Table 57: Priority Needs for Local Governments in the Northwest Region.....	147
Table 58: Projected Population Growth for the South Central Region.....	151
Table 59: Estimated Travel Impacts for the South Central Region.....	155
Table 60: South Central Region Recreation and Open Space Grants by County (through 2007)	156
Table 61: South Central Region Recreation Facilities	157
Table 62: South Central Region Agency Characteristics	158
Table 63: Priority Issues for Local Governments in the South Central Region.....	159
Table 64: Priority Needs for Local Governments in the South Central Region	160
Table 65: Projected Population Growth for the Southeast Region	163
Table 66: Estimated Travel Impacts for the Southeast Region	166
Table 67: Southeast Region Recreation and Open Space Grants by County (through 2007).....	167
Table 68: Southeast Region Recreation Facilities.....	167
Table 69: Southeast Region Agency Characteristics.....	168
Table 70: Priority Issues for Local Governments in the Southeast Region	169
Table 71: Priority Needs for Local Governments in the Southeast Region	170
Table 72: Projected Population Growth for the Southwest Region	173
Table 73: Estimated Travel Impacts for the Southwest Region	176
Table 74: Southwest Region Recreation and Open Space Grants by County (through 2007).....	177
Table 75: Southwest Region Recreation Facilities	178
Table 76: Southwest Region Agency Characteristics	179
Table 77: Priority Issues for Local Governments in the Southwest Region	180
Table 78: Priority Needs for Local Governments in the Southwest Region.....	181
Table 79: Summary of Issues and Influences Affecting Outdoor Recreation	185

Table 80: Funding for Management and Maintenance of Recreation Areas.....	211
Table 81: Future Funding Priorities	212
Table 82: Outdoor Recreation Funding Measures & Levels of Support.....	212
Table 83: CDOW Revenues (2002 – 2007)	215
Table 84: CDOW Budget Trends (2001 – 2007)	216
Table 85: Colorado State Trails Program Grant Funds (2004–2007)	220
Table 86: Competitive GOCO Grant Funding (2004–2007)	220
Table 87: Issue #1 Effects of Environmental Change on Recreation and Tourism	230-231
Table 88: Issue #2 Changing Community Demographics & Recreation-Tourism Market Demands	232-233
Table 89: Issue #3 Connection Between Public Health & Outdoor Recreation	234-237
Table 90: Issue #4 Funding Shortfalls for Recreation Managers.....	238-241
Table 91: Issue #5 Improved Integration of Recreation Interests & Needs in Land Use & Other Relevant Planning Efforts	242-243

Figures

Figure 1: Converging Elements Related to Outdoor Recreation	3
Figure 2: SCORP Planning Process	11
Figure 3: Key Components of the 2008 SCORP	13
Figure 4: Land Management in Colorado (Acreages and Percentage of the State by Manager)	16
Figure 5: Schematic of Relative Proportion of Land by Physical Setting Character (Demonstrating Recreation Provider Roles or “Niches”).....	17
Figure 6: Divisions within the Colorado Department of Natural Resources	27
Figure 7: Ownership of Lands Managed by State Parks.....	33
Figure 8: Distribution of Colorado Lottery Proceeds in 2007	42
Figure 9: GOCO Grants by Category (1994 – 2007).....	43
Figure 10: Acres of Land Protected by Land Trusts, Open Space Organizations, and Local Government Open Space Programs by SCORP Region (through 2006)	50
Figure 11: Visitation at NPS, BLM, and FWS Sites between 1996-2005	59
Figure 12: Comparing Changes in Participation by Resource Type (1995–2006)	61
Figure 13: Colorado’s Ten Most Popular Activities in 2006 (as a Percentage of Population)	63
Figure 14: Changes in Land-based Activities from 1995–2006	64
Figure 15: Changes in Water-based Activities from 1995–2006	65
Figure 16: Colorado OHV, Motorboat, and Snowmobile Registrations (2002 – 2007)	72
Figure 17: Hunters and Anglers in Colorado (2006)	73
Figure 18: Hunting and Fishing License Holders (2003 – 2007)	74
Figure 19: Motorhome and Camper Trailer Registrations (2001-2007).....	75
Figure 20: Revenues at Private and Public Campgrounds are Increasing (2000-2006)	75
Figure 21: Commercial Rafting User Days	76
Figure 22: River Outfitter Licenses through the Colorado State Trails Program	77
Figure 23: Volunteer Hours at Colorado State Parks	79
Figure 24: Volunteer Hours at CDOW.....	79
Figure 25: VOC Volunteer Trends (2002 – 2007).....	80
Figure 26: CYCA Youth Corps Participants	82
Figure 27: Environmental Education and Interpretation Activities at Colorado State Park	83
Figure 28: Outdoor Trips between 2005-2006.....	84
Figure 29: Outdoor Recreation Activity Participation Among All Overnight Pleasure Trip Travelers	84
Figure 30: Visitation at Colorado Welcome Centers (2007).....	86
Figure 31: Visitation Trends for BLM, NPS, and State Parks in Colorado (2002–2006).....	88
Figure 32: Regional Comparison of Projected Population Growth (2007-2030).....	98
Figure 33: Land Management in Colorado (Acreages and Percentage of the State by Manager).....	101

