

OPPI RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES

PARTNERSHIP

Vision/Value Statement: Partnerships among land managers, volunteers, municipalities, nonprofits, businesses and the community are key to maintaining and sustaining the Pikes Peak region's natural resources and recreation assets.

Strategies and Action Items	Status/Progress:
<p>Strategy: Identify existing and form new partnerships among land managers to meet priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (What) Determine the priorities and low hanging fruit for which partnerships should exist<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Inventory what partnerships exist, could be expanded, or need developed to support these priorities.• (Who) Determine appropriate partners for new collaboration, respecting partner requirements. This could include land managers, municipalities, nonprofits, and other stakeholders.• (How) Determine appropriate agreement structure (MOU, MOA, CMA, etc.) and partner responsibilities	<p>Not Started</p>
<p>Strategy: Engage the broader communities to support existing and new partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify appropriate volunteer opportunities and tasks to support land managers and partnerships.• Communicate best practices for volunteer engagement that support partner organizations.• Engage public and private schools and workforce development entities to establish stewardship, STEM programs and workforce development within the state and region	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Progress• In Progress• Not Started

OPPI RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES

COMMUNICATION

Vision/Value Statement: Intentional communication is essential to fostering effective inter-agency coordination, industry stakeholder support and involvement, and community leader and public understanding of local natural resource and recreation values and initiatives.

Strategies and Action Items	Status/Progress:
<p>Strategy: Create an effective communication plan/messaging strategy from land managers to engage industry stakeholders and inform the public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and disseminate messages that communicate land manager notices, public engagement opportunities, actions taken/planned/proposed, for improved stakeholder and public awareness, engagement, understanding, and compliance. • Strategize for multiple communication platforms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Create/utilize existing information hubs and resources to share current and future recreation and natural resource updates for our region. ◦ Develop/share messaging through agency and partner news releases, video assets, social media, ambassador programs, billboards, signage, etc. • Inventory, connect, and enhance existing ranger and/or ambassador programs within the Pikes Peak region for face-to-face outdoor recreation education 	<p>Not Started</p>
<p>Strategy: Create regular gatherings of land managers for effective communication and planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate a regional summit where land managers discuss current challenges, initiatives, opportunities for collaboration, and messaging needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Determine frequency, location, facilitator, structure • Fit into an existing event or create something new 	<p>Not Started- Happening by project only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pikes Peak Outdoor Industry Leadership Summit - Fall/Winter 24-25
<p>Strategy: Create unified messaging around central themes supporting the region's outdoors and expand outdoor education programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the priorities and low hanging fruit for unified messaging that takes into account tourists, residents, youth, cultures, user groups, and general public. Messaging to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Leave No Trace Stewardship ethic ◦ Value of the outdoors for health and wellness ◦ Preservation of our natural and recreational assets for future generations (Conservation ethic) ◦ Outdoors for All -inclusivity 	<p>Not Started</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educate decision makers on the value of outdoor education and workforce development -state, county, local leaders in the healthcare, government, and education sectors.• Inventory existing outdoor education programming:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Identify areas for collaboration among educators/providers (resource sharing)◦ Identify gaps/opportunities in programs and curriculum◦ Advocate for greater access to and expansion of outdoor education	Not Started
Strategy: Create regular communication and provide updates to local, state, and federal leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide updates to local leaders on a regular basis• Provide updates to state leaders on a regular basis• Provide updates to federal leaders on an as needed basis	Ongoing - needs intentionality

OPPI RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES

CONNECTIVITY

Vision/Value Statement: Connecting communities and recreation opportunities within the Pikes Peak region creates a more sustainable, equitable, and enjoyable future.

