

# Chaffee Recreation Council and Envision Recreation in Balance Partnership Charter

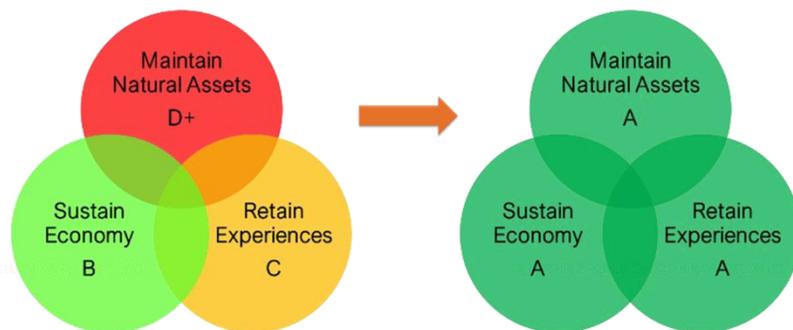


## Purpose and Scope

Rapidly increasing outdoor recreation use without sufficient planning and management capacity is resulting in negative impact to the exceptional natural resources and experiences that visitors and residents prize. The 2021 Chaffee County Outdoor Recreation Management Plan (Chaffee Rec Plan) provides strategic solutions to keep outdoor recreation clean, fun and wild for this and future generations. The Chaffee Rec Plan was approved by the Chaffee Planning Commission and adopted into the County Comprehensive Plan.

The Chaffee Recreation Council includes county and agency leaders who collaborate to advance the Chaffee Rec Plan. The Council operates and is financially supported as a Colorado Parks and Wildlife Regional Partnership – the *Envision Recreation in Balance Partnership*. The Council may also engage as appropriate in broader regional planning efforts, including the developing Central Colorado Outdoor Recreation Partnership which includes Lake, Gunnison and Chaffee Counties.

The community developed three Chaffee Rec Plan goals: To sustain exceptional experiences, natural resources and the economic benefits of outdoor recreation. The 2020 Chaffee County Recreation Report Card documented significant challenges to these community goals. The Chaffee Recreation Council advances collaborative and community-supported strategies, projects and funding to move from the 2020 assessed grades to a sustainable state where all three goals are being delivered; keeping recreation clean, fun and wild for this and for future generations (figure at right).



## Federal Policy Fit

Consistent with 2020 *County Governments and the USFS Guidebook to Working Together* best practice, the Chaffee Recreation Council is an informal committee made up of county residents with relevant expertise that helped to develop and now help to implement the Chaffee Rec Plan. Volunteer experts are voting members of the Council, while agency staff provide input and guidance relative to public lands policy, resources and needs. The Guidebook is available at this link: [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fs\\_eprd903056.pdf](chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fs_eprd903056.pdf)

As noted in the guidebook, “The existence of a county resource management plan can greatly aid Federal agencies in the development of their own land management plans. County officials, working in conjunction with others, can provide crucial information that helps create a better informed land management plan.”

The Chaffee Recreation Council charter is consistent with the National Forest Management Act which requires the Forest Service to "develop, maintain, and, as appropriate, revise land and resource management plans for units of the National Forest System, coordinated with the land and resource management planning processes of State and local governments and other Federal agencies. This provision is generally referred to as the requirement to "coordinate." The Forest Service must review local government planning and land use policies, along with similar policies of Indian Tribes, other Federal agencies, and State government when developing its land management plan. The Forest 27 16 U.S.C. 1604 (d) Service is not required to comply with these plans but must try to be consistent with them unless prohibited by law. Any final EIS, however, must contain results of this review, including consideration of local government objectives, the compatibility and interrelated impacts of Forest Service plan and local government policies, opportunities to contribute to common objectives, and ways to reduce conflicts between a Forest Service plan and local policies."

## Foundational Principles

The Council follows the following principles for membership and collaborative engagement:

- Collaborate to implement the 2021 Chaffee County Outdoor Recreation Management Plan as approved by the Planning Commission and adopted in the Chaffee County Comprehensive Plan;
- Collaborate to develop and implement additional regional plans and strategies as agreed by the Council;
- Utilize data and evidence in discussions and decisions;
- Focus on delivering outcomes and implementing shared solutions; and
- Work to develop a shared culture of collaboration that protects natural resources to retain exceptional resources, experiences and associated economic benefits

## Ground Rules

The following ground rules are followed by Council Members to encourage collaborative action:

- Take **ownership** of the outcomes and success of the process;
- **Act in good faith** in all aspects of deliberations with the intent to promote joint problem solving, collaboration and common-ground solutions;
- Maintain **focus** on Chaffee Recreation Plan goals and agreed regional priorities;
- **Participate actively**, speak briefly and agree succinctly;
- **Attend** all meetings, come prepared and get up to speed if you miss a meeting;
- Participation in Council discussions is by invitation, with the intent to include a variety of interests and perspectives. Members of the public may listen in upon request and meetings may include a public comment period. Additional written and/or verbal opportunities for the public to provide comment are organized as community meetings or other input mechanisms as deemed appropriate by the Council,
- Facilitators will provide meeting agendas and distribute agreements and agreed action plans;
- Decisions will be made with a focus to generating consensus solutions that find "common ground". If a consensus cannot be reached, then decisions may be made with 75% of the votes cast on any question., where any who do not agree can document concerns. Agency

participants act in an advisory capacity, per their agency's regulatory framework, and are not mandated to vote.

## Structure and Governance

- **Chaffee Recreation Council** is the primary body advancing Chaffee Rec Plan goals and guiding regional recreation plans. The Council includes leaders from land management agencies (advisory), local government and qualified community members. The Council currently consists of 23 seats as in Table 1. Additional seats may be added upon request from the community. Ex-Officio seats will be filled by the participating agency if they are vacated. Community seats may become available if a Council member resigns, and will be publicly posted for replacement. New and replacement Council members will be approved per the decision making parameter above, with a focus toward finding consensus and, barring that, at least a 75% majority by voting members. Staff or contractors supporting program facilitation, coordination and communications are also invited to Council meetings but do not have voting rights.

Council responsibilities include: advancement of strategies in the approved Chaffee Rec Plan, development of collaborative solutions to new challenges and development of funding including prioritization of applications for major grant programs. Major grant funding opportunities (>\$50,000) will be discussed with the full council for agreement on the best projects to collaborative advance to maximize funding and results and agreement on the applicant.

The Council will meet regularly as needed. Currently meetings are scheduled every other month on odd months (Jan, March, May etc.) on the 4th Tuesday at 1:30 PM.

- **The Executive Committee** is the administrator for the Council and is tasked with preparing meeting agendas, coordinating meeting facilitation, documenting meeting agreements and tracking results annually, per available funding. The Executive Committee will include the Co-Chair of Envision Chaffee County and at least one additional Council member with a preference toward one local government and one agency representative. Executive Committee members will be agreed by consensus vote of the Council annually. All council members will have the opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee and to recommend Council agenda items.
- **Action Teams** will be used as needed to develop and advance strategic and cross-jurisdictional solutions and programs that require additional time and in-depth conversation. Action Teams will meet outside of Rec Council meetings as needed. Action teams are open to all Council member volunteers, must include at least two Council members and may also include community volunteers and other agency staff. Action teams may be supported with professional facilitation as needed. Current action teams include: Funding, Agency Rec Leaders, Wilderness Wins, Wildlife Pros and All Lands Camping.
- **The Chaffee Recreation Taskforce** engages the community to inform, develop and implement collaborative strategies and projects. The Taskforce is open to the public and also includes the leaders of all interested local organizations, interest groups and agency staff – currently including 110 members. Any person can join this group on request. Members are expected to follow the Principles and Ground Rules above and may be removed for non-compliance by the

Executive Committee. Members are also asked to share the information provided and to see feedback from their membership or associates. The Recreation Taskforce meets monthly – currently on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 3-4:30PM. Recreation Taskforce meetings are publicly noticed and intended to: Inform the community of progress and any decisions, gather ideas for relevant best-practice solutions, generate and advance collaborative strategies and programs to advance Chaffee Rec Plan goals. Meetings are recorded, with the recording available upon request.

- **The media** will be included in all Chaffee Recreation Taskforce meeting invitations and informed of Chaffee Rec Council progress via press releases approved by appropriate Council members and an annual report. The Planning Commission and Town Councils will be kept informed of progress via an annual report delivered at a publicly noticed meeting.
- **Facilitation** is supported by third party contractors who serve at the pleasure of the Executive Committee and subject to available funding. Envision Chaffee County may also provide facilitation and coordinate facilitator contracts.

The Chaffee Recreation Council charter may be revised as needed with consensus from current Council members.

Table 1. Chaffee Recreation Council seats and members as of July 2022.

Organization	Title	Current Member
BLM Royal Gorge Field Office	Assistant Field Manager	Kalem Lenard
Business - Agriculture	Ranch Business Owner	Brady Everett
Business – Outdoor Recreation	Current/Former Owner	Chuck Cichowitz
Business – Chaffee County Economic Development Corporation	Founder or Board	Jeff Post
Chamber of Commerce	Executive Director – Salida	Lori Roberts
Chaffee County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC)	Commissioner	Greg Felt
Chaffee BoCC	Commissioner	Keith Baker
Chaffee County Community Foundation	Board Member or Director	Rick Hum (Board)
Chaffee County Public Health	Director	Andrea Carlstrom
Chaffee County Visitors Bureau	Marketing Director	Scott Peterson
City of Salida	Recreation Director	Mike “Diesel” Post
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Wildlife Biologist	Bryan Lamont
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Area Wildlife Manager	Sean Shepherd
Colorado Parks and Wildlife - Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area	Park Manager	Tom Waters
Envision Chaffee County	Co-Chair	Cindy Williams
Greater Arkansas River Nature Association	Executive Director	Dominique Naccarato
National Forest Foundation	Rocky Mountain Region Director	Emily Olsen
Town of Poncha Springs	Town Manager	Brian Berger
Town of Buena Vista	Recreation Director	Earl Richmond
US Forest Service – Leadville District	District Ranger	Pat Mercer
US Forest Service – Leadville District	Recreation Program Manager	Jim Fiorelli
US Forest Service – Salida District	District Ranger	Perry Edwards
US Forest Service – Salida District	Recreation Program Manager	Ben Lara