



Quarter 1 2025 REPORT



Nine county, state, and federal public land agencies from north-central Colorado are actively collaborating 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.

We Are NoCo Places.

Q1 2025 Updates & Accomplishments

GRANT FUNDING

Grant Award! NoCo Places was awarded \$150,000 from CPW as part of their Regional Partnerships Initiative grant program. This funding supports training and mapping workshops and sustained communication and marketing strategies that reach visitors to the NoCo Places region. With this award, NoCo will also advance projects to map unauthorized trails and explore common management approaches.

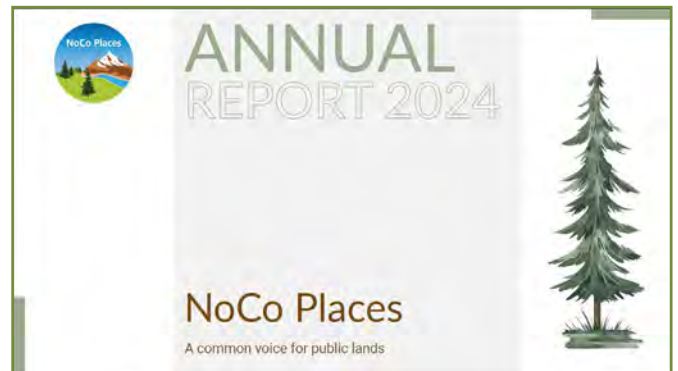
Read the state news release: [Governor Polis, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and Great Outdoors Colorado Award \\$1.17 Million to Coalitions Throughout Colorado](#)

Thank you, CPW, for your invaluable support!

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

Our 2024 annual report highlights our collaborative work and future objectives. The report contains:

- Letter from our co-chairs
- How our Conservation and Recreation Vision was brought to life
- Unauthorized trails project
- Collaborative communications and messaging
- State and county EDI efforts
- Future projects
- Executive Committee member spotlight



[View the Annual Report in English and Spanish](#)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION OPENING

NoCo Places is looking for a new Executive Director upon Steve Coffin's impending retirement. This is a full-time, non-benefited position. Applications are due May 1, 2025.

[View Position Details](#)

COORDINATION AT LEFTHAND CANYON

Last fall, the Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests' Boulder Ranger District hosted a series of stakeholder meetings on how best to reopen the Lefthand Canyon Area to recreation post 2013 flooding, specifically addressing off-highway vehicle use.

A CPW grant supported this series of meetings, and Keystone Policy Center was hired to facilitate. NoCo Places participated in the meetings, bringing a regional recreation and conservation perspective to the process. The stakeholder group made some great headway in supporting the Forest Service process. However, the grant funding has run its course. To keep the momentum built by the stakeholder group and support their continued effort to find a solution, NoCo Places will be stepping in to provide facilitation support. While a meeting schedule has not yet been set, NoCo Places is ready to provide support through the remaining planning process.



Forest Service staff outlining the challenges in Lefthand Canyon to NoCo Places staff and Executive Committee members.

FIELD TRIP EXAMINES AREA IN NOCO REGION WITH HIGH BIODIVERSITY

The Conservation Summary map created by NoCo Places as part of the [Conservation and Recreation Vision](#) shows the region's relative presence of biodiversity assets. This map prompted the idea for field trips to areas in the region for NoCo agencies and partners to learn about management challenges and successes at different locations.

April 9 marked the first field trip by NoCo staff, Executive Committee members, and Partners. The [Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain](#), managed by Boulder County Parks and Open Space, and the neighboring Red-Tail Ridge in Larimer County (not open to the public yet) represent one of the areas of highest biodiversity in the NoCo region. This area represents successful joint planning efforts across jurisdictional boundaries to preserve the area's biodiversity while planning for future recreational opportunities within both areas.

Rabbit Mountain is one of the most ecologically diverse open space properties in Boulder County at the transition between the plains and mountains, consisting of native grasslands, shrublands, and woodlands. Around 5,500 acres have been purchased by Boulder County as open space since 1983, with several conservation easements on properties surrounding Rabbit Mountain. The 6.2 miles of multi-use trails saw 68,963 visitors in 2023.

The site is a great example of the NoCo coalition in action, fostering relationships for joint efforts of Boulder and Larimer Counties and allowing staff to work in partnership to preserve such a rich area spanning the county lines. Staff from both counties were on hand to share details of the area's rich biodiversity and answer questions for the attendees.





Rabbit Mountain is a unique open space property with the following attributes/challenges:



- 170 species of birds and other wildlife, including 84 Boulder County Species of Special Concern (2013 review)
- 494 plant species, 9 of which ranked S1 or S2 (critically imperiled or imperiled) by CNHP (2021 survey)
- Approximately 1,500 acres of prairie dog colony is considered suitable for reintroduction of black footed ferrets
- Golden eagle nest successfully hatching eggs for the 35th documented year, and potential residency of 142 years
- Coordination with CPW and USF&W on elk and vegetation management plan
- Past flood mitigation challenges
- Sites of cultural and historic significance

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

NoCo Places will be presenting at the April Partners in the Outdoors conference hosted by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The session, entitled *Mapping Unauthorized Trails Region-wide: The Results of a Three-Hundred-Plus-Mile Endeavor*, will share the results of the unauthorized trails study, educational messaging, and the potential next steps for NoCo Places agencies.

Session: Tuesday, April 22, 2:45pm



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Visit website for information on the conservation and recreation vision and shared messaging