



COLORADO

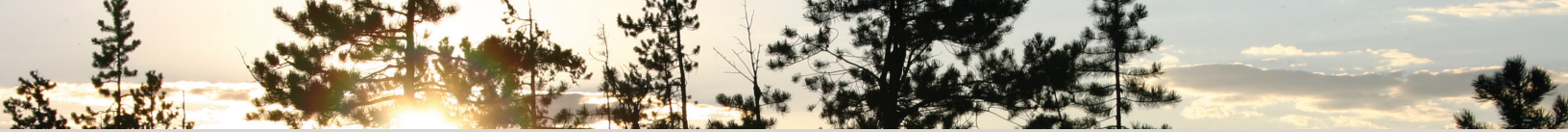
Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act

The CORE Act will protect 400,000 acres of Colorado public land and designate nearly 80,000 acres as new recreation and conservation management areas that preserve existing outdoor uses such as hiking and mountain biking. It is the most significant and broadly supported effort to conserve Colorado's most cherished lands, waters, and forests in a generation. The measure also includes a first-of-its-kind National Historic Landscape at Camp Hale to honor Colorado's military legacy and the history of Colorado's 10th Mountain Division, a unique and powerful tribute to those who have served our country.

For decades, local communities have been calling for the protection of historic sites, recreation areas, unspoiled wilderness lands, as well as waterways and wildlife habitat through individual pieces of legislation that have been united and refined in the CORE Act. This important legislation is the result of collaboration with diverse stakeholders, including ranchers, sportsmen, small business owners, veterans, local elected officials, outdoor recreation organizations, as well as water, and energy groups.

Eagle County, Colorado Commissioner Kathy Chandler-Henry said, "Eagle County is excited to see the expanded vision for conservation in the America the Beautiful plan. Including our private landowners, Tribes, individuals and public entities in the ambitious and necessary protection of our lands and waters is the first step toward creating a future for our children and grandchildren that values natural resources. We've seen the healing powers of nature during this last difficult year. Ensuring that we have an America the Beautiful for all is within our reach."





Town of Ridgway, Colorado Mayor John Clark said, “From boosting our outdoor economy to protecting our critical water resources and wildlife habitat to conserving some of our wildest public lands, the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act is a collaborative effort that brings some of the best ideas and input from across the state into one piece of legislation. The need for this legislation is critical, in order to fight climate change while putting us on a path to conserving 30% of our land and water by 2030.”

San Miguel County

Protection of the Gunnison sage-grouse habitat

San Miguel County is [working with partners](#) including landowners, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, US Fish & Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management to bring the threatened Gunnison sage-grouse back from the brink of extinction by improving and protecting its habitat in the San Miguel Basin.

Payment for Ecosystem Services Program

San Miguel County is piloting a [Payment for Ecosystem Services Program](#) which includes the development of a protocol to help farmers and ranchers improve their soil and increase its capacity to hold water, which may help ease the effects of drought. To help the county achieve its climate mitigation goals, the program is also looking at how much carbon can be sequestered within local soils. Using Natural Resource Conservation Service funding, the program could become a way to pay farmers and ranchers for ecosystem services centered on soil health and improve the productivity and resiliency of the land for current and future agricultural producers.

Tribal Reconciliation Program

San Miguel County has developed a reconciliation program with the three Ute Tribes to [repair the county's relationship](#) with the Tribes and restore more equitable access to traditional Tribal lands. The program is an important way for the county to gain a better understanding of traditional knowledge that can inform collaborative land management with the Tribes moving forward, and to ensure that Tribal members have access to lands.

The County has worked with policymakers on the Colorado Recreation and Economy Act and any potential legislative language for the Dolores River area to ensure that language is included in these policies that will allow Tribal access to gather traditional resources from designated areas.

Pitkin County

Pitkin County has several initiatives for conserving land and riparian areas, and for restoring wetlands and river courses. These projects rely on local volunteers and staff and collaboration with non-profits, government entities, and private citizens.

Agricultural Leasing Program

Pitkin County has developed an [agricultural leasing program](#) that offers leases for county land to ranchers and farmers so they can continue the county's agricultural heritage and support and nurture strong local food systems. The program is very popular with many enthusiastic farmers vying for land each year.



Healthy Rivers and Stream Fund

In 2008, the voters of Pitkin County approved a .10¢ sales tax to fund the [Healthy Rivers and Streams Fund Program](#) to support the efforts to protect, defend, and enhance rivers and streams through collaboration on watershed wide opportunities, solutions, and education on water issues. Recently, the county acquired another half-mile stretch of prime gold medal fishing in the Roaring Fork River to ensure public access. Currently, the county is completing some projects to make irrigation more efficient, remove dangerous hazards for river runners and fishermen, and add a Recreational In-Channel Diversion to preserve water flows in the river.

Open Space and Trails Program

Founded in 1990, the [Pitkin County Open Space and Trails Program](#) acquires, preserves, maintains, and manages open space for multiple purposes, including, but not limited to, recreation, wildlife habitat, and local agriculture. The program also acquires, preserves, develops, and manages trails. Funding for the program comes from a property tax, and since its inception, more than 20,000 acres have been conserved either as open space or through conservation easements, and some 84 miles of trails and 60 miles of Nordic trails are being maintained.

Conservation Easements

Pitkin County is currently negotiating conservation easements on ranch and rural properties which are rapidly appreciating in value and quickly becoming out of reach for agricultural operators. Conservation easements allow farmers and ranchers the financial wherewithal to stay on the land while ensuring they are not developed to the detriment of agriculture. These efforts to keep agricultural lands in production are a good way to achieve the America the Beautiful goals.

Aquatic Nuisance Species Program

The Aquatic Nuisance Species Program, which is administered by the Ruedi Water and Power Authority on Ruedi Reservoir is made up of local elected officials from several jurisdictions. They identify and remove invasive species and the program has, thus far, been successful at keeping invasive zebra and quagga mussels out of Ruedi Reservoir.

Looking ahead, some high elevation recreation and scenic areas in the county deserve greater protection and former hard rock and coal mine sites should be restored.





Town of Frisco

Wetland Conservation Easements

In 2020, the Town of Frisco worked with Colorado Open Lands to place a permanent conservation easement on [10.88 acres in the Meadow Creek wetlands](#) and restored .41 acres of wetlands. This conservation effort grew out of the need to restore and preserve a new wetlands area because wetlands were lost when the Frisco Bay Marina was expanded in 2019. This conservation easement recognizes that intact wetlands can help to reduce the impacts of climate change by storing water to reduce drought and the risk of wildlife and stormwater infiltration. The project also ensures that the public can enjoy them for recreation and rejuvenation well into the future.

Looking forward, it's essential that the town continue to protect wetlands, which could include the purchase of wetlands that are privately owned, and to purchase mining claims and other inholdings to reduce the potential for development in backcountry areas. If funding were to become available to help with forest fuels mitigation and sustainable trail development, the town has a list of projects ready to go.

Summit County

Open Spaces and Trails Department

Working with multiple partners including private landowners and the USDA Forest Service, the Summit County [Open Spaces and Trails Department](#) identifies, protects, and manages open spaces, trails, and trailheads. Working with over 200 landowners, the department has protected almost 17,500 acres as open space through over 347 acquisitions and dedications.

The Swan River Restoration Project

A special project of the Open Spaces and Trails Department, [The Swan River Restoration](#), aims to reestablish and naturalize more than two miles of the Swan River and valley near Breckenridge. Three main forks of the Swan River watershed converge in the Upper Swan River Valley, where over 100 years ago it was habitat for native species, like beaver and cutthroat trout that freely migrated between the three tributaries. Due to a legacy of dredge boat mining from the area's gold mining era, the river and valley were obliterated by the mining process. Hydrological surveys showed that the Swan River was running subsurface, buried under miles of dredge rock debris while the valley was largely bereft of ecological functions.

After more than a decade of planning, in 2016 and 2017 over a half mile of valley floor was restored with a mile-long stream channel and 25 acres of floodplain.

A strong collaborative effort, partners in the project include the USDA Forest Service, the Town of Breckenridge, Trout Unlimited, Summit County, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Friends of the Dillon Ranger District, Friends of the Dillon Ranger District, the Blue River Watershed Council, and others.

Looking ahead, Summit County is planning to continue working on additional reaches of the Swan River Restoration Project, with some of the areas located on private land. Full funding has not yet been secured for the remainder of the project.



Divestment from Fossil Fuels

In December 2020, in accordance with Summit County's recently-adopted Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) policy for investment, the Treasurer's Office sold the county's last holdings of fossil fuel stocks in the county's managed portfolio of investments.

100% Renewable Electricity Commitment

In February 2018, Summit County adopted a [resolution](#) committing to 100% renewable electricity by 2035. In 2021, 18 County facilities are 100% solar-powered, including the County Commons, Justice Center, Frisco Transit Center, North Branch Library, Breckenridge Facilities Shop, and many public works buildings. Overall, many Summit County facilities are powered by renewable energy sources by partnering with Xcel Energy on their Renewable Connect program.

EV Readiness, Inclusion, and Equity

The Summit County Board of County Commissioners has adopted an Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Plan. Twelve stakeholders, including towns, ski areas, businesses, advocacy organizations, and residents helped draft the plan, which contains strategies that are designed to reduce barriers to EV adoption, making it more affordable, convenient, and functional for people to drive an electric vehicle or ride an electric bicycle.

Blue River Integrated Water Management Plan

The [Blue River Watershed Group](#) has partnered with Trout Unlimited to produce a basin-wide Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) for the Blue River basin. The long-term goal of the IWMP is to enable consumptive and non-consumptive water users to understand and quantify current and future uses and integrate them for the maximum benefit of all users while protecting the existing water resource.

Eagle County

Eagle County Open Space Program

Funded by property tax dollars, Eagle County's Open Space Program has protected 13,450 acres of land in Eagle County since its inception in 2003. These lands include working ranches, critical wildlife habitat and riparian corridors, river recreation access points, trails and scenic view corridors.

Climate Action Collaborative

Since 2016, Eagle County has worked closely with Walking Mountains Science Center to engage the community in the county's Climate Action Plan implementation. By working as a core member of a [Climate Action Collaborative](#), the county works alongside other local governments, businesses, and non-profit partners to reduce climate pollution from the county's energy supply, buildings, transportation, and waste diversion.

Holy Cross Energy, the county's local electrical utility cooperative, is taking significant actions to increase the portion of renewable energy powering the community, and electricity has emerged as the county's clean fuel of choice. To date, the county's most impactful Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction strategy or "big move," as determined through GHG modeling, has been the electrification or "fuel switching" from fossil fuels to electricity for county buildings and transportation systems.

