Chaffee County Outdoor Recreation Management Plan

June 2021

CHAFFEE**REC**COUNCIL

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Section 1
Chaffee Outdoor Recreation Management Plan
Summary Introduction

As more people move to Chaffee County and visit, everyone is discovering the stunning landscapes and fantastic recreation that significantly contribute to our quality of life. Even before the pandemic, recreation was growing at a record pace. The Chaffee Recreation Council worked with public land managers and the community to deliver this 5-year recreation management plan that is designed to maintain healthy public lands, the quality of outdoor experiences, and the economic benefits of recreation tourism.

The plan addresses outdoor resource management on all lands in Chaffee County, including not only public lands but also municipal assets such as urban parks, connector trails and infrastructure needs such as in-town public restrooms and way stations in town and city centers. The plan has four parts that address pressing and long-term concerns about the impacts of recreation growth:

Keep it Clean

We will clean up overused campsites and slow dispersed site growth to 3% a year - a sustainable rate as “boon-docking” gets more popular across the West.

To have high-quality, low-impact opportunities the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Colorado Parks & Wildlife are working together to consider solutions supported by residents and visitors, including designating campsites in popular zones, closing illegal sites, containing others and developing alternatives such as fee-based campgrounds that have parking, trash disposal and restrooms. Designated sites have metal campfire rings that reduce human-caused wildfire risk. They prevent inappropriate waterfront camps and parking that can erode riverbanks and kill vegetation. Managed camping also keeps in check long-term residential use of public lands.

We are also going to get the right infrastructure. Seeing trash and stepping in human or dog pooh is gross! Chaffee will keep a clean house by developing restrooms, trash disposal and other necessities in the right places to ensure a healthy environment and clean human fun into the future. Because public lands serve as a bed-base for those who come here to camp, hike, fish, work and boat, infrastructure includes our vibrant downtowns where campers go to clean up, play and recharge.

Keep it Fun

Recreation near towns and the Arkansas River offers up some of the best outdoor experiences in Chaffee County. New trails with good maintenance, signs and in-town connections, better fishing, water park features, low-elevation motorized trails, and trailhead parking are appreciated by residents and visitors alike. We will invest in this by focusing new recreation development in concentration zones around populated areas to support continued favorable experiences for all. This includes easier pedestrian access and new connections to make our popular trail systems even better.

Some folks know what to do in the outdoors and choose to do it well. Some really don’t. Recent assessments found more than a gallon of trash/human waste in a third of campsites in popular areas like Fourmile. So, we will get more boots on the ground

through the Chaffee Rec Rangers who will monitor, clean up and enforce rules to keep public lands healthy and fun to use. We also created the Chaffee Front Fire Protection program with Chaffee County Fire Protection District firefighters, who monitor campsite use along county roads and educate the public about safe campfires.

The Chaffee Rec Rangers work on all lands and enable long-established volunteer groups and newly-recruited volunteers to help through Chaffee Rec Adopters - stewards who sign up to monitor and clean up recreation zones, like Adopt-A-Trail. Rangers and Adopters work together under the USFS Salida Ranger District using an online, GPS monitoring tool to report and record site issues. They also partner with OHV advocacy groups to address concerns about noise, dust and safety associated with increased motorized activity.

These new programs help personalize public education, which is shown to be more effective than signs. To reach visitors before they arrive, the Chaffee County Visitors Bureau will inform them how to plan ahead and act responsibly in the outdoors. The Visitors Bureau is doing this through their new Adventure by Nature social media campaign funded by the county lodging tax. Check it out at colorfulcolorado.com.

Keep it Wild

Local herds of elk, bighorn sheep and mountain goat are really taking a hit as human pressure moves them out of high-quality habitat and shrinks the area they need to survive. 65% of key wildlife populations are already in decline. The plan's Wildlife Tool maps critical habitat to focus improvements in the right areas and informs voluntary seasonal restriction strategies to give wildlife a break.

Keep it Going

Land agency dollars to manage recreation are dropping. As growth continues, dollars-per-visitor have declined by more than 10% every year for the last 5 years. To simply catch up to 2016 per-visitor funding levels, agencies and towns require an additional $850,000 per year – and that does not address ongoing growth. Priority five-year infrastructure investments to manage growth total roughly $15 million, not including an additional $5 million in yearly maintenance costs. Therefore, achieving the elements of this plan — high-quality camping, critical infrastructure, new experiences, better user behaviors, sustained wildlife populations and more — will require $20 million. The Common Ground tax fund can cover only a small portion of this need but delivers seed funds to attract more funding.

Finding funding is another "full-court" press approach. We have created the new Chaffee Rec Fund to provide a way for citizens, visitors and businesses to support sustainable recreation through voluntary contributions, held by the Chaffee County Community Foundation and distributed to top-ranked projects by the Chaffee Rec Council. We are adding capacity to apply for collaborative grants, engaging with regional agency leaders to encourage additional federal and state funding, and considering outdoor user fees and all other funding mechanisms.

To ensure the future as the community has envisioned it the plan emphasizes the importance of a shared recreation culture that protects natural resources to keep our public lands clean, fun and wild for years to come.

Section 2
Local Planning and State/Federal Process

Fit to federal and state mandated process

The Chaffee Outdoor Recreation Management Plan is a community-driven, county-wide plan intended to help guide current and future recreation holistically across all jurisdictions in the spirit of shared stewardship with state and federal land management agencies.

The plan has been developed with input from USFS, BLM, CPW, AHRA, County of Chaffee, municipal recreation managers, Chamber of Commerce and diverse user groups with input from residents and visitors. The plan in no way changes prior decisions made by land management agencies through federal or state mandated processes, including NEPA and the in-progress Pike & San Isabel National Forests Motorized Travel Management Plan, nor does it supersede the requirement for such mandated planning processes in support of future agency decisions.

The Chaffee Rec Plan follows best practice recommendations by the National Association of Counties (NACo). The Plan also is a pilot for the Colorado Regional Outdoor Partnerships Program created by Governor Polis in 2020 to support citizen-led collaboratives like the Chaffee Rec Council and, in the Governor's words, to "take an eyes-wide-open and locally rooted approach to ensuring we remain a world-class outdoor recreation destination while preserving our land, water, wildlife and quality of life." (https://copartnership.org/regional-partnerships).

According to the NACo. Guidebook, counties may prepare plans that guide the management of natural resources within their borders, including priorities for recreation opportunities and infrastructure, and conservation. There has been an emergence of counties engaging citizen-led groups to support such planning. "Citizen-led groups often provide meaningful engagement between diverse interests, enabling increased understanding, trust, innovation and problem solving that is broadly supported. Such groups are typically focused on finding common ground to achieve shared objectives or resolve commonly perceived problems," according to the guidebook. The guide goes on to say "county commissioner's participation in citizen-led collaborative groups further leverages their leadership role, experience and networks to garner support, ensure balance and facilitate communication between all facets of the local community, State officials and agencies."

As Chaffee County builds a planning culture, Commissioners Keith Baker (a NACo. Public Lands Steering Committee member) and Greg Felt have provided input to assure best practice organizational structure, ensure inclusion and inform connectivity to county programs. The Chaffee Rec Plan is also fully integrated into the 2020 Chaffee County Comprehensive Plan.

Relationship to the County Comprehensive Plan

The Chaffee Outdoor Recreation Plan herein has been developed through the Recreation in Balance Program and is directly connected to the County Comprehensive Plan "County Character" section excerpted as follows:

- Goal 2.1 Responsibly Manage the County's recreation opportunities and access to the public lands that contribute to resident's quality of life and support Chaffee

County's recreation-based economy.

- Strategy A: Adopt the Recreation in Balance (RiB) program and its efforts to maintain health forests, waters and wildlife in balance with outdoor recreation.
- Action Step: Support the development and execution of the RiB's Chaffee County Recreation and Resource Protection Plan.

The recently adopted Chaffee County Comprehensive Plan includes numerous additional strategies and actions that align with the Chaffee Recreation Plan. As part of supporting plan execution, the Planning Commission has identified opportunities to connect Chaffee Recreation Plan programs and data with other county planning processes and adopted plans. The intent is for ongoing coordination and collaboration between the Planning Commission, the Chaffee Rec Council and local governments to ensure ongoing alignment. Specific opportunities include:

- Consideration of Chaffee Rec Plan data, findings and planned infrastructure in future zoning or code updates and consideration of trail extensions, open space set asides and development standards.
- Connection to Chaffee County multi modal transportation planning.

The Chaffee Rec Plan is focused on outdoor recreation. The Chaffee County Comprehensive plan is also inclusive of other forms of recreation. Future planning may consider other needs expressed by the community, such as the need for comprehensive indoor recreation planning, youth programming, and a recreation tax district to support ongoing community needs.

The Chaffee Rec Plan is a living plan that will be adjusted and adopted as needed as it is implemented. The plan represents the first step in a "Plan-Do-Check-Adjust" cycle that is elemental to the planning culture supported by the Chaffee County Board of Commissioners.

Section 3
A Need for the Chaffee Recreation Plan

Quality of Life and Making a Living

Our community highly values Chaffee County's natural beauty and local access to public lands, the main reason many of us choose to call this place home. Outdoor recreation use was growing at a quick pace even before the Covid-19 pandemic. The tourism sector — driven by outdoor recreation — is the county's largest economic driver. Travelers spent $128.4 million in Chaffee County in 2019. The sector accounts for 25% of jobs and 33% of the economic product.

Increased outdoor recreation use supports local jobs, business and tax revenues, improved recreation amenities, and provides physical and mental health benefits, according to the 2020 Chaffee Recreation Survey. See Appendix A for the full survey report, which is covered in overview below.

Tourism in the years leading up to the Covid-19 pandemic grew in Chaffee County more than twice as fast as the rest of the state, according to an economic analysis by the Colorado Tourism Office. Spending was up an average of 13% a year from 2016 to 2019, resulting in a 53% increase in tourism activity over that time. The county's direct earnings of wages and business income from tourism grew by $8.6 million.

Sustainability Alert

Survey respondents recognize that outdoor recreation tourism also supports better shopping and dining (90% agree) and local business (96% agree). However, 70% of residents and 54% of all respondents disagree that "the benefits of visitors coming to recreate outweigh negative impacts." Similarly, 63% of residents and 41% of all respondents disagree that recreation is being managed sustainably.

Growth is an economic win but can bring negative impacts to the health of the land. A sense of concern — and even animosity — toward visitors is also observed from survey comments. When asked what things diminish the quality of natural resources and experiences in Chaffee, hundreds of comments express frustration with visitors. For example: "Careless tourists starting fires and leaving trash," "Waaaaaay too many disrespectful, selfish, entitled people," and others using harsher language.

A significant number of survey respondents also indicate concern that growth is damaging Chaffee County's sense of place, including comments about the area becoming "like everywhere else," "losing its sense of small town," and beginning to feel "touristy," "overused" and "over promoted." The lack of social license for ongoing recreation growth is a red flag for sustainability.

Lands, Water & Wildlife

The growing number and size of campsites across all our public lands brings trash, human waste, broken tree limbs used for campfires, and trail erosion into waterways. This and more is evidence of consumptive use, as are disrespectful and even dangerous behaviors such as abandoned smoldering campfires. Our public lands

are seeing the impacts of rapidly growing use — not just from camping but also on trails, roads and the Arkansas River.

A Chaffee Recreation Plan goal is to maintain these natural resources, yet forest health, wildlife populations and impacts to agriculture show negative trends, according to the Chaffee Recreation Report Card, which is provided in Appendix B. The survey shows that outdoor users notice these trends as 79% of residents and 50% of visitors say they think the quality of forests, waters and wildlife has somewhat to greatly declined.

The primary reason cited for the decline is resource damage, especially at the county's free, undeveloped dispersed campsites generally located in areas also popular for day use such as hiking and biking. The number of dispersed campsites has doubled in the past 7 years at the 100,000-acre Fourmile Recreation Area, increasing to 358, according to data collected by Friends of Fourmile. That's an increase of 14% every year. If that rate continues, Fourmile will have 690 dispersed campsites in 5 years.