Strategies and Action Items	Status/Progress:
<p>Strategy: Develop a regional trail master plan focused on connectivity: trail to trail, trail to community, trail from community to outdoor space/opportunity, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create inter-county connectors across the Pikes Peak region• Identify and evaluate connections that cross jurisdictions where allowed uses change from one jurisdiction to the next to consider making consistent policies throughout connections for easier understanding and compliance of recreation users.	<p>Not Started</p>
<p>Strategy: Connect urban communities to nature and outdoor recreation opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore transportation systems and networks that connect urban and *disproportionately impacted communities to recreation sites/opportunities• Study the potential extension and connection of trails from neighborhoods to outdoor spaces such as parks and greenways<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Utilize the Trust for Public Land "Distance to Opportunity and Enviro Screen" report◦ Prioritize connections that provide access to nature and recreation for those who would benefit the most from the health and wellness benefits they provide, such as communities with significantly lower life expectancy• Strategically allocate resources and planning to the "front range/front door" areas closest to population centers for easier connectivity and access for the greatest number of people	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not Started - Definition of DIC• Not Started • Not Started
<p>Strategy: Create community connectors for rural economic vitality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete strategic previously-identified community connection priorities such as Cripple Creek to Victor Community Connector (RTP Master Plan), Woodland Park to Ring the Peak (Woodland Park Parks Master Plan), Penrose to Cañon City) to increase visitation and resulting spending in rural communities	<p>Not Started</p>

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Strategies and Action Items	Status/Progress:
<p>Strategy: Complete Ring The Peak Trail (RTP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Convene RTP stakeholders regularly to continue planning and advance the RTP Master Plan• Solve land managers' and elected officials' concern of effective management of the trail• Engage key private land owners in discussions of trail completion: concerns, potential trail easements, potential property acquisitions, etc.• Assess current trail alignment and complete remaining segments, referencing RTP Master Plan	<p>In Progress</p>

OPPI RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Vision/Value Statement: Exceptional conservation, connectivity, and adaptive management of the Pikes Peak region's plant and wildlife species, and the habitats on which they depend, ensures resilience and sustainability in the face of stressors such as changing climate, increased and changing recreational use, and urban development.

Strategies and Action Items	Status/Progress:
<p>Strategy: Sustain key wildlife corridors to reduce habitat fragmentation, encourage species health, and provide climate resiliency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaboratively identify and determine priorities of key wildlife corridors in the Pikes Peak region• Communicate identified areas broadly with decision makers who could impact their sustainability	<p>In Progress- A Pikes Peak Region Conservation Summary is being developed</p>
<p>Strategy: Conserve priority public and private lands to ensure they continue to provide their many benefits long into the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify the most biodiverse, climate-resilient, agriculturally rich, culturally significant, remarkable landscapes, and prominent viewsheds* in the Pikes Peak region for conservation priority.• Develop a regional strategic and coordinated approach for land managers, municipalities, and land trusts to conserve prioritized land, piece by piece, some by acquisitions and others by conservation easements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Progress- A Pikes Peak Region Conservation Summary is being developed• Not Started
<p>Strategy: Limit development in prioritized wildlife corridors and areas of high conservation value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with stakeholders, including local, state and federal government and private producers (growers and ranchers), to avoid or limit development in prioritized areas<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Pursue agreements and policy changes with government entities where appropriate, such as land use and planning departments	<p>Not Started</p>

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Strategies and Action Items	Status/Progress:
<p>Strategy: Preserve and restore riparian areas within the Pikes Peak region to sustain the unique biodiversity that riparian corridors support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inventory riparian areas alongside the region's waterways that could benefit from preservation or restoration• Proactively plan for the conservation of riparian areas and the restoration of natural systems along our waterways	<p>In Progress/Ongoing</p>
<p>Strategy: Actively work to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and improve forest health across the Pikes Peak region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proactively and strategically reduce fuels in the region identified in high-risk areas through the Wildfire Crisis Strategy (WCS), which also opens up the canopy to improve health on the forest floor and improves wildlife habitat.• Build partnerships within and outside of the region to engage the public and other stakeholders in better understanding, support, and communication of necessary mitigation efforts and expected short-term impacts and long-term results.	<p>In Progress/Ongoing</p>
<p>Strategy: Work to ensure that the Pikes Peak region's water quality and supply is resilient and sustainable to benefit communities, agriculture, wildlife, and recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mitigate the impacts on water supply and native species plants from drought, landscape irrigation, etc. through smart, future-facing policies in local communities.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Reduce non-functional turf grass and replace it with drought and climate-resilient landscaping while maintaining vital urban landscapes and tree canopy.• Work with the agricultural community within the region to develop water conservation measures that do not negatively impact the reliability of their water supply.• Look to Colorado Water Plan (CWP) for additional steps that can be taken regionally and locally to conserve the region's water supply and align projects with CWP criteria for funding and implementation.	<p>In Progress/Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Progress• In Progress• Unknown

OPPI RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES

RECREATION

Vision/Value Statement: A broad spectrum of exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities that are accessible, inclusive, enjoyable, and responsible provides important health, wellness, and economic benefits to local communities and visitors and instills a sense of appreciation and stewardship for the Pikes Peak region's natural resources.

