

COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY

*A collaborative vision for conservation,
recreation, and climate resilience*



COLORADO
Department of Natural Resources



COLORADO
Governor Jared Polis

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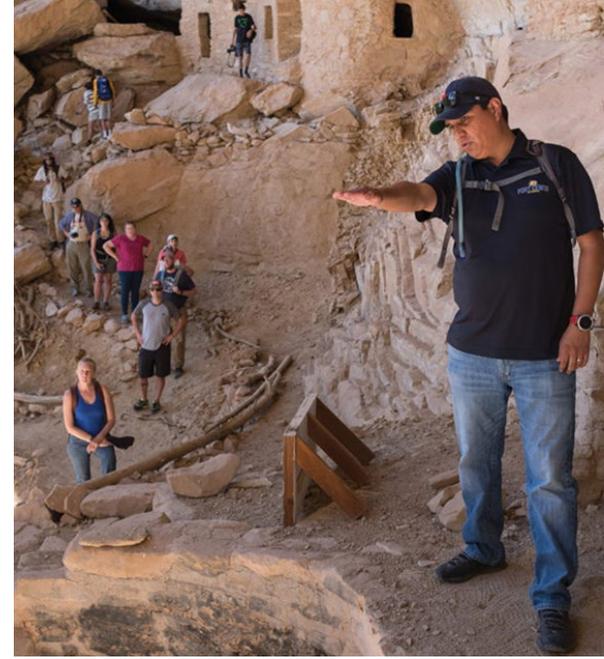
WHY?