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) has experienced similar growth along the river as agency staff report erosion and degradation of grass, shrubs and trees along riverbanks, as well as human waste and oil/gasoline deposits into the river. These recreation-related water quality issues could threaten Gold Medal Trout Waters status, the agency concluded. USFS Leadville Ranger District staff express similar concern about increasing impacts in the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness Area, especially associated with popular lakes and areas where 14er hikers camp overnight.

The risk of human-caused wildfire at these sites is also a concern, according to county fire staff. Salida Ranger District staff responded to 32 unattended, abandoned or illegal campfires in the first six months of 2020. AHRA staff report additional abandoned smoldering campfires as well as large bonfires and fire rings constructed in high-risk places under trees.

Wildlife & Rural Landscapes

In addition to impacts related to dispersed camping, recreation use contributes to a decline in wildlife populations. Local populations of bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and elk have declined 11% to 32% over the last twenty years. CPW biologists indicate that habitat loss from development, increasing recreation pressure, and possibly drought and climate change are working in combination to cause the declines. Studies show that recreation activities displace wildlife by moving them out of high quality to lower quality habitats. This reduces the area wildlife use, decreasing the number of animals the landscape can support. Disturbance to birthing or nesting habitats also can result in less success raising young. CPW biologists say that if current trends continue, local herds of elk, bighorn sheep and mountain goat could substantially decline further in the next decade.

Recreation use also negatively impacts working agricultural lands, according to the 2020 Chaffee County Recreation and Agriculture Survey that collected information from the owners of roughly 60% of the county's major agricultural operations. 89% of producers report an increase in negative interactions with recreation users in the past five years, resulting in $75,000 to $125,000 in direct economic costs each year. The survey report is provided in Appendix E.

Recreation is cited as the 4th greatest economic challenge facing agricultural producers, after conflicts with new neighbors, increasing operating costs and drought. The top impacts include damage to assets such as gates left open and fences cut, damage to stock tanks and pumps, and irrigation ditches blocked with trash. Additional costs involve livestock harmed or chased by uncontrolled dogs and decreased grass forage associated with denuded dispersed campsites.

Exceptional Experiences

A Chaffee Recreation Plan goal is to maintain exceptional multi-use opportunities, which encompass the most-rafted river in America, a fifth of the state's 14ers, diverse motorized opportunities, hunting, Gold Medal fishing, skiing, mountain biking, river parks, the Colorado Trail, and much more. Chaffee County's outdoor experiences offer high-density use and primitive solitude in a stunning setting that is an easy drive from Colorado's largest metro areas.

Survey data indicate that outdoor experience quality has decreased for some users and improved for others. For more than half of residents and about a third of visitors, quality is declining. That is most common for people using backcountry and primitive areas. For the rest of residents and about two-thirds of visitors, experiences have improved, especially among people recreating on the river and in and around towns.

The top factor that has enhanced experiences are new trails, put-ins and signage along the river and in and around towns. New, well-maintained mountain bike trails accessible from towns are popular. Improvements in town amenities and easy online access to information about recreation opportunities were also positive themes provided in the survey.

The top three factors that have diminished experiences are increasing user conflicts, resource damage including trash/waste and increased OHV vehicle use resulting in concerns about noise, dust, safety and road damage.

The increased number of users is the top cited concern. The root of this appears to be associated with behaviors. Both residents and visitors cite the behavior of users, with words like "rude" and "disrespectful." Conflicts between user groups such as people vs dogs are also part of this theme. A sense of crowding in town, on the highway and on the river was commonly cited in the survey.

The second most-common factor affecting user experiences is damage to natural areas, especially the presence of trash and human waste. 98% of all survey respondents said that seeing trash, human waste and damage to natural areas has a major to extreme impact on the quality of their experience.

As the number of recreation users increases, the cost to maintain roads, trails and restrooms, to enforce rules and educate users, and to fix natural resource damage, clean up trash and answer visitor questions all increase, yet management resources per-visitor are not keeping pace.

Funding

Combined recreation management budgets for the USFS, BLM and AHRA declined 11% from 2016 to 2019, or about 3% a year. At the same time, visitor use grew

to the point that agency budgets per-user declined 40% or about 10% each year.

Municipal growth management needs also are influenced by the number of visitors to town parking areas and restrooms, river and city parks, trails, etc. Combined recreation budgets for the three towns increased 18% from 2016 to 2019, or about 4% a year but did not offset the rate of growth.

Town recreation managers observe that most campers stop in town at some point on their trip. In fact, during the pandemic in 2020, City of Salida staff report that emptying trash bins required full time attention. Information from the three municipalities indicate they have collectively added more recreation facilities recently as compared to public lands. New city assets include parking areas, playgrounds, water park features, expanded skate parks and a river park changing facility, among other amenities. Combined trails increased from 18 to 35 miles. These new and maintained trails are the most commonly cited factor contributing to great outdoor experiences, according to the survey. Town recreation managers indicate some assets are keeping pace with demand while others, such as parking, are not.

Support for Action

Recreation users are strongly supportive of management action, according to the survey, which tested specific strategies. Solutions that explicitly protect wildlife were most strongly supported. For example, 88% of respondents said that limiting recreation development in critical wildlife areas is very acceptable. They also support requiring waste removal for vehicle camping (95%), closing inappropriate campsites (87%), requiring fire pans (82%) and transitioning from open dispersed camping to designated sites (68%). Further, respondents said they are willing to pay an average of $44 per year to help.

Section 4
Goals & Measuring Success

Chaffee Recreation Plan Goals

The plan's three goals were created by the community with a big-picture vision to manage ongoing growth in a way that retains:

- Sustainable benefit to the local economy
- Exceptional experiences for all user types, and
- Healthy forests, waters, wildlife and working lands - the natural resources that support the first two goals and are elemental to quality of life for residents and visitors.

Community Recreation Goals

Current State

Community Recreation Goals – Current Grades

The county is not currently on a course that will meet the goals. To assess the current state based on the facts, the Chaffee Rec Council developed the Chaffee Recreation Report, provided in Appendix B, which uses indicators and grades to show current trends relative to achieving each goal. The grades range from B to D, as summarized in the graphic at left.

The Rec Plan's 9 Measurable Objectives

How do we change our course and achieve the recreation goals? The first step is to agree on clear and measurable things that we will do. The Rec Council will work over the next five years to achieve the following nine BIG things and will measure progress to let the public know how it's going. Successfully achieving these objectives should maintain the four "Keeps" in the summary: Keep it Clean, Keep it Fun, Keep it Wild and Keep it Going:

1. **Sustainably manage camping.** Cut dispersed camping impact by half and slow growth of new campsite footprints from 14% to 3% per year in three years. Cutting impact by half includes decreasing sites with more than a gallon of trash or human waste from about 30% to 5%; decreasing the average size of sites by 20%; closing 90% of illegal or very harmful sites; and taking action to decrease human-caused wildfire risk and tree damage. This will be measured with data from the Campsite Collector App starting from a 2021 baseline.
2. **Get the right infrastructure.** This means we will identify the top priorities for

facilities, such as restrooms, waste facilities and trail connectors needed to achieve the community's goals, and work to advance the top 25% in three years. This will be measured by tracking facility funding and building.

3. **Improve behaviors to improve experience.** The goal is to decrease the number of survey respondents who report degrading experience quality from 40% to 20% and increase resident support for outdoor recreation tourism from 30% to 70% in five years. To do this, we will need to address the top reasons for degrading experiences and resident concern, which survey data indicate are related to natural resource damage, trash/human waste and OHV dust/noise/safety concerns, while also continuing to support experiences that residents and visitors love, such as river parks and well-maintained trails in and around towns. This will be measured with a recreation re-survey.

4. **Enable equitable outdoor access.** Ensure an aging population and everyone can continue to enjoy outdoor recreation in Chaffee County. We will assess critical needs for the aging population in 2021 and then work to advance the top 25% in five years. We also will work to develop at least two partnerships with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color)-serving organizations, engaging them to assess local opportunities to retain and enhance access for under-represented populations within three years. This will be measured by tracking new projects and programs.

5. **Increase volunteer impact four-fold in five years.** We will double volunteerism in the first 3 years and measure how empowered they feel now, then help them have more impact. This will be measured with agency data and participation in the Chaffee Rec Adopter program.

6. **Stabilize and enhance wildlife populations in five years. The** Chaffee Rec Re-port Card shows that 65% of local wildlife species measured are in decline. The goal is to level off those declines and enhance these populations. We will measure this with CPW, USFS and BLM population data.

7. **Protect rural landscapes by flipping the financial cost** of recreation use on agricultural operations from current (more than $75,000 per year) to positive in five years. This will be measured with a repeat of the Chaffee Recreation and Agriculture Survey in 2023.

8. **Increase per-visitor funding from all sources** to support an estimated 5-year need of up to $20 million. Funds for both management and infrastructure need to grow to overcome recent declines and catch up (at least in part) with ongoing growth. Management/maintenance requires roughly $1 million per year in added funds or in-kind services – or about $5 million over the 5-year plan period as follows and shown in the table below. Adding $5 million in management– top table below – to $13 million in capital plus a $2 million allowance for future infrastructure needs results in roughly $20 million including:

- Increase per-user recreation management and maintenance funds for federal- and state-managed lands 50% in 3 years and 80% in 5 years, to catch up and keep up with growth.
- Increase per-user funds for municipal and urban management 25% in three years to catch up with growth.
- Establish at least $100,000 in annual financial support from the business community, Chaffee County Visitors Bureau and Chaffee County, to support sustainable recreation management.

At the same time, substantial new infrastructure is needed to achieve the community goals, estimated to be approaching $15 million, per the second table below.

Chaffee Recreation Managemetn Plan five year funding needs assessment		
Recreation management and maintenance funding		
	By 2024	**By 2026**
	Increase annual funding 50% to address 2016-2020 per-visitor decline	Increase annual funding 80% (partially keep pace with growth)
USFS, BLM and AHRA	**$450,000 per year**	**To be determined**
	Increase annual funding 25% to address 2016-2020 per-visitor decline	As above
Buena Vista/Salida/Poncha Spgs	**$400,000 per year**	**As above**
	Support sustainable recreation growth	As above
County, CCVB, Business	**$100,000 per year**	**As above**
Total Manage/Maintain Funds	**$950,000 per year**	**More than $950,000 per year**
Recreation infrastructure funding		
	Top 25% by 2024	**Additional needs by 2026**
Restrooms	**$750,000 ($245,000 funded)**	**$1,100,000**
Town Infrastructure	**$1,350,000 ($600,000 funded)**	**$3,250,000**
Public Lands Infrastructure	**$1,100,000 ($660,000 funded)**	**Up to $5,500,000**
Total Infrastructure	**$3,200,000 ($1,505,000 funded)**	**Up to $10,000,000**

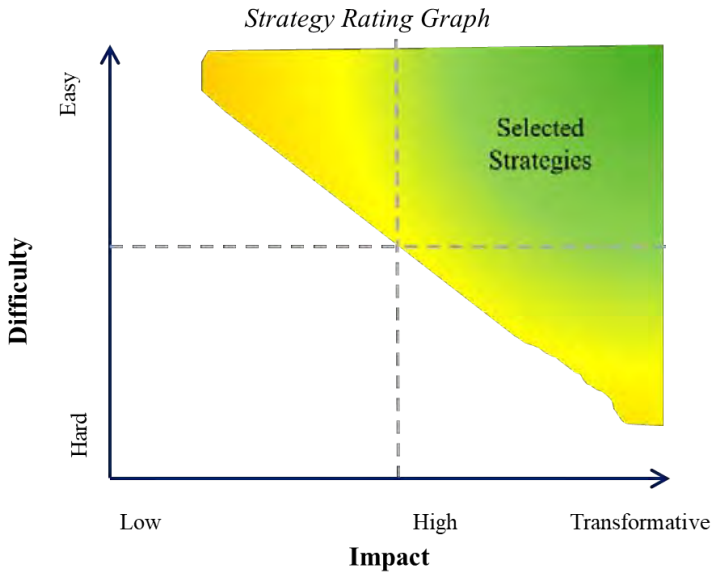
9. **Create a collaborative recreation culture** that protects the environment to keep our public lands clean, fun and wild for years to come. We will stay on track to achieve the goals above by implementing a “living” recreation plan and creating a culture where we have more collective impact.

