



Project Givens

- The Chaffee County Trails System and Conservation Plan (TSCP) and any work products are not intended in any way to replace NEPA or to guarantee a NEPA process on Federal lands.
- The final TSCP will be proposed to the Chaffee Rec Council and then the Chaffee County Planning Commission for inclusion in the Chaffee Rec Plan and County Comprehensive Plan.
- The intent is to develop a community-driven plan, supported by diverse stakeholders, that will identify opportunities for trail improvements and wildlife habitat and resource conservation on all lands within Chaffee County.
- Although the geographic scope will focus on Chaffee County, the plan has flexibility to include trail segments in adjacent counties with high impact to Chaffee County if needed.
- The plan is intended to:
 - Encompass the entire “trails system” including all trailheads, trails and corridors impacted by trail users;
 - Plan for non-motorized and motorized recreation;
 - Be consistent with and build upon the 2021 Chaffee County Outdoor Recreation Management Plan;
 - Use the 2021 Wildlife Decision Support Tools for Recreation (AKA the Planning for Wildlife Map) as the foundational element identifying top priority habitats;
 - Use the 2021 CPW Guide to Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind;
 - Focus on summer-use singletrack and doubletrack for e-bikes, bikes, equine and foot traffic, but exclude winter-specific recreation, such as snowmobiling and nordic track;
 - Coordinate with land managing agencies and local governments to address their needs and inform their plans;
 - Ensure the current and future trails system will be sustainably managed and maintained to improve user experience and protect natural resource health, including installation of any needed infrastructure (such as restrooms, dog waste stations, erosion mitigation, parking solutions) and programs such as invasive weed management and parking management;
 - Support the Chaffee Rec Plan goals of sustaining and enhancing local wildlife populations and sustaining working agriculture, aiming to develop **a plan that the working group agrees will provide a net decrease of impact to wildlife and agriculture at county scale.** This acknowledges that all trail additions will have some impact to wildlife, but the team will strive to minimize this impact including with mitigations and with projects such as habitat enhancement, to get to a balanced proposal at county scale;
 - Identify and prioritize opportunities to decrease impact and adjust capacity of the current trails system;
 - Identify and prioritize opportunities to better connect and expand the current trails system to address assessed critical needs;
 - Include a strategic action plan for funding and implementing desired outcomes;
 - Consider the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum framework, a system for managing recreation opportunities based on physical, social and managerial setting, with six classes: Urban; rural; roaded natural; semi-primitive motorized; semi-primitive, non-motorized; and primitive;
 - Dovetail with other efforts including: The county multi-modal transportation plan and planning for trail access and connectivity; existing and in-development County parks and open space plan for the purpose of trail access and connectivity; the NFF-Envision Fourteeners Project; and
 - Be supported by the community with compromises on all sides.