Figure 34: Public Lands Open to Recreation Use (by Region)	102
Figure 35: Total Travel Impacts by Region (2006).....	104
Figure 36: Distribution of Recreation and Open Space Grants by Region (through 2007).....	110
Figure 37: Land Management in the Front Range Region	118
Figure 38: Front Range Total Travel Impacts by County (2006).....	121
Figure 39: Land Management in the Northeast Region.....	129
Figure 40: Northeast Region Total Travel Impacts by County (2006)	131
Figure 41: Land Management in the Northwest Region.....	140
Figure 42: Northwest Region Total Travel Impacts by County (2006)	142
Figure 43: Land Management in the South Central Region	152
Figure 44: South Central Region Total Travel Impacts by County (2006).....	154
Figure 45: Land Management in the Southeast Region.....	164
Figure 46: Southeast Region Total Travel Impacts by County (2006)	166
Figure 47: Land Management in the Southwest Region.....	173
Figure 48: Southwest Region Total Travel Impacts by County (2006)	176
Figure 49: Historical Statewide Percentages of Average Snowpack (Feb. – May)	189
Figure 50: Projected Percentage Population Growth by Region (2005-2030)	199
Figure 51: The Aging of Colorado’s Baby Boomer Population (2006-2020).....	201
Figure 52: Colorado Population by Ethnic Group (2005)	203
Figure 53: Projected Population Growth in Colorado Hispanic Population (2005 – 2030)	205
Figure 54: Projected Colorado Population by Ethnic Group (2005 - 2030).....	205
Figure 55: Obesity and Overweight Prevalence in Colorado Population	207
Figure 56: Visitation Trends and General Fund Support	215
Figure 57: Region 2 Expenditure per Visit vs. All Other Forest Service Regions (2006).....	217
Figure 58: Average Dollars Spent Per Visitor and Visitors per Acre on Forest Service, BLM, NPS, and State Park Lands (2006).....	218
Figure 59: State Trail Grant Requests vs. Actual Awards (2004-2008).....	219
Figure 60: GOCO Funding Requests vs. Actual Awards (2004-2007)	221
Figure 61: GOCO Legacy Grants Requests vs. Actual Awards (2004-2007).....	221

Maps

Map 1: Colorado Land Management & SCORP Regions.....	2
Map 2: Colorado Population Density (2007).....	100
Map 3: Population Totals (2007).....	100
Map 4: Total County Travel Revenues (2006).....	105
Map 5: Distribution of Outdoor Recreation Grants (per Capita by County) (Total Dollars per Person by County).....	108
Map 6: Distribution of Outdoor Recreation Grants (Total Dollars by County)	109
Map 7: Front Range Region: Recreation & Tourism Attractions.....	116
Map 8: Northeast Region: Recreation & Tourism Attractions.....	128
Map 9: Northwest Region: Recreation & Tourism Attractions.....	138
Map 10: South Central Region: Recreation & Tourism Attractions.....	150
Map 11: Southeast Region: Recreation & Tourism Attractions.....	162
Map 12: Southwest Region: Recreation & Tourism Attractions.....	172
Map 13: Bark Beetle Infestations (1994-2007).....	192
Map 14: Colorado Fire Risk & “Red Zones”.....	193
Map 15: Colorado Projected Population (2007-2030).....	198
Map 16: Colorado Projected Population Age 50 & Over (2030).....	200
Map 17: Colorado Hispanic Population (2006).....	204
Map 18: Colorado Overweight & Obesity Incidence by PMR* (2006).....	208
Map 19: CDOT Congestion Projections (2030).....	223