The community’s goal of maintaining environment AND economy AND experiences is a challenge. Success will require tradeoffs and developing a new culture. The Chaffee Rec Council’s intent is to achieve transformative change by implementing strategic projects and creating a fundamental improvement in the way we work together and do things. For more about this bold plan, check out The Route Ahead in Section 7.

Section 5
Outdoor Recreation Management Strategies

Introduction

Action will make the Chaffee Rec Plan's goals and objectives happen. But human time and funds are limited so we must focus on projects and programs that deliver the best bang for the buck.



The public generated more than 100 solution ideas during the Envision Recreation in Balance planning phase that developed this 5-year plan. These were ranked and rated by the Rec Council and Task force using the chart at right.

Projects were selected based on their potential to meet the goals versus how difficult they would be to achieve. Difficulty included both time and resources required as well as perceived support based on survey data. For example, an "all lands camping plan" that changes the county-wide system of dispersed camping has strong support and potential for transformational results. This strategy is included. On the other hand, general public education was frequently suggested. This strategy could take a lot of time and energy. Research suggests that educational efforts can produce mixed results and so this general strategy is not included.

The Rec Council and Taskforce worked to improve individual strategies, moving them up and right on the graph by clarifying or modifying their scope. For example, the All- Lands Camping Plan is created as a multi-jurisdictional effort, and the education strategy is re-focused to create behavioral changes by leveraging the marketing expertise of the Chaffee County Visitors Bureau, which can connect local efforts to statewide marketing and outreach for potentially more effective results.

Drafted after many hours of work and considerable debate, the Rec Plan focuses on 9 strategies and 30 programs that are summarized and prioritized in the table below.

Thirty action programs is a lot, so ratings are provided for each. The highly ranked projects provide multiple benefits, such as Rec Adopters that keeps campsites clean and monitored, engages volunteers and may support better user behaviors. Read on for program details.

Chaffee Outdoor Recreation Plan Strategic Action Programs

Chaffee Rec Plan objectives, strategies and action programs. Note many strategies address multiple objectives. The scores provide a ranking, based on 5 points each for impact, probability of success and community support.

9 Measurable Objectives	Strategy	Action Program (top rated in blue)	Score*
1. **Sustainably Manage Camping** Halve impact and slow growth to 3% by 2024	**Sustainably Manage Camping**		
		Public Lands Camping Plan	14
		Wilderness Wins	14
		Chaffee Rec Rangers	13
		Chaffee Rec Adopters	11
		Contain and Close	10
		Add Private Capacity	7
2. **Get the Right Infrastructure** ID top 25% and advance by 2024		Wilderness Plans	8
		Manage Pooh Plan	8
	Create Community Concentration Zones (CCZs)		
3. **Improve Behaviors and Experience** Decrease people reporting declining experience quality from 40% to 20%, and increase resident support from 30% to 70% by 2026		Focus new recreation development in CCZs	13
		Maintain Commuinty Concentration Zone assets	11
	Get the Right Infrastructure		
		Right Restrooms	12
		Right Town & County Infrasture	12
4. **Enable Outdoor Recreation Access Equity** ID the top 25% of needs and advance by 2026		Right Public Lands Infrastructure	12
		Infrastructure to Enable Access	9
	Educate and Enforce		
5. **Increase Volunteer Impact** four-fold by 2026		Create Sustainable Chaffee Rec Ethic	13
		Chaffee Front Country Fire Protection	13
		Add Law Enforcement Officers	12
6. **Stabilize and Enhance Wildlife Populations** by 2026		Users Manage OHVs	8
		Signs Cool and Consistent	6
	Protect and Restore Habitat		
7. **Protect rural landscapes** Flip the financial impact of recreation users to Ag lands from $75,000/year to positive by 2026.		Seasonal Protection	13
		Habitat Enhancement	11
		Habitat Offset	6
	Support and Protect Rural (Ag) Lands		
8. **Increase All-Source Recreation Management Funds** - by $1 million year by 2026 to catch up and keep up with growth ($5M in 5 years) and fund critical infrastructure up to $15 million.		Rural Lands Protection Plan	9
	Build All-Source Funding		
		The Chaffee Rec Fund	13
		Upper Ark Forest Fund - Rec	11
		Maximize Grant Funds	9
		Develop County/Town Funding	9
9. **Create a Shared Recreation Culture** that protects the environment to keep our lands clean, fun and wild for years to come.		Develop User-Based Funding	7
		Augment Agency Funding / Capacity	7
	Create A Collaborative Culture		
		Implement a Living, Learning Chaffee Rec Plan	13

Sustainably Manage Camping

The Rec Plan advances eight projects that represent a full-court press by agencies and the community to clean up existing sites and consider capacity as growth continues.

The **Public Lands Camping Plan** coordinates USFS, BLM, CPW, AHRA and the State Lands Board to consider solutions that survey data show recreation users support: designating sites in popular zones, closing illegal sites and containing others, day-use only and fees where appropriate, developed fee-based campgrounds, and requiring human waste removal. This is a complex strategy that will include up to 18 months of planning under agency-mandated processes, followed by a targeted start to implementation in 2022. The local Homeless Coalition and Chaffee Housing Director are involved to help curtail use of public lands for residential purposes and to help transition this population to more suitable housing alternatives.

The **Chaffee Rec Rangers** program addresses the need for additional education, clean up and enforcement, adding four seasonal forest protection officers and other staff covering USFS, BLM and State Lands in the 2021 pilot program. The Rangers will increase field presence to enforce rules, help with needed clean up and site containment work and enable volunteers to help. The program is managed by USFS Salida Ranger District.

Chaffee Rec Adopters, another 2021 pilot program, enables volunteers to directly support the camping plan by monitoring sites with the new Campsite Collector App and signing up to steward recreation sites. The program works to offset a 10% annual decline in per-user funding while offering citizens opportunity to give back, get outside and make a difference in the landscapes they love. Campsite hosts, a popular idea, could be added in the future. All community members and visitors are invited to help!

The Campsite Collector App is an important tool developed for this plan that allows the public and agency staff to monitor recreation sites using their mobile phone or tablet and a GPS connection to maps that allow everyone to assess and record on-the-ground data. The system tracks data such as a new campsites and work completed such as a repaired containment fence.

The **Contain and Close** strategy works to address dispersed campsites with buck- and-rail fence or boulders. As one example, 60 Wilderness campsites in threatened Boreal Toad breeding ground will be eliminated as users are directed to more appropriate sites away from wetlands. Quiet Use Coalition is working on additional remediation of sites that threaten water supply and wetlands.

If camping on public lands comes under greater management, additional capacity may be needed to accommodate demand. **The Add Private Capacity** program enables more private camping such as ranch and town camping within thoughtful zoning guidelines and policies. Adding capacity on private lands for a fee provides clean and sustainable opportunities, supports local businesses and helps focus development in and around towns and concentration zones.

The **Manage Pooh** strategy works to educate and create infrastructure for human waste removal from vehicle-accessed dispersed campsites and requires removal where feasible as part of the All-Lands Camping Plan. Finding ways for visitors

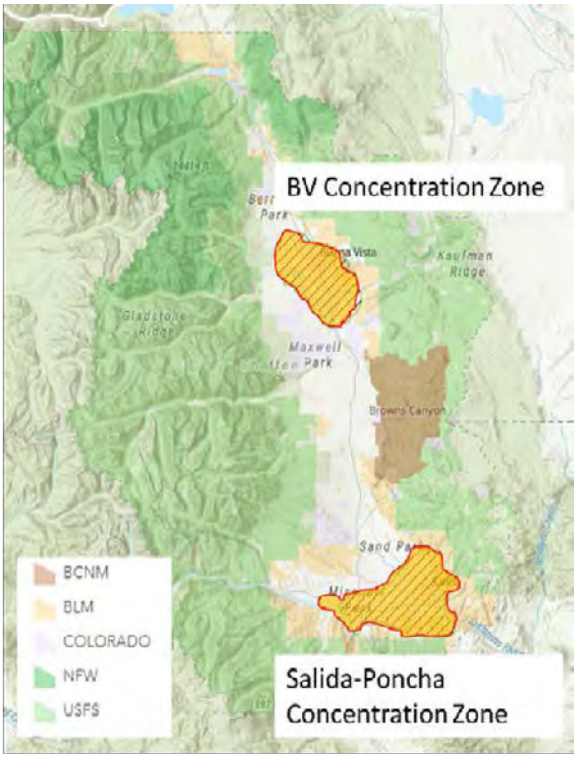
to easily and properly dispose of their waste – in towns or along county access routes — is part of the solution.

Wilderness Area designations protect America's most pristine lands, according to the USFS, which deems them pl*aces where law mandates above all else that wildness be retained for our current generation and those who will follow.* The **Wilderness Plans** and **Wilderness Wins** strategies look to maintain and regain "wildness" in the Collegiate Peaks and Buffalo Peaks Wilderness Areas. Actions potentially include designated camping and a timberline campfire ban, especially to address impacts associated with 14er routes and popular high lakes.

Negative trends related to dispersed camping received one of only two "F" grades on the Rec Report Card. The **Sustainably Manage Camping** strategies are designed to turn this around by creating clean, high-quality camping opportunities for years to come. Results are measured by Chaffee Rec Adopters using the Campsite Collector App and summarized in the annual report.

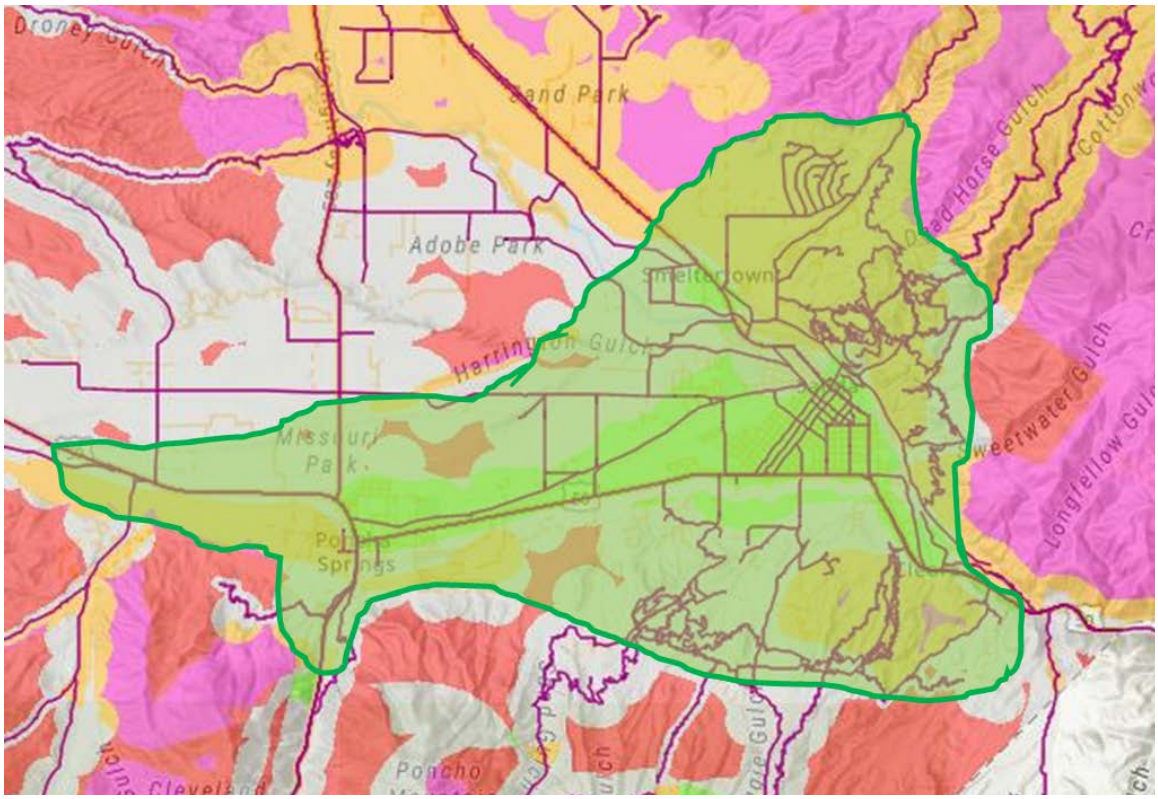
Create Community Concentration Zones (CCZs)

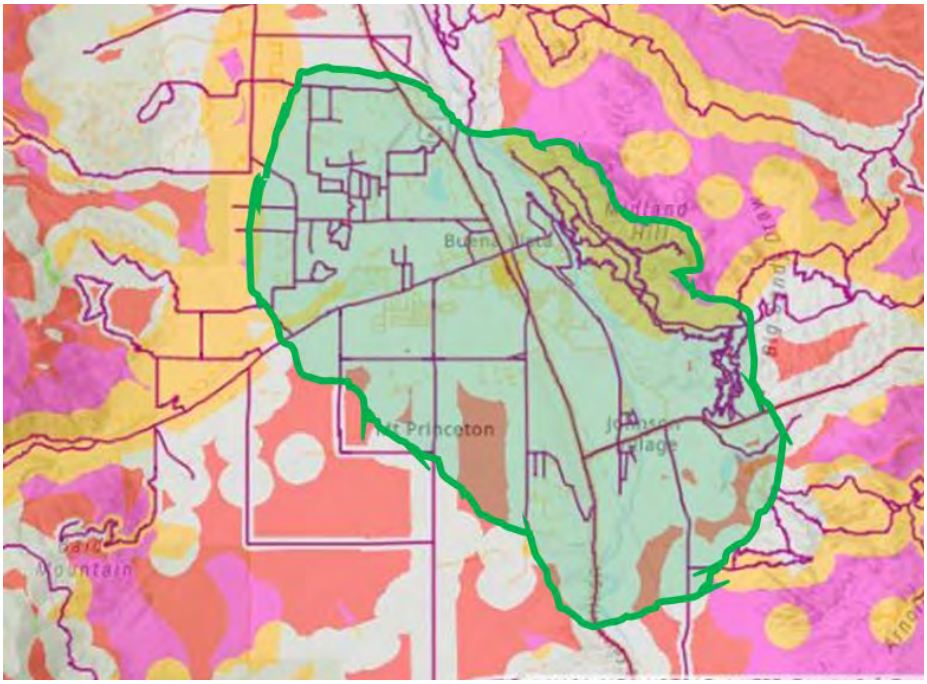
Recreation near towns and the Arkansas River offer some of the best outdoor experiences, according to the survey. The Rec Plan invests in this by focusing the community's limited resources for new development and infrastructure in concentration zones around populated areas to support continued favorable experiences for diverse user types. This includes easier pedestrian access and new connections to make the popular trail systems even better. The zones do not intend to instruct use but focus planning and fundraising capability toward improving experiences where people said they most enjoy them. CCZs also support local businesses and provide experiences for all ability levels. As the community and recreation use grow, the CCZs may be periodically re-evaluated. The plan recognizes infrastructure development is needed outside the CCZs to address documented and critical needs such as trailhead restrooms and better signage.



Community Concentration Zones map

Salida-Poncha (top map) and Buena Vista Concentration Zones (bottom map) are shown below in green. Areas of highest and high-quality undisturbed wildlife habitat are shown in purple and red, respectively. Orange areas are where current development overlaps pre-existing high-quality habitat. Gray zones show lower quality habitat.





Get the Right Infrastructure

The Chaffee Rec Plan helps acquire necessary financial assets to manage growth by using the Recreation Infrastructure Tool — a needs assessment that identifies, estimates costs and prioritizes projects that will manage the impacts of growth, such as restrooms and new trail connections. The tool helps to select and secure funding for assets in Chaffee County. Phase I projects are as follows:

Phase I Infrastructure Priorities (f = funded, pf = partially funded)	Jurisdiction
Restrooms	
Whipple Bridge-River Park (pf)	Buena Vista
Community Center (pf)	Buena Vista
Hoover, Poncha Meadows and/or Tailwind Park	Poncha Springs
Spiral Drive Trailhead	Salida
Marvin Park (includes phased way station)	Salida
North Fork Campground (f)	USFS
Coaldale Campground in Freemont Co. (f)	USFS
Shirley Site Trailhead (f)	USFS
Denny Creek Trailhead (f)	USFS
Bootleg Campground (f)	USFS
Camping Capacity	
Monarch Park Campground Expansion (f)	USFS
Protect and Restore	
Contain campsites harming wildlife and agriculture at Chubb Park, Castle Gulch, Cochetopa and Fourmile	State Land Board / USFS
Dog pooh station (Vandaveer)	Salida
Gates/signs to enforce existing seasonal wildlife closures	USFS
Signs for county roads closed to OHV use	County
Relocation of Colorado Trail at Fooses Creek (f)	USFS
Trails and Connectors	
Whipple Trail - upgrade	Buena Vista
Walton Loop-River Park Trail - resurface, make ADA friendly	Buena Vista
Halley's Ave. to Poncha Town Center - new trail	Poncha Springs
Safe crossing - CR120-CR127 Route at HWY50	Poncha Springs
Opal and Harald Trail (CR107-CR104 connector)	Salida
Arkansas Hills Trail System - Next Gen Capacity Connectors	BLM
Triad Ridge - Next Gen Motorized Single Track Expansion	USFS
Parking Capacity	
Grizzly Trailhead Expansion / Trailer Parking	USFS
Other Fun Stuff	
Outdoor hot springs soaking pools	Salida
Monarch Spur mtn bike pump track and Oswald Field skills park	Salida

The Recreation Infrastructure Tool represents a change in planning culture, enabling a strategic “all lands” view of needs and priorities to make the priorities happen together. Rather than agencies experiencing a constant stream of differing requests from various user groups, it allows thoughtful debate about the benefits and impacts of each project and a focus of limited resources on shared priorities.

Some projects are clear winners, such as expanding restrooms or opportunities to safely use connected trails systems. Others are difficult to rate. For example, added parking at busy trailheads may address safety concerns and allow more people to have access; however, it may create ripple effects such as even greater use where new parking is full as soon as it is constructed. More use potentially brings more trash, need for bathrooms and degrades the quality of the experience in areas where solitude is a prized ingredient. These complex trade-off projects generally have lower ratings, enabling opportunity for further conversation to develop ideas that generate higher scores. For example, parking additions may be coupled with waste facilities, or sized or located to maintain experience priorities from Wilderness to towns.

The Phase I trails proposals in the chart above will be developed with community input to address natural resource protection, experience quality and economic benefits of the infrastructure. The concept is a “next generation” model where agencies, community and user groups work collaboratively to create added capacity that helps to meet all the plan goals.

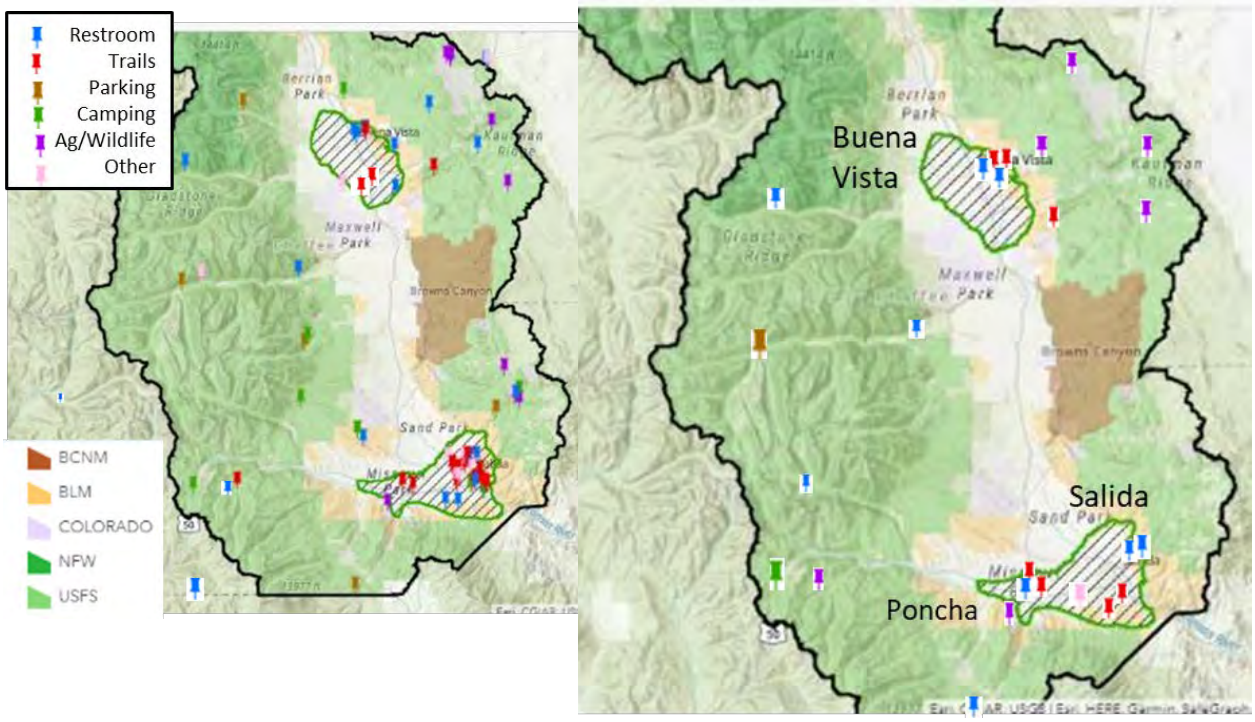
The Rec Infrastructure tool was initially populated with potential projects and prioritized in early 2021 by land management agencies, town and county staff, Rec Task force and community members. A rating system with nine metrics – 3 for each of the 3 plan goals - was developed and agreed during multiple sessions of the Chaffee Rec Taskforce. The Taskforce also developed a rubric of detailed definitions for each score to enable consistency. As a final step, scores were reviewed and in a few cases adjusted to meet the agreed definitions by a team including CPW Wildlife Biologist Jamin Grigg, Chaffee County Fire Protection District Chief Robert Bertram, Former Summit County Commissioner and water expert Rick Hum, Outfitter and guide Chuck Cichowitz, Chaffee County Economic Development Corporation founder and 5th generation agricultural operator Jeff Post and Envision Co-Lead Cindy Williams (as the session facilitator).

The infrastructure tool will be updated in 2022 and each two years thereafter. It does not replace federal land agency processes such as site-specific NEPA but accelerates work by clarifying priorities. It helps direct limited resources to the most important projects, identifying the top 25% so they can be advanced efficiently.

Chaffee Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Tool rating system

Recreation Infrastructure Tool rating system (-3 to +3 points per category)								
Goal - Sustain healthy forests, waters & wildlife			Goal - Maintain exceptional multi-use experience			Goal - Retain sustainable economic benefits		
Wildlife benefit - impact	Human-caused wildfire risk benefit - impact	Water quality benefit - impact	Experience quality killers benefit - impact	Multi-use experience quality enhancers benefit - impact	Needed capacity versus retaining experience benefit - impact	Local business benefit - impact	Local agricultural business benefit - impact	Funding

Community-proposed infrastructure (left) and priority infrastructure (right)



Top Infrastructure Projects

Ninety-five projects were proposed by the community, as shown in the map above (left) and tables at the end of this section. Phase I's top-rated 31 projects, shown in the map at right, include more restrooms across the county, new trails and trail connectors in community concentration zones, critical protection and restoration projects and more.

Ten critical restroom facilities are in the Phase I program. The USFS will invest an estimated $235,000 of in-hand Great American Outdoor Act funds to enhance and expand restrooms at popular sites including the North Fork, Coaldale and Bootleg Campgrounds and the Shirley Site and Denny Creek trailheads. Additional Phase I priorities that require funding include:

- Added restrooms at one or more Poncha Springs locations, including Hoover, Poncha Meadows and Tailwind Park.
- Upgraded facilities at Marvin Park and the Spiral Drive trailhead in Salida, and
- Modernization and upgrades at the River Park and the community center in Buena Vista.

Looking out a few years further, 14 additional restrooms were prioritized at high-use USFS and BLM camping areas. These facilities are being considered as part of the agency All Lands Camping Plan, and would require development of funding for installation and long-term maintenance.

Infrastructure in Community Concentration Zones

(including Salida, Buena Vista and Poncha Springs).

As noted above, CCZs expand access to popular experiences in and around town, and support the business community. Phase I CCZ projects include:

- A dog pooh station at CR 104 and Hwy 50.
- Five flow-through outdoor soaking pools built by City of Salida, a bike flow pump track along the Monarch Spur trail and a skills park at Oswald field or other location.
- Multiple trail connectors and safe crossings on busy highways to enable everyone to walk, bike, run, use mobility scooters/wheelchairs, including a crossing at Highway 50 on the route connecting Poncha Springs and Salida (CR120-127).
- Completion of the Whipple and Walton loop trails in Buena Vista.
- Development of the Opal & Harold Trail from CR107 to CR104 and Burmac, and
- Creative “next generation” connectors to increase Arkansas Hills trails system capacity on BLM lands near Salida.

Additional highly rated opportunities for future consideration include multiple connector trails, a safe route to school on Scott Street and Illinois in Salida, a frisbee golf course at Vandaveer and a new athletic field on donated private land in the Poncha-Salida CCZ.

Public Lands Infrastructure

Public Lands project ideas as identified by agencies and the community offer immediate opportunity to enhance user experiences and address the impacts of growth. A second tier of projects offers bigger-picture strategic options that will be assessed as part of the All-Lands Camping Plan. Immediate opportunities are listed in detail below and include:

- The USFS will add capacity at the Monarch Park Campground, with $310,000 of Great American Outdoor Act (GAOA) funding.
- Agencies will contain multiple dispersed camping sites impacting wildlife, water quality and/or agricultural operations, including State Land Board property in Chubb Park and Cochetopa Creek, and USFS and BLM sites. The State Land Board indicates that addressing impacts in 2021 is essential if these areas are to remain open to general recreation use.
- USFS will realign a Colorado Trail segment in wetlands at South Fooses Creek with $330,000 in-hand from GAOA funding.
- Expanded parking capacity at the Grizzly Creek trailhead.
- New signage and structures to support voluntary seasonal closures to protect wildlife and educate users.
- Signage on county roads to educate OHV users about regulations.
- Motorized singletrack connectors to enhance capacity and efficiency at Triad Ridge in south Fourmile.

A second tier of projects includes additional parking expansions, developed

campgrounds, agricultural protections and signage, and will be considered following the projects above. Lower scoring projects may benefit from additional community engagement and development of options that more fully address all three community goals.

The community also proposed conversion of dispersed camping to designated dispersed camping in Shavano, Burmac, Fourmile, Browns Creek and others. Any such conversion is dependent on agency analysis and official decisions, which will be undertaken as the agencies develop their Camping Management Plans. As a rough estimate, converting one-third of the estimated 5000+ dispersed campsites in the county would cost $3 million, including installation of fire rings. This amount is included in the cost notes in the Priority Public Lands projects table below.

Getting the right infrastructure is essential to manage negative impacts on all lands. The Chaffee Rec Infrastructure tool also supports the Rec Plan strategy to **Enable Equitable Outdoor Access**. Citizens are working on Age Friendly Chaffee, a 2021 county-wide designation supporting efforts to be a great place for people of all ages including safe, walkable streets and opportunities to participate in community life.

Get the Right Restrooms Infrastructure Proposals
Note that all projects require standard land management agency planning processes

Restrooms - Phase I Priorities			
Location	**Description**	**Jurisdiction**	**Status**
North Fork Campground	Maintain, increase capacity	USFS	Funded
Coaldale Campground (Freemont Co.)	Increase capacity	USFS	Funded
Shirley Site Trailhead	Increase capacity	USFS	Funded
Denny Creek Trailhead	Replace and increase capacity	USFS	Funded
Bootleg Campground	Increase capacity	USFS	Funded
Spiral Drive Trailhead	Singe vault restroom for 25K trail users/year	Salida	Concept
Marvin Park (includes phased way station)	Restroom, visitor facility	Salida	Concept
Hoover, Poncha Meadows and/or Tailwind Park	New restrooms	Poncha	Concept
Restrooms - Phase II ideas (require additional planning and/or funding)			
Vandaveer way station	Restroom, RV-trash dump station and visitor center	Salida	Concept
North Cottonwood Creek	New restroom and parking capacity	USFS	Planning
Fourmile South near 300-187 junction	New restroom at high use motorized staging area	USFS	Concept
McPhee Park	Upgrade 4 restrooms to meet demand	BV	Planning
Spur Trail, Greens Creek and Columbine trailheads	Portapotties or vault toilets	USFS	Concept
Burmac west of US50 north of Cleora	Vault toilet	BLM	Concept
CR108 trailhead parking lot - at Little Rainbow Trail	Vault toilet	BLM	Concept
CR110 trailhead parking lot - at Little Rainbow Trail	Vault toilet	BLM	Concept
Fourmile North off Trout Creek Pass 311	Porta potty or vault toilet	USFS	Concept
Fourmile North- Lenhardy Cutoff and Shields	Porta potty or vault toilet	USFS	Concept
Beesway Trailhead 175	Vault toilet	USFS	Concept
304 Midland Trailhead parking area in N Fourmile	Vault toilet	BLM	Concept
Carnage Canyon off BLM6043 in S Fourmile	Vault toilet	BLM	Concept
Shavano (where CR250 enters BLM land)	Vault toilet	BLM	Concept
Note: Gray shaded rows were entered by agencies, town or county and white rows were proposed by community.			
Note: total cost for phase I and II is estimated at $1.8 million, with $300,000 of that in hand.			

Get the Right Towns & County Infrastructure Proposals

City and County Phase I Infrastructure Priorities			
Location	**Description**	**Jurisdiction**	**Status**
Protect and Restore			
Vandaveer entrance (CR 104 and Highway 50)	Dog Pooh station and trash receptacle	Salida	Concept
Trails			
Vandaveer Opal and Harald Trail	Trail from CR107 across CR104, south to the Burmac trailhead.	Salida	Planning
Halley's Ave to Poncha Town Center	Trail Connector along Hwy 285/50 south of CR 120	Poncha Springs	Planning
Whipple Bridge-Whipple Trail	Upgrades to prevent erosion and ensure safety	Buena Vista	Planning
Walton Loop-River park	Resurface with natural aggregate and make ADA accessible	Buena Vista	Planning
CR120-CR127 HWY50 crossing	Safe crossing for multiuser types	Poncha Springs	Planning
Splash Pad	Build a 2500 sq ft splash pad in Centennial Park	Salida	Funded
Monarch Spur Trail	Install pathway solar lights for safe evening access	Salida	Concept
Other fun stuff			
Outdoor hot springs soaking pools	Five flow through outdoor soaking pools.	Salida	Funded
Salida - Monarch Spur and Oswald Field	Monarch Spur mtn bike pump track and Oswald Field skills park	Salida	Planning
City and County - Phase II Opportunities (require funding, planning).			
Illinois St from Scott to school	Safe route & sidewalks - Illinois St. from Scott St to school	Salida	Concept
Vandaveer River Trail	Construct a stable trail base (requires Vandaveer plan)	Salida	Planning
291/Oak St Trail	Bike lanes and trail(s) on Oak St. from Hwy 50 north to 1st St.	Salida	Planning
Vandaveer Property off CR 107	Add camping ranging from tents to RV's	Salida	Concept
Centennial/Holman/Golf Course to CR160	Trail from Centennial Park up Holman Ave across the west side of the Golf Course to join the CR160 trails	Salida	Concept
Hwy 50 underpass at Vandaveer near CR104	Rehab Hwy 50 underpass or culverts for safe HWY50 crossing	Other	Planning
Poncha Blvd, Salida	Create a separated trail from Holman to the Court House.	Salida	Funded
CR105 - Stage and Rail Trail	Develop a pedestrian lane / separated trail	Salida	Planning
CR110 from Hwy 50 to CR107/8	Separated trails on county roads shoulders	County	Planning
CR140/CR141 road shoulders	Two 10' asphalt trails. One from CR144 to the airport (1-mile+) and the other 2,000' around CR141	County	Planning
Union Pacific Trails and Marvin Park Bridge	Trail crossing over Union Pacific tracks and a potential Arkansas River bridge to Marvin Park.	Salida	Planning
Monarch Crest Trail to Poncha Springs	Safe Route from MCT to Poncha S including South Ark River Crossing	Poncha Springs	Concept
Waste Water Plant (CR105 to plant)	Retrofit the bridge with a pedestrian tread and railings and build a public trail connection through the Salida Waster Water property	Salida	Planning
Marvin Park	Add paved walkway with benches close to the river.	Salida	Concept
Beaver Falls private bridge over Arkansas	Purchase bridge or negotiate access agreement	BV	Concept
Community Center Annex-Town of BV	Adjacent to the BV Community Center	Buena Vista	Concept
Poncha Meadows Park Development	Park amenities (pavilion, bandstand, playground, etc.)	Poncha Springs	Planning
Frisbee Golf Course	18 hole temporary frisbee golf course	Salida	Planning
Community Rec Center at Centennial Park		Salida	Concept
Parks and Recreation headquarters		Salida	Concept
County Athletic Fields	15 + acres of private donated/dedicated grass field that can be used for Soccer, Football, Field hockey, Lacrosse, etc.	County	Concept
Vandaveer Master plan Sports complex		Salida	Concept

Note: Blue shaded rows were entered by agencies, town or county and white rows were proposed by community.

Note: Cost for phase I needs is $1.35 million with $600,000 in hand. Total phase I and II cost is estimated at $4.6 million.

Get the Right Public Lands Infrastructure Proposals
Note that all projects require standard land management agency planning processes

Public Lands - Phase I Infrastructure Priorities			
Location	**Description**	**Jurisdiction**	**Status**
Camping Capacity			
Monarch Park CG	Expand CG to include additional spurs and group sites	USFS	Funded
Protect and Restore			
Campsites - Chubb Park CR309-CR311	Fence to contain campsites and fence/gate/cattleguards to protect grazing/riparian habitat	State Land Board	Concept
Campsites - Castle Gulch Area (USFS)-CR188	Campsite containment to minimize habitat/grazing damage	USFS	Concept
Campsites Little Cochetopa	Fencing, gates and signs to contain campsites and manage illegal vehicle access.	Other	Concept
Campsites Mushroom Gulch: County Rd 308	Campsite containment to minimize habitat/grazing damage	SLB	Concept
Campsites 25 priority in Fourmile	Materials for volunteers to contain critical sites (1000ft fencing)	USFS	Concept
Trail Reroute - Colorado Trail (South Fooses)	Trail reroute to protect critical wetlands	USFS	Funded
CR 175, 176, 177, 102	Signs for county roads closed to OHV use	County	Concept
Many designated travel routes	Gates/signs to enforce existing seasonal wildlife closures	All	Planning
Parking Capacity			
Grizzly Trailhead Expansion	Expand existing high use trailered vehicle use parking	USFS	Planning
Trails			
Arkansas Hills Trail System	Connectors	BLM	Planning
Triad Ridge - Best Practice Single Track Expansion	Triad Ridge - Next Generation Motorized Single Track Connectors	USFS	Planning
Public Lands - Phase II Opportunities (note agency projects require standard planning processes)•			
Frantz and Sands Lake-ADA access to fish	Bridge update and pavement to dock	CPW	Concept
North Cottonwood Creek at end of CR 365 Road	Improve and expand existing "user-created" parking area	USFS	Planning
Lost Lake Trailhead parking off CR306.	Add parking and relocate trail out of wetlands	USFS	Concept
Ptarmigan Lake TH off CR 306	Add parking capacity	USFS	Funded
M&S Quarry Ute Creek	Solution to deliver water to wildlife/stock	USFS	Concept
Trout Creek Pasture CR 311	3,040 feet of wildlife friendly fencing to protect riparian area	USFS	Planning
Multiple locations county wide (4+)	Add signage to identify / protect private lands and grazing	USFS	Concept
Selected Fourmile locations	QR code signs for information and voluntary contribution	USFS	Concept
Maxwell park STL West of BV	Visitor information panel at the historic school with use info	Other	Concept
5 or 6 selected historic sites in Fourmile	Research, develop and install interpretive wayside exhibits	USFS	Planning
Iron City Historic Cabin	Improve cabin so that it can be rented	USFS	Planning
Rainbow Trail Access	Install new access points between 101 and CR 40	USFS	Concept
Spanish Language Signage & Materials	Spanish/English signage at camping areas	Mixed	Concept
Underrepresented access to BCNM	Trail or pubic transit from Johnson's Village/Nathrop to BCNM	County	Concept
Browns Creek Trailhead Expansion	Improve and expand existing parking area	USFS	Planning
Browns Creek Developed Equestrian Campground	Construct 15-20 spur equestrian campground	USFS	Concept
Lenhardy Cutoff CR311 from 285/24	Stabilize/gravel 4000ft of road	USFS	Planning
Public Lands - Highly ranked options (require agency planning processes to assess and funding)			
Public Lands -Planning process dependent opportunities			
Camping management	8 community raised locations for dispersed campsites conversion to designated sites with post and steel fire rings (Burmac, Shavano, Hecla Junction, Turtle Rock Completion, Fourmile, Browns Creek, Mineral Basin, Hancock-St Elmo)	USFS/BLM/SLB	Concept

Note: Gray shaded rows were entered by agencies, town or county and white rows were proposed by community.
Note: Cost for critical needs is estimated at $1,100,000, with $660,000 is funded now. Total program cost including camping management is up to $6.6M.

Educate and Enforce to Encourage Outdoor Ethics

Five programs address the need to improve user behaviors, augmented by programs like Chaffee Rec Rangers and Rec Adopters described above. To reach visitors before they arrive, the Chaffee County Visitors Bureau will inform them how to plan ahead and act responsibly in the outdoors, through their new **Adventure by Nature** social media campaign funded by the county lodging tax. The Rec Plan will build on this, including information in the Chaffee Visitors Guide and social and multi-media to specific user groups.

Chaffee Front Fire Protection partners with Chaffee County Fire Protection District for firefighters to provide education about current fire regulations and spot smoldering abandoned campfires. Firefighters will do drive-throughs along county roads in areas of intense vehicle-accessed camping use on weekends, holidays and on Sunday afternoons after busy weekends.

Add Law Enforcement Officer includes a new USFS Law Enforcement Officer stationed in Salida starting in 2021.

Trailhead signs can be helpful to clarify regulations to support enforcement, but individually can be less effective than personalized public education. However, the efficacy of signs could be improved with consistent county-wide signs that echo the message visitors receive before they come to Chaffee County. The **Signs Cool and Consistent strategy** is a long-term option, requiring significant resources but with potentially positive results.

Users Manage OHVs is an effort driven by regional advocacy groups including Central Colorado Mountain Riders, Stay the Trail and Colorado Off Road Enterprise (CORE) to educate users to manage impacts in the county and adjacent areas. The groups note that UTV (“side-by-side”) use is the largest growing market segment in motorized recreation. An industry-driven marketing campaign called UTV Impact is sharing ethics at dealerships and trade shows nationwide.

Locally, more than 100 miles along 21 roads and trails are voluntarily managed by motorized groups who spend Colorado off-road vehicle registration fees to organize and execute ethics education via social media, printed materials and in-person encounters at trailheads and on trails. The groups expect to spend $138,000 in 2021 addressing the following behaviors:

- Driving too fast and not respecting other users
- Having large groups
- Not yielding to uphill traffic
- Passing other users dangerously
- Off-trail natural resource damage
- Operating on non-allowed county roads

Five thousand copies of a route map with ethics information were printed for the Miners Loop that incorporates Tin Cup, St. Elmo and Hancock — the most popular off-road route in Colorado. Maps and other information are provided to OHV rental outfitters and directly to users. The groups also note that signage and education about multi-use trails by all user groups can help to manage user expectations and perceived experience quality.

Protect and Restore Wildlife Habitat

Agency wildlife biologists indicate population declines are driven by multiple factors, including habitat loss due to population growth, development and impact from all types of recreation use. Space for human recreation and wildlife survival is shrinking as recreation use grows. According to the CPW 2020 Big Game Winter Range and Migration Corridor Report, “Recreation activities have direct impacts on wildlife and habitat by causing wildlife disturbance, habitat loss, habitat degradation, and habitat fragmentation.” The report adds that additional indirect impacts caused by growth include but are not limited to increased traffic resulting in wildlife-vehicle collisions and associated development.

The agency concludes that it is imperative that CPW participates in recreational planning and works with partners to lessen these impacts. The Chaffee Rec Plan is developed in partnership with CPW and other agencies and one of its main objectives is to lessen the impacts of recreation on wildlife populations.

To achieve the challenging objective of protecting wildlife as their populations decline, the Rec Council created the Wildlife Decision Tools for Recreation to identify areas that are most important to protect, enhance or restore; the areas where recreation needs to be carefully managed to support wildlife; and areas that are great for recreation development with low resulting negative effects on wildlife, such as the Concentration Zones.

The wildlife tool is based on information about 44 species, current development, and research by biologists at CPW, USFS, BLM and other organizations. The resulting map, below, is a tool to help the county create opportunities that protect the wildlife users love.

Offering a place where people can confidently recreate responsibly is an important culture change proposed by this plan. 95% of survey respondents said that managing recreation to support wildlife large and small is important – even more important than retaining multi-use experiences (83%) and adding trails/roads (43%).

Effectively managing recreation for wildlife will mean discouraging new recreation development in purple/red zones, except that required to address critical needs. These zones are the county’s remaining highest-quality and undisturbed habitat and should be protected to achieve this plan’s objectives.

The community survey and other feedback show that people want to protect wildlife yet they also want to continue to have their experiences. These two desires are commonly in conflict. Therefore, the plan encourages action to decrease impact such as voluntary seasonal closures in the right places. Without such changes wildlife populations will continue to decline. Voluntary seasonal closures present an opportunity for the public to choose to recreate responsibly by deferring to the needs of wildlife at certain times and in sensitive areas.

The wildlife tool also informs private land conservation efforts. Read on to learn more about the strategic programs that will use these maps and check out the Wildlife Decision Tools Recreation Report in Appendix C.

Not only do recreation users highly value the wildlife experience but local lands provide regionally important habitat. CPW data show that Mule Deer collared in their

winter habitat in Chaffee County spend their summers across eight adjacent counties from I-70 to Guffy to Westcliffe. Economic data collected for the Chaffee Recreation Report also shows that wildlife-related recreation (fishing and hunting and wildlife viewing) is a large contributor to the local recreation economy, at an estimated $70 million per-year benefit. The wildlife strategies require change and tradeoffs, but also offer opportunity for a county brand focused on providing recreation opportunities all users can feel good about.

The **Seasonal Protection program** will engage with community to develop a voluntary seasonal restriction strategy using the new Recreation for Wildlife tools that show where animals are most vulnerable when they are concentrated to have young (production areas) and to find food when the winter snows are deep (map below).

Implementation will start with voluntary action by recreation users working together to achieve plan objectives. A more regulatory approach, such as including production habitat considerations in management decisions, will be pursued through formal requests to the agencies only if required considering best available science and community input. Currently, just over 10% of roads and trails in these critical zones are managed with seasonal closures – we have the potential to do much better for wildlife now that we have the tools!

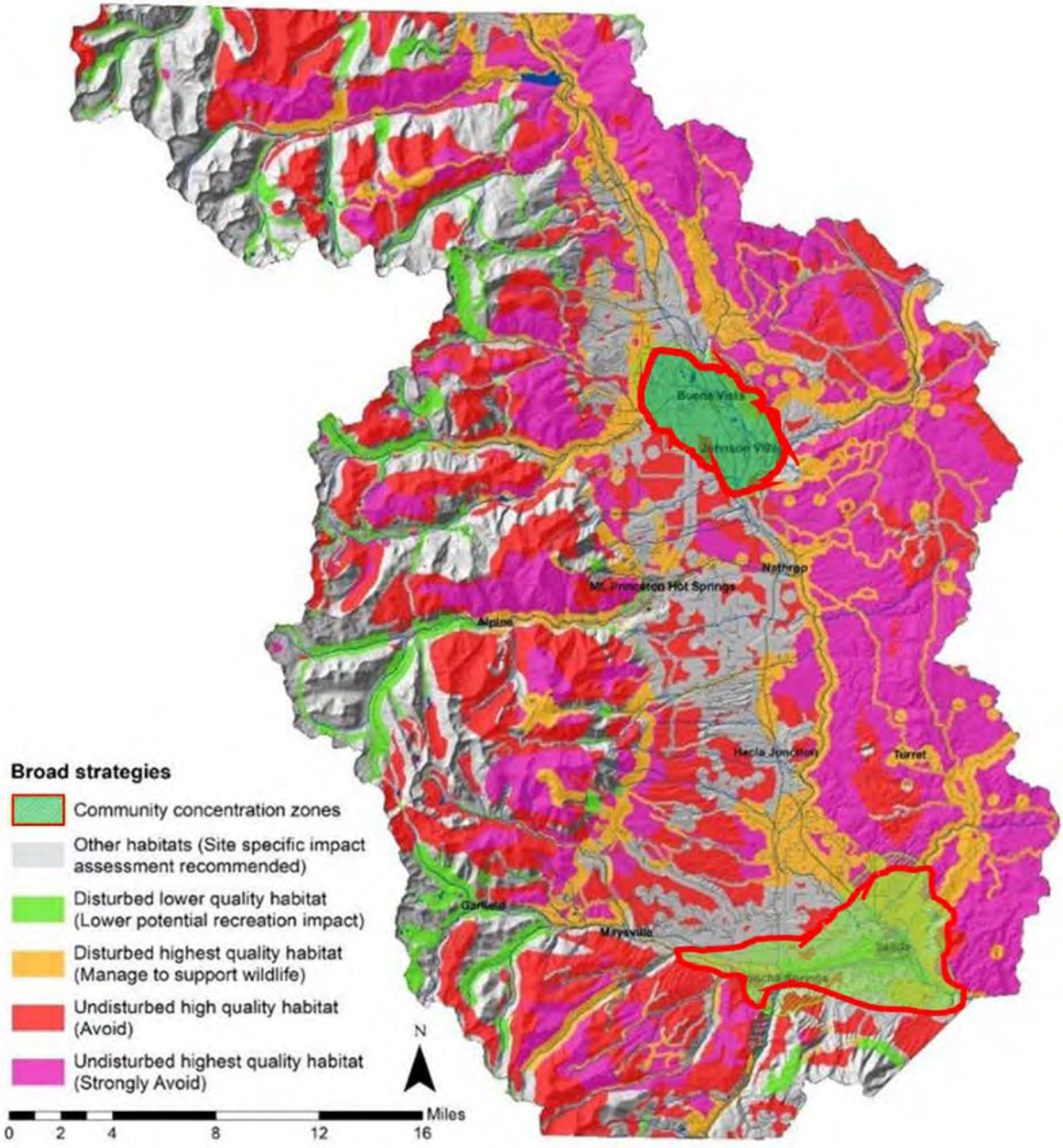
The **Habitat Enhancement program** partners with the Envision Forest Health Council to improve habitat on private and public lands through wildfire risk reduction projects that also enhance habitat. The Railroad Bridge forest treatment project three miles north of Buena Vista was funded by a grant from RESTORE Colorado to improve habitat by creating more open meadows where bighorn sheep and other ungulates graze and successfully avoid predators, while decreasing fire risk to the town and surrounding homes.

Connecting the Rec Plan with the Wildfire Plan has generated immediate results.

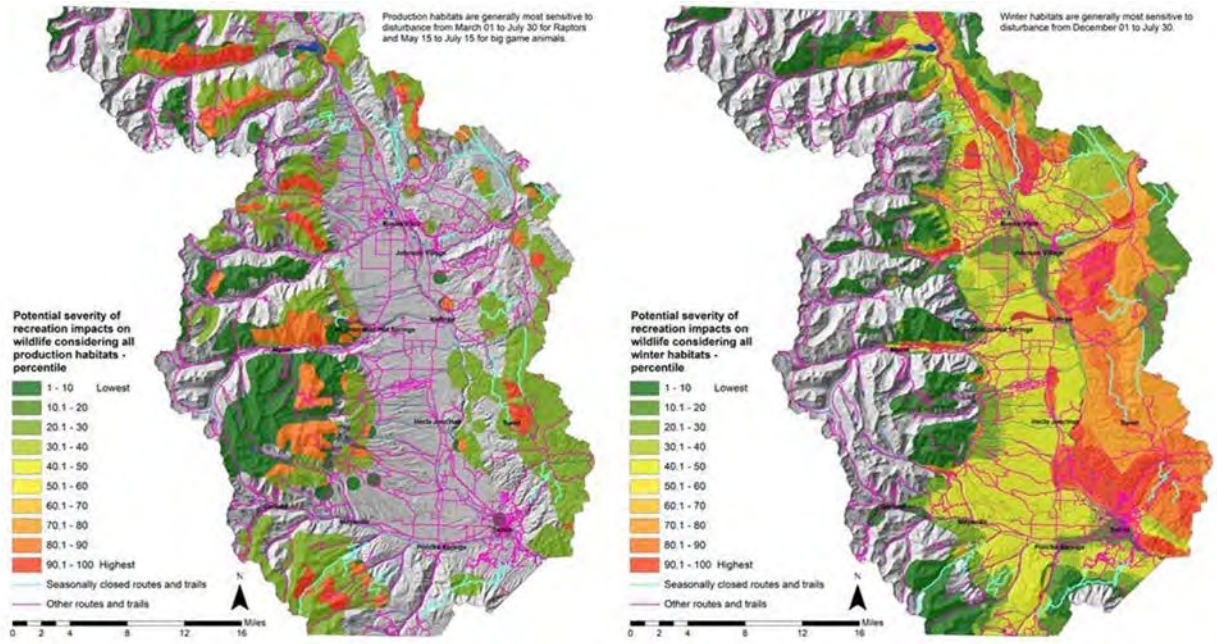
For example, the Chaffee Treats Forest Health & Wildfire Mitigation program developed under the Forest Health Council offers a guide to explain how to treat for wildfire and maximize benefits to wildlife. The National Fish and Wildfire Federation and Great Outdoors Colorado funded two large treatment programs in Chaffee County because they provide benefits to wildlife and decrease the risk of severe wildfire.

The **Habitat Offset program** presents an opportunity to provide compensation if new trails or roads are developed in prime wildlife habitat areas. Using this compensation to improve habitat in other areas helps the county ensure that enough good habitat is available for wildlife into the future. This program is in the harder part of the difficulty impact graph presented earlier but addresses multiple goals to protect wildlife and provide management funding.

Chaffee County Recreation Planning for Wildlife Tool



Chaffee County Recreation Planning for Seasonal Wildlife maps showing the potential severity of recreation activity on wildlife in production habitat (left) and winter habitat (right).



The **Rural Lands Protection program** works to address negative impacts recreation users have on agricultural operations that support the county's landscapes and quality of life. The top causes of damage will be addressed by identifying needed infrastructure, such as converting gates often left open to cattle guards, containing campsites that are destroying rich grassy zones, and creating safe access for livestock (and wildlife) to get to water sources.

The Rec Council used the Rec Infrastructure tool described above to identify the top 25% of agricultural needs and plans to get them moving by 2023. Chaffee Rec Rangers and Rec Adopters will help manage recurring issues on rural lands with presence and education. Plus, the strategy to Add Private Camping Capacity provides an option for agricultural operators to benefit from visitors by providing fee-based opportunities.

Build All Source Funding

To develop the estimated $20 million needed to implement the 5-year Chaffee Rec Plan, the Rec Council created the Chaffee Rec Fund and the Upper Ark Forest Fund for Recreation. These are new programs that collect and distribute funds to support the plan's goals.

The **Chaffee Rec Fund** is managed in partnership with the Chaffee County Community Foundation to collect user contributions and distribute them through a simple grant process.

The **Upper Ark Forest Fund** for Recreation is an expansion of the fund developed to support community wildfire protection in partnership with the National Forest Foundation. The program aggregates funding from land management agencies, regional donors and major grants, and supports major grant development and project implementation as needed on all lands.

"All-source" funding means that, to accomplish the plan's goals while agency funds per-visitor drop, the county must add dollars from every possible source. The **Maximize Grant Funding** program transforms how Chaffee County and Rec Council partners get recreation-related grants, by working systematically to fund implementation through partnerships with major funders that have similar landscape-scale goals. **Develop Town & County Funding** works to bring compelling funding opportunities to the towns, county government and organizations such as the Chaffee County Visitors Bureau so they can most effectively leverage their dollars and support the plan's success.

The Rec Council also works to **Augment Agency Funds** by engaging with regional, state and national agencies and organizations to highlight the need for additional funding and capacity to manage recreation in a way that protects environment, economy and experience. Finally, we did say "all sources" so with **Develop User-Based Funding**, the Rec Council will be looking at options to give users opportunity to support the experiences they value.

Funding from towns and agencies has not been able to keep up with the rapid growth in use. The Chaffee Common Ground ballot measure, passed in 2018, provides some support for recreation management but cannot cover the total need. Common Ground funds for recreation management can be appropriated to programs and projects that protect watershed and landscape health, according to the ballot language.

The new funds described in this section provide avenues to change the equation to support success.

Create a new recreation culture

The Chaffee Rec Plan is not a report. It is a living, learning culture where we will work to implement the plan, try new approaches, track how they work, learn and adjust. The Rec Council goal is to create a culture where everyone — agencies, towns, user groups, non-profit and community organizations and citizens – work together to create a positive future. The Route Ahead for plan implementation is detailed in Section 7.

Section 6
Community Outreach

Introduction

Community engagement is at the root of this plan and is the key element that makes it unique in its support. The Rec Plan grew out of Envision Chaffee County, a visioning, planning and implementation effort initiated in 2017 that identified growing recreation use and its impacts on the natural environment as a top community concern. Among four vision statements, Envision adopted the following: “Our forests, waters and wildlife are healthy and in balance with outdoor recreation.” Toward that end, the 2018 Envision Community Action Plan recommended developing the Recreation in Balance program to create the Chaffee Rec Plan.

County voters in November 2018 approved new public funds to support healthy forests and watersheds, wildfire prevention, wildlife habitat, agriculture and recreation management. The resulting Chaffee Common Ground Fund will provide roughly $10-15 million over the next decade, including $1-1.5 million earmarked specifically for managing recreation to support healthy landscapes and watersheds.

The Envision initiative, ballot measure and a grant from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Colorado the Beautiful program provided momentum and funding to develop this plan. Envision worked with the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GAR-NA) and the USFS to lead the effort, securing additional funds from Common Ground and the County of Chaffee. Work on the plan commenced in late 2019.

Recreation Taskforce

The planning process began with the formation of the Recreation Taskforce. A list of stakeholders was generated that encompassed local and regional user groups, tourism- dependent businesses, public lands volunteers, agricultural leaders, nonprofit organizations, and natural resource agencies. The stakeholders were invited to participate in monthly meetings that continued through the planning process — nearly 100 invites every month for 24 months. Participation by land agency staff was excellent as their professionals provided immeasurably valuable time and information for the plan.

Taskforce representatives are charged with sharing planning information with their connections. The lead of a nonprofit or user-group keeps their board members and organization members apprised of planning, shares progress and brings input back to the group. In this fashion, Envision achieves a level of participation that is not limited to the number of people on a committee. Taskforce participation remains open to everyone. In addition to the groups listed in Section 7, monthly meeting attendance includes interested citizens not directly connected to a single group or perhaps involved with the many groups contributing to the Taskforce. Planning documents, maps, research and other information is shared online and via e-mail among all participants.

Taskforce members donated extensive in-kind professional and volunteer services to the plan. Their combined experience, resources, networks and relationships were essential to identify and engage recreation users, create and complete monitoring solutions, develop map products, and connect program outcomes to organizations

across the state.

The meetings led to identification and ranking of the county's High Priority Areas for dispersed camping/trails management and mapping. Research involved a study of the effectiveness of planning in other places, the approaches and factors affecting long-term policy adoption, and an evaluation of funding sources. Members hosted listening calls and conducted a field trip to complete the research report provided in Appendix D.

Chaffee Recreation Council

Chaffee County is fortunate to have strong leaders willing to take on hard issues, have big conversations, listen – even to what they don't want to hear — try new approaches, take risks and learn. These leaders come together on the Rec Council. They are listed in Section 7.

Envision Chaffee County is a professionally facilitated community visioning initiative. The program engaged citizens to develop a shared vision, assess current trends, identify opportunities for positive change, and create projects to make the visions a reality. It has the proven ability to generate supported solutions. Steps to create the plan included developing a shared understanding of recreation impacts (positive and negative), listening to community needs, and agreeing on shared priorities for balanced recreation.

Public Outreach

An early public meeting in February 2019 attended by 100 people showed a strong desire for more recreation management to address user behavior. Community members who participated in the facilitated session expressed support for continued multi-use access for everyone. They said they did not want to see additional recreation marketing promotion, over-regulation, nor excessive costs to recreate. They asked three times more frequently for management of existing assets over new recreation development. Top suggestions to manage user experiences were:

- Educate users for lower-impact use
- Control the impact of dispersed campsites
- Provide increased waste management
- Limit or manage use to decrease impacts
- Manage recreation to protect wildlife and the environment
- Provide additional funded enforcement
- Establish fees to support management costs

These ideas were common among planning session participants and repeated in subsequent public input opportunities such as the Chaffee Rec Survey and additional public meetings. The Taskforce in 2019 helped create and test a recreation monitoring system to evaluate and record recreation impacts in the field on handheld devices. More than 1,000 assessments were collected by 100 volunteers during three summer months. The pilot system was discontinued due to its complexity and cost. The simpler, cost-efficient Campsite Collector App was developed in 2020 and will continue to support Rec Plan implementation in the future.

After completing a season of data collection, discussing opportunities and barriers, and considering public opinion collected, the Taskforce spent six months developing and funding Rapid Response projects (see below) — on-the-ground work or tactical solutions implemented during the 2020 summer work season.

Early Wins

Monthly facilitated Taskforce meetings held from February through May of 2020 were attended by about 45 people, with 25-35 Taskforce members attending each session.

Planning started with a four-hour session, during which attendees identified drivers and barriers related to the challenge of growing recreation impacts in Chaffee County (see Feb. 25 2020 Meeting Outcomes in Appendix F).

Many of these topics had been discussed over the previous year. This exercise identified additional factors and allowed the group to prioritize challenges before working together to develop projects. The top five solution ideas were advanced by an assigned leader, who organized volunteers that worked on their projects in between meetings.

Topics included how to get more volunteers and help them feel empowered, exploring the use of permits to raise funding for better management, addressing dispersed camping growth, increasing responsible user behaviors, and providing more restrooms.

A summary of the five resulting Rapid Response projects is provided below. These early projects helped create a culture of action and developed solutions that informed the draft Rec Plan. Dispersed camping growth was identified as a top priority. Two tactical projects funded by Chaffee Common Ground grants addressed this challenge in 2020:

- Southwest Conservation Corp harvested 30 acres of trees and constructed four miles of buck-and-rail fencing to contain about 75 campsites. The fencing provides a natural-looking, visual designation for visitors to follow and contains site perimeters to limit plant degradation and soil erosion into waterways. It also helps control the number of people using an area.
- The Healthy Horn Fork project in the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness identified areas with sensitive natural resources such as water, wetlands, boreal toad breeding habitat and subalpine fir trees, then remediated campsites and social trails threatening resources while encouraging recreation use where it can be accommodated. The Horn Fork basin is a popular hiking and camping destination leading to three of the county's 14ers and two alpine lakes.

Two projects focused on educating the public to improve behaviors were tackled by GARNA in 2020:

- Friends of Fourmile, a chapter of GARNA, installed or updated more than two dozen new entry-point kiosks and information panels in the Fourmile Recreation Area in 2020. Two hand-out brochures were revised and reprinted. Previous materials promoted the area's attractions but revised information focuses on reducing conflicts among users, encouraging better behavior and minimizing

impacts on the natural landscape and wildlife. New info includes proper camping and campfire practices, suggestions to pack out human waste, maps with new trails and appropriate camp lo- cations and much more.

- GARNA also partnered with the Chaffee County Visitors Bureau to develop a dozen new educational videos under the program Now This is How We Recreate. They are being promoted on social media by the Visitor's Bureau.

To address a shortage of trailhead restrooms, Salida Mountain Trails installed portable toilets in the Arkansas Hills trail system to measure their use and potentially make plans for permanent facilities. The service is funded by a two-year Common Ground mini-grant.

Chaffee Recreation Survey

The survey collected data from 3,836 respondents who entered more than 17,000 responses to open-ended questions. Participants were from 41 states, with representation from outside of Colorado (35%), from Colorado outside of Chaffee County (30%), and from Chaffee County (36%). People engaged in many recreation types from primitive areas to towns were well represented.

The survey sample was opportunistic, with information and an online link widely distributed through local media and shared via social media channels, Chaffee County Visitors Bureau contacts, local businesses, nonprofit organizations and popular community Facebook pages. The survey was open for 26 days, from Aug. 24 to Sept. 18, 2020. It was offered in English and Spanish, with translation provided by the USFS. Major findings from the survey are described in Section 2 with the full Chaffee Recreation Survey report provided in Appendix A.

The survey and previously described public outreach informed Rec Plan objectives. Draft objectives were widely shared through the Taskforce in early 2021 and more than a dozen public presentations at venues such as town council meetings. Due to the pandemic, Envision used an online Padlet tool to collect and assess public comments received on each draft objective — a total of 175 in all — that are provided in Appendix G. The Rec Council reviewed the comments, adjusted the objectives and unanimously approved the set of 8 objectives outlined in the plan.

Action Planning

Action Planning took place in a series of facilitated online meetings from February to May, 2021. Community and Taskforce members were invited to sign up for eight groups by objective topic. Keen interest in the planning was evident as an average of 15 people attended each session. The Rec Council also participated in planning. The groups met from four to six times to develop the Action Plans. This detailed level of planning developed program concepts such as "Get the right infrastructure" to clear objectives like, "Identify the top 25% of critical needs and implement by 2023," to next action steps to make it happen. The plans focus on the 3-to-6- month timeframe and will be updated quarterly.

Additional Communications

Envision used its established outreach tools and approaches throughout the planning process. The Envision Chaffee County website page, newsletter subscription list, active Facebook page and email address allows the public to receive information, ask questions and provide input. Bi-monthly newsletters were distributed and social media pages were monitored and managed. Social media proved invaluable to gather roughly 3,800 survey responses in less than three weeks. Despite social distancing that disallowed in-person meetings starting in early 2020, citizens remained interested in the planning process.

Press releases were distributed to enhance communications and participation. These efforts yielded media coverage of the Recreation Report Card, Recreation Survey results and draft plan. Repeated dissemination of information through multiple channels — most especially the Taskforce — helped generate understanding of and support for the plan.

Comment on the Draft Chaffee Recreation Plan

Envision hosted 30-day draft plan comment timeframe that ended on June 20, 2021, receiving nearly 300 comments on the draft plan including about 250 submissions on its website where the plan's initiatives, a copy of the draft, and opportunity to give feedback were provided. The online opportunity was widely promoted in traditional local media and social media. About 40 letters and emails were received separate from the website.

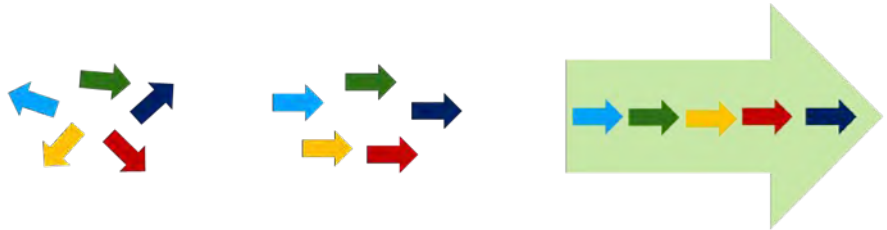
More than three-quarters of the comments reflected support for the plan's elements and funding ideas. Some feedback suggested even more action than proposed in the plan, such as stronger enforcement of rules around dogs and better trail maintenance. Feedback also expressed a need for more trails/connectors in balance with proposed wildlife protections. Concern about the relationship of the plan to federal Travel Management Plans was also expressed. The Chaffee Recreation Council reviewed the feedback and revised the plan accordingly. All of the comments are available upon request at info@envisionchaffeecounty.org.

Section 7
The Route Ahead

Overview

The Chaffee Rec Plan objectives are ambitious because the need for landscape-scale change is urgent. The intent of the Rec Council is to implement this plan and create a recreation culture that protects the environment to keep our lands clean, fund and wild for years to come.

The two root challenges to successful implementation are culture and funding. The plan addresses funding with the strategies described in Section 5. The Rec Council will address culture by the way in which the plan is implemented, by focusing independent efforts among agencies, community organizations and user groups under a new way of working together with a shared vision and goals as established by the Rec Plan. This results in much greater collective impact than any one group can have alone. The plan is full of potential to achieve success under this new culture. An early example is the Chaffee Rec Rangers program, managed by the USFS Salida Ranger District but as- signed multi-jurisdictional duties, supported by citizen tax dollars as well as Chaffee Rec Adopter volunteers who will help steward and monitor the same lands.



Organizations working on different priorities

Everyone working on shared priorities

Everyone working collaboratively to implement the Rec Plan

Implementation

The Rec Council will implement the Rec Plan using strong relationships, simple structure, shared goals, bold action and a cycle of planning, doing, measuring and learning together. This model has already supported successful Year 1 implementation of the Chaffee County Community Wildfire Protection Plan under the Envision Forest Health Council.

Strong relationships are in place and will be continued with thoughtful additions of new Rec Council members. The Council has 21 positional seats and representatives as shown below. New members will be selected for positions via unanimous decision by seated members or when new staff fill agency roles. Citizens may petition for added seats. The council is supported by county, municipalities and agencies with committees to develop programs. It is facilitated by Envision Chaffee County. The council structure is consistent with best practice as recommended by the National Association of Counties.

The Chaffee Recreation Taskforce continues to connect recreation users to the plan. It currently has roughly 100 members representing more than 60 groups. Member responsibilities are further described in Section 6. Many members also serve on project committees. Membership is at-will and open to all residents and leaders. Meetings are

facilitated by Envision Chaffee County and Chaffee Rec Council Leaders.

Chaffee County Recreation Council

Organization	Role	Current Member
Citizen and Community Representatives		
Agricultural Operations	Chaffee County Agricultural Operator	Brady Everett
Business and Chambers	Salida Chamber of Commerce Director	Lori Roberts
Envision Chaffee County	Co-Chair / Facilitator	Cindy Williams
Chaffee Common Ground Fund	Common Ground Vice Chair	Rick Hum
Chaffee County Economic Dev Corp.	Founder	Jeff Post
Outfitters and Local Business	Group Representative	Chuck Cichowitz
Local, State and Federal Agency and Government Representatives		
Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area	Park Manager	Tom Waters
BLM Royal Gorge Field Office	Assistant Field Manager	Kalem Lenard
Chaffee County BoCC	Chair	Greg Felt
Chaffee County BoCC	National Association of Counties Liason	Keith Baker
Chaffee County Public Health	Director	Andrea Carlstrom
City of Buena Vista	Recreation Director	Earl Richmond
City of Poncha Springs	Town Manager	Brian Berger
City of Salida	Recreation Director	Diesel Post
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Regional Wildlife Biologist	Jamin Grigg/Bryan Lamont
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Area Manager	Jim Aragon
USFS Leadville District	District Ranger	Pat Mercer
USFS Leadville District	Recreation Program Manager	Jim Fiorelli
USFS Salida District	District Ranger	Jim Pitts
USFS Salida District	Recreation Program Manager	Ben Lara
Facilitation, Communications and Coordination		
Envision Chaffee County	Coordinator	Kim Marquis
Smoyer and Associates	Professional Facilitator	Kim Smoyer

Chaffee County Recreation Taskforce Participating Organizations

Buena Vista Rec Department	Friends of Fourmile	Huddle for the Environment
Buena Vista Singletrack Coalition	Western State Colorado University	Everett Beef
Buena Vista Trails Advisory Board	Trackem Outfitters	First Colorado Land Office
Central Colorado Mountain Riders	Noah's Ark Rafting & Adventure Co.	Chaffee County Visitors Bureau
Colorado Off Road Enterprise (CORE)	USFS Salida Ranger District	Chaffee Common Ground Citizens Advisory Committee
Chaffee County Office of Housing	USFS Leadville Ranger District	CSU Pueblo
Colorado Fourteeners Initiative	BLM Canyon City Field Office	Colorado State Land Board
Colorado Trail Foundation	Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA)	Chaffee County Weed Department
Continental Divide Trail Coalition	Chaffee County Office of Public Health	Sage Generation
Friends of Browns Canyon	City of Poncha Springs	Guidestone Colorado
National Forest Foundation	Town of Buena Vista	Colorado Firecamp
Quiet Use Coalition	Central Colorado Conservancy	Chaffee County Fire Protection Dist.
Salida Mountain Trails	Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA)	Rocky Mountain Jeep Rentals
Skikers Hiking Club	City of Salida	Upper Ark Wilderness Volunteers
Southwest Conservation Corps	Mesa State College	Rocky Mountain Research Station
Salida-area Parks Open Space & Trails (SPOT)	Colorado Mountain College	Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Salida Recreation Advisory Board	Chaffee County Economic Development Corp (CCEDC)	Chaffee Board of County Commissioners
Town of Salida Recreation Department	Colorado Forest Restoration Institute at CSU	Chaffee County Search and Rescue North
Colorado Mountain Club	Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)	Western Colorado University
Chaffee Transportation Advisory Board	Browns Creek Alliance	High Rocky Riders
Upper Arkansas Area Agency on Aging	Chaffee County Road and Bridge	Upper Arkansas Soil Conservation Dist.

Acknowledgements

The Rec Council and Envision Chaffee County thank everyone who participated in planning, especially the Taskforce members and organizations they represent.

A special thank-you goes to Ben Gannon from Colorado Forest Restoration Institute at Colorado State University for computer modeling and mapping expertise; Kim Smoyer of Smoyer and Assoc. for facilitation services; Joanna Zarach for work on the Chaffee Rec Survey; Dean Russell at the County Assessor's Office for GIS web-maps that deliver planning data for everyone to use; Garrett Smith at Pointer Consulting for developing the Campsite Collector App; and agency leaders who provided encouragement: Diana Trujillo – USFS; Keith Berger – BLM; Dan Gibbs - Colorado Department of Natural Resources; and Brett Ackerman and Dan Zimmerer - Colorado Parks and Wildlife . Ben Lara, Kalem Lenard, Dominique Naccarato, Tom Waters, Jamin Grigg and Cindy Williams contributed a zillion hours to advance the program.

Appendices Where You Can Find More Info

A. Chaffee Recreation Survey https://mk0envisionchafrnvlf.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Envision-Chaffee-Recreation-Survey-NOV2020.pdf

B. Chaffee Recreation Report Card
https://mk0envisionchafrnvlf.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Chaffee-Recreation-Report_F_OCT2020.pdf

C. Wildlife Decision Support Tools for Recreation
https://mk0envisionchafrnvlf.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ChaffeeRecPlanforWildlifeTools_2021F.pdf

D. Taskforce Community Research Summary
https://mk0envisionchafrnvlf.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Envision-Rec-in-Balance-Community-Research-Full-Report-copy.pdf

E. Chaffee Recreation & Agricultural Survey
https://mk0envisionchafrnvlf.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Chaffee-County-Agriculture-and-Recreation-Survey_F.pdf

F. Feb. 25 2020 Meeting Outcomes
https://mk0envisionchafrnvlf.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2020Feb25MeetingOutcomes.pdf

G. Chaffee Rec Plan Objectives Community Comments
https://mk0envisionchafrnvlf.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ChaffeeRecPlanObjectivesComments.pdf