Strategies and Action Items	Status/Progress:
<p>Strategy: Identify areas currently being used for recreation to provide a baseline for planning recreation asset improvement, expansion, and development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Review mapping data for geographic location of existing legal recreation use, assets and infrastructure.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review of existing "system" infrastructure such as trails, trailheads, campgrounds, parking lots: COTREXReview of visitor use data: USFS and BLM Visitor info, state park and state wildlife area data, local government entity visitor dataIn addition to the above, review available data and create heat map demonstrating where use is taking place including but not exclusive of system infrastructure (For planning purposes- not made publically available)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use all available data such as Strava (user-generated) and cell phone data - show trends over the last several years, where possible<i>Use of this data is informative not prescriptive - to identify where use is taking place, not determining appropriateness of that use</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In Progress- Area of Opportunity Support Tools developed and evaluated throughout OPPI processNot Started
<p>Strategy: Prioritize access for underserved peoples and communities in planning recreation asset and opportunity improvement, expansion, and development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Incorporate available data and mapping into planning: The Nature Conservancy's Enviro Screen, The Trust for Public Land's Distance to Opportunity and 10 Minute to Park reports, Elevate the Peak Plan feedback from underserved community representativesEngage local underserved community advocacy groups into planning processesProvide easier access and reduce barriers to entities who provide outdoor recreation opportunities for the underserved	<p>In Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Not StartedIn Progress/OngoingIn Progress/Ongoing

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Strategies and Action Items	Status/Progress:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When designing new recreation assets and infrastructure, where appropriate, build intentionally with accessibility for those with disabilities<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ It is much easier and less costly to build parks, trails, etc. with accessibility from the beginning than retrofitting later◦ When building accessibly, EVERYONE can use the asset - able-bodied, seniors, families, those with strollers, as well as those with disabilities◦ The Pikes Peak region has a much higher rate of both residents and visitors with disabilities than the U.S. average	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Progress/Ongoing
<p>Strategy: Increase the safety of recreation users in the Pikes Peak region through information, training, and technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide basic but important user information to inform new recreational users how to enjoy the outdoors safely through collaborative messaging, seasonal content, and using a variety of channels• For recreation use with high risk, develop training and education centers such as skills courses for mountain biking, motorized, outdoor safety classes, etc.• Collaboratively promote the region's instructors, classes, workshops, seminars, guided trips to increase user competence and safety when engaging in outdoor recreation<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Seasonally work together to promote the local community's (and online) options for resources and training to remain safe while enjoying the season's recreation• Use existing and develop new technology to provide greater safety in the Pikes Peak region's outdoors<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Research the potential for adding cell service where it is currently lacking to allow for quicker reporting of wildfire, injury, unlawful behavior, etc.◦ Promote apps that can assist in safety and awareness: wayfinding/maps, backcountry first-aid, recreation skills, hazards, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Progress/Ongoing

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Strategies and Action Items	Status/Progress:
<p>Strategy: Determine suitable areas for recreation asset improvement, expansion, and development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bring together the mapping data identified through the OPPI process to scope the best placement for recreation activity while ensuring protection of highest conservation value areas:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Pikes Peak region Conservation Value Summary (see under Natural Resource Strategies)◦ Underserved / Disproportionately Impacted Communities (DIC) data - Enviro Screen, TPL Reports◦ Current recreation use heat map (see in Rec. strategy above)◦ Connectivity strategy data• Reevaluate existing recreational plans in terms of the scope above to determine what previously identified, but unimplemented, recreation opportunities and infrastructure should move forward.• Evaluate new recreation opportunities and infrastructure through OPPI building blocks in terms of the scope above<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Public feedback (residents and visitors) on new, desired opportunities◦ Anticipated growth in the region and recreational demand◦ Stakeholder input• Reevaluate existing recreation in terms of the scope above to determine what may no longer be suitable for certain recreation activity and implement appropriate measures, with consideration to: Legacy Assets/Infrastructure Connectivity for recreation connections Strong desirability as a recreation asset	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Progress- Area of Opportunity Support Tools developed and evaluated throughout OPPI process• In Progress• In Progress/Ongoing• Not Started

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Strategies and Action Items

Status/Progress:

Strategy: Encourage opportunities for youth to engage in the outdoors for recreation, development of conservation and stewardship ethics, and workforce development

- Work with education and stakeholder groups to identify strategy for getting youth outdoors through various school, state, and local programs and organizations
- Work with educators and higher ed, employers, and corps groups to provide outdoor lifestyle and education experiences for better workforce preparedness in the outdoors
- Encourage outdoor industry workforce development and career advancement for the Pikes Peak region through advocacy with public/private schools, higher ed programs, employers, and community and government decision makers

In Progress/Ongoing

OPPI RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES

MANAGEMENT

Vision/Value Statement: Exceptional cross-jurisdictional management provides collaborative planning and delivers effective staffing, maintenance, enforcement, and funding for the Pikes Peak region's natural resources and recreational opportunities.

Strategies and Action Items	Status/Progress:
<p>Strategy: Establish cross-jurisdiction agreements to effectively manage, maintain, and provide enforcement for the Pikes Peak region's public lands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determine appropriate agreement structures among the Pikes Peak region's multiple land managers to foster collaboration and ensure alignment of mission, goals, and values.• Prioritize and explore ways to address misuse and illegal behavior across the Pikes Peak region's public and private lands	<p>In Progress- room for expanded partnerships</p>
<p>Strategy: Explore single entity unified recreation management to increase capacities of existing land managers to more effectively address the region's challenges and provide exceptional natural resources conservation and recreation opportunities.</p> <p><i>* Land manager policies, environmental regulations, and other requirements must be considered and respected under any management alternative</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determine how a single entity (on-the-ground recreation manager) can meet identified OPPI criteria for managing and delivering exceptional recreation opportunities while ensuring exceptional natural resource conservation through strategies that are effective, efficient, and accountable.• Explore expansion of Colorado Parks and Wildlife recreation management role across the Pikes Peak region in collaboration with existing land managers.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Identify the benefits and challenges of CPW management◦ Determine geographic scope of management, taking into consideration current state management and area that could benefit the most• Explore creation of multijurisdictional agreed upon Operating Plan that would be managed by the single entity<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ To effectively manage and balance recreation, wildlife, watershed, and forest health needs	<p>In Progress</p> <p>• Not Started</p>

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Strategies and Action Items	Status/Progress:
<p>Strategy: Enhance visitor experiences and sustainability in outdoor recreation through better collaboration and thoughtful planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate and employ innovative strategies to minimize user conflicts<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ one way recreation type of use (Clockwise, counterclockwise, downhill only, etc)◦ alternating day uses (M-W bikers, T-Th equestrian, etc.)• When possible, align policies for recreation crossing from one jurisdiction to another and provide appropriate signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Progress/Ongoing• Not Started
<p>Strategy: Prioritize planning and maintenance of infrastructure that is sustainable, reduces barriers, and meets users' basic needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize resources (funding and people) to open and maintain existing bathroom facilities, picnic areas, parking lots, campgrounds and trash receptacles.• Fund maintenance of existing authorized trails and infrastructure<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ work with stakeholders and land managers to inventory and prioritize deferred maintenance projects◦ source funding including collaborative grants to address maintenance needs◦ prepare prioritized projects for “shovel ready” funding• Incorporate bathroom facilities, accessible features and parking, trash receptacles, shade, and drinking water into planning of new parks and recreation areas within front country/urban environments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not Started• In Progress/Ongoing• In Progress/Ongoing

FUNDING SUSTAINABILITY

Vision/Value Statement: A sustainable funding mechanism that crosses multiple jurisdictions and incorporates recreation and natural resource pillars is imperative to ensure a long term sustainable outdoor region for future generations.

Strategies and Action Items	Status/Progress:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategy: Identify sustainable funding mechanisms through partner agencies, public-private collaboration, creative financing, local support	In Progress/Ongoing