



PEOPLE | LAND | ACCESS | CONSERVATION | ECOSYSTEMS | SUSTAINABILITY

# NoCo PLACES

## Coalition Overview and 2022 Update



*We are NoCo PLACES*



# Who We Are

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.

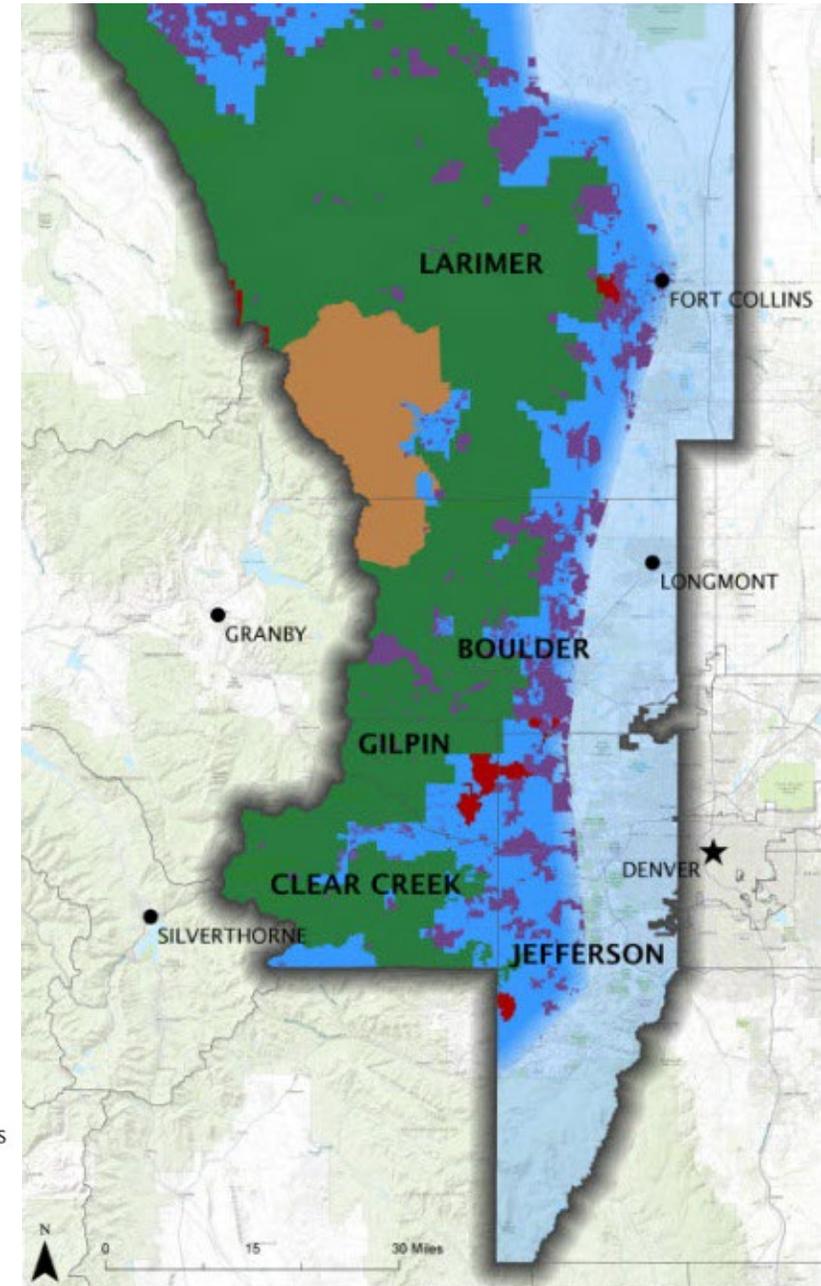


# Who We Are

- U.S. Forest Service, Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland
- Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Northeast Region
- National Park Service: Rocky Mountain National Park
- Boulder County
- Clear Creek County
- Gilpin County
- Jefferson County
- Larimer County

Additionally, a larger partners group of NoCo Partners meets every other month and includes local groups and organizations related to conservation and recreation.

-  Arapaho and Roosevelt Natl. Forests
-  Counties Participating in NoCo PLACES
-  Rocky Mountain Natl. Park
-  State Parks
-  Other Public Lands





# 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.



# Background

- Formed in 2019 as an outgrowth of the Northern Front Range Recreational Sport Shooting Management Partnership
- Increased visitation and outdoor recreation in the region began to reach distressing levels, negatively impacting wildlife, the environment, and the Colorado outdoor experience.
- Group decided to focus on this challenge and become NoCo PLACES 2050: Northern Colorado People, Land, Access, Conservation, Ecosystem, and Sustainability.



# Core Principles

- NoCo is focused on working together on a landscape scale to make long-term systemic change in how the recreation on our public lands is managed. Its work is guided by the following core principles:
  - Collaborative
  - Holistic
  - Inclusive
  - Proactive and Deliberate
  - Adaptive
  - Financially Sustainable



# Goals

*NoCo partners will protect and conserve natural and cultural/heritage resources in the NoCo region by:*

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Increasing the amount of conserved and/or restored land, and protecting the land that is already conserved and/or restored.
4. Supporting outdoor recreation and visitation in areas best suited for that activity.



# Goals (continued)

*NoCo partners will provide equitable access and a quality recreational experience to NoCo residents and visitors by:*

1. 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.
2. Ensuring that the region continues to provide and support a wide range of quality outdoor experience opportunities.
3. Encouraging participation by historically underrepresented communities and Americans with Disabilities Act/Architectural Barriers Act (ADA/ABA) communities.
4. Reducing conflict and promoting compatibility among visitors and recreational use types, and increasing the safety of outdoor experiences.



# 2020-2021 Work Plan

- Research Core Topics that affect each jurisdiction and that are endemic to the long-term management of this region

Behavioral Science

Wildlife

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Climate Change and Forest Health

Managing for new/increased  
uses and for user conflicts

Transportation/mobility/access  
and infrastructure

Trends in visitor use/rec demands

Funding/Economic contribution

Volunteerism, Stewardship

Carrying Capacity and Advocacy

Adaptive Responses/Coordination



# Agency-Specific and Collective Actions

- Two paths for solutions
  - Agency-Specific Action
    - Each agency retains its autonomy
    - Each agency will develop its own plans (e.g., Forest Service will create the Forest Management Plan)
    - BUT, plans will be informed by NoCo Principles and Goals developed through Core Topic research and in coordination and collaboration with other NoCo agencies
  - Opportunities for Collective Action
    - NoCo has identified several areas where collective action is appropriate and can have a significant impact



# Areas of Focus

## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

- EDI Subcommittee report on current agency actions completed
- Next steps:
  - Identify opportunities to enhance relationships with affinity groups for underrepresented communities
  - Meeting with Next 100 Colorado to discuss barriers to access
  - Executive Committee to apply equity, diversity and inclusion lenses to pilots and all NoCo actions
  - Work with agency staff to identify additional next steps and collective action that builds upon and enhances what they are currently doing



# Areas of Focus

## Summer 2022 Common Messaging

- “Know Before You Go” messaging, accompanied by text that demonstrates this is part of a broader effort
- Each NoCo partner tailors the message and image specific to their lands and current topical focus
- Four components:
  - Joint news release
  - Template for digital content and print content
  - Video(s) highlighting each partner’s specific message
  - “Know Before You Go” checklist
- Kickoff: Memorial Day Weekend



# Areas of Focus

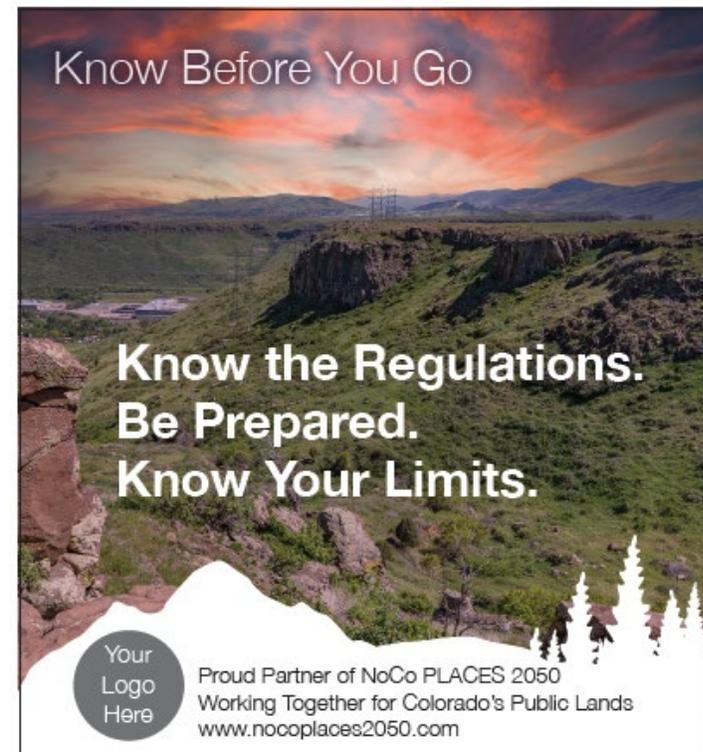
## Summer 2022 Common Messaging

Sample social media content. Agency chooses their image and KBYG message.

This info would appear the same across graphics, news release, video, checklist →



Agency logo would be optional →





# Areas of Focus

## Regional Conservation/Recreation Planning

- Spatial analysis to create inventory of current environmental and recreation conditions in NoCo region
  - Wildlife corridors, critical habitat and ecosystems, recreational hot spots, etc.
  - Work with Colorado Natural Heritage Program at CSU; utilize CODEX tool
  - Complete in 2022
- Next step? Engage public in 2023 to map human ecology, values, desires
- Goal: a NoCo regional recreation and conservation vision to inform, complement agency-specific plans (e.g., Clear Creek ROMP, Forest Management Plan)



# Areas of Focus

## Timed Entry/Reservation Common Framework

- Develop a common framework for land managers outlining key questions and issues for when, where, why, and how timed entry reservations can be best implemented in their jurisdictions
- Share/learn from approaches in specific high use hotspots and create cross-jurisdictional coordination, common metrics, common messages, and collective learning
- Developed white paper on benefits and challenges, an implementation check list, and NoCo letter of support endorsing this management tool for Rocky Mountain National Park and Colorado Parks and Wildlife



# Additional Collaboration Opportunities

- Identify hot spots that share common challenge or opportunity and develop common processes and regionally-integrated learnings to inform site-specific management approach
- Work with CDOT to identify potential for expanding transport and access to regional recreation
- Explore potential for alignment on 'best practice' regulations related to key issues
- Explore shared contractors and commercial agreements for operations such as trash collection, campground management
- Explore opportunities for sharing resources for trail maintenance



# NoCo Communications

- Strategy

- Utilize agency communicators and communications channels to ensure awareness and understanding of the collaborative
- NoCo's role is supportive to the agencies; goal is not to increase awareness of NoCo (although that may be a consequence)





# NoCo Communications

- Channels and Materials
  - Common messaging
  - Website: [www.nocoplaces2050.com](http://www.nocoplaces2050.com)
  - FAQ document
  - Fact Sheet
  - News releases (when appropriate)
  - Social media content (provided to coalition members)
  - Quarterly Report (internal only)
  - Requests for content from NoCo partners



Questions?

# Thank You



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