



About NoCo PLACES

Eight county, state, and federal public land agencies from north-central Colorado are actively collaborating on ways to address the challenges the mountains and foothills in this region are facing from high visitation and a growing population. We are committed to sustainable solutions, equitable actions, and beneficial land management practices for the long-term conservation of Colorado's public lands and the quality of the visitor experience.



The Challenge

Visitation to our mountains and foothills has skyrocketed in recent years, causing congestion on the trails, impacts to wildlife and the environment, and putting at risk what makes Colorado a special place.

Leaders from Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Jefferson, and Larimer Counties; Colorado Parks and Wildlife; the US Forest Service Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests; and Rocky Mountain National Park are actively collaborating to address this challenge.

Mission Statement

NoCo PLACES 2050 collaborates to protect and conserve natural and cultural resources while providing equitable access and a quality recreation experience for current and future generations.

Q1 2022 Accomplishments

Below is a summary of the work NoCo has completed since our [4th Quarter 2021 report](#).

- After working with a Communications Subcommittee that includes the communications staff for several NoCo agencies, we [developed communications materials](#) for all to use and refer to in their messaging surrounding the coalition. These were approved by the NoCo Executive Committee (which consists of one representative from each of the eight NoCo agencies) and are ready for use.

The materials include a fact sheet, these quarterly reports, a presentation providing an overview of the collaborative, a media kit, and a quick reference document with key messages about who NoCo is and what it is doing.

We are currently working on developing answers to frequently asked questions which will be posted on the website once they are finalized. Feel free to distribute the above listed materials to those who should be aware of NoCo. Contact info@nocoplaces2050.com to request any of the documents.

- Updated the [NoCo website](#). The fact sheet, media kit, and quarterly report were added, newer and more relevant photos replaced older photos, NoCo's goals were listed, and messaging was updated.
- Drafted a [white paper on timed entry reservation systems](#) so NoCo agencies considering implementing this visitor management tool in their jurisdictions can learn from the experience of others about the benefits, opportunities, and challenges with timed entry. These documents are in the review stage and should be finalized soon.
- Drafted a [letter to be signed by each of the NoCo agencies to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commissioners](#) in support of the proposed timed entry reservation system at Eldorado Canyon State Park. The letter is currently being reviewed and will be finalized and sent to the Commission prior to their May meeting when the Commissioners will vote on the proposal.
- A decision was made that the [NoCo agencies would align on regional conservation/recreation planning activities](#). This will begin with a spatial analysis to create an inventory of current environmental and recreation conditions in the NoCo region including such issues as wildlife corridors, critical habitat and ecosystems, recreational hot spots, etc. NoCo is in discussions with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program at CSU to utilize their CODEX tool for this analysis. These opportunities will be explored in Q2.
- Developed [common messaging for NoCo partners](#) to share in the spring and summer and present a unified message centered around Leave No Trace principles and messages. This messaging will include a joint news release, social media/traditional graphics, videos, and a "Know Before You Go" checklist.
- Met with [Next 100 Colorado](#), a coalition of civil rights, environmental justice, conservation and community-based organizations and individuals in the state committed to the establishment of a just and inclusive parks and public lands system. The purpose of the meeting was to begin a dialogue about how we can work together to ensure public lands are welcoming and respectful of all. We hope to have more to report on this soon.
- Coordinated a [response to media inquiries](#) from reporters interested in learning more about ways to manage increased visitation and recreation in Colorado's mountains.





Tackling Goals

We will achieve our goals by:

- **Inspiring an outdoor stewardship ethic** among visitors and recreationists that promotes an awareness of their impact on the land and wildlife, reduces those impacts by educating them on how they can mitigate or manage them, and creates a personal sense of ownership, responsibility and pride in better protecting those resources.
- **Building community support for increased funding** for public land management, and exploring opportunities and mechanisms for sharing financial resources across jurisdictions in the NoCo region.
- **Increasing the amount of conserved and/or restored land**, and protecting the land that is already conserved and/or restored.
- **Supporting outdoor recreation and visitation** in areas best suited for that activity.
- **Improving the quality of the visitor experience**, particularly in areas facing the greatest threats from overuse and congestion, through management approaches, education, more effective infrastructure and other means.
- **Ensuring that the region continues to provide and support a wide range** of quality outdoor experience opportunities.
- **Increasing the visitation by historically underrepresented communities** and Americans with Disabilities Act/Architectural Barriers Act (ADA/ABA) communities.
- **Reducing conflict and promoting compatibility among visitors** and recreational use types, and increasing the safety of outdoor experiences.

Upcoming

We are just getting started; more is to come. After two years of research, in the year 2022 we are focusing on solutions and implementation. Discussions are underway on steps we can take together to achieve our mission and our goals.

 www.nocoplaces2050.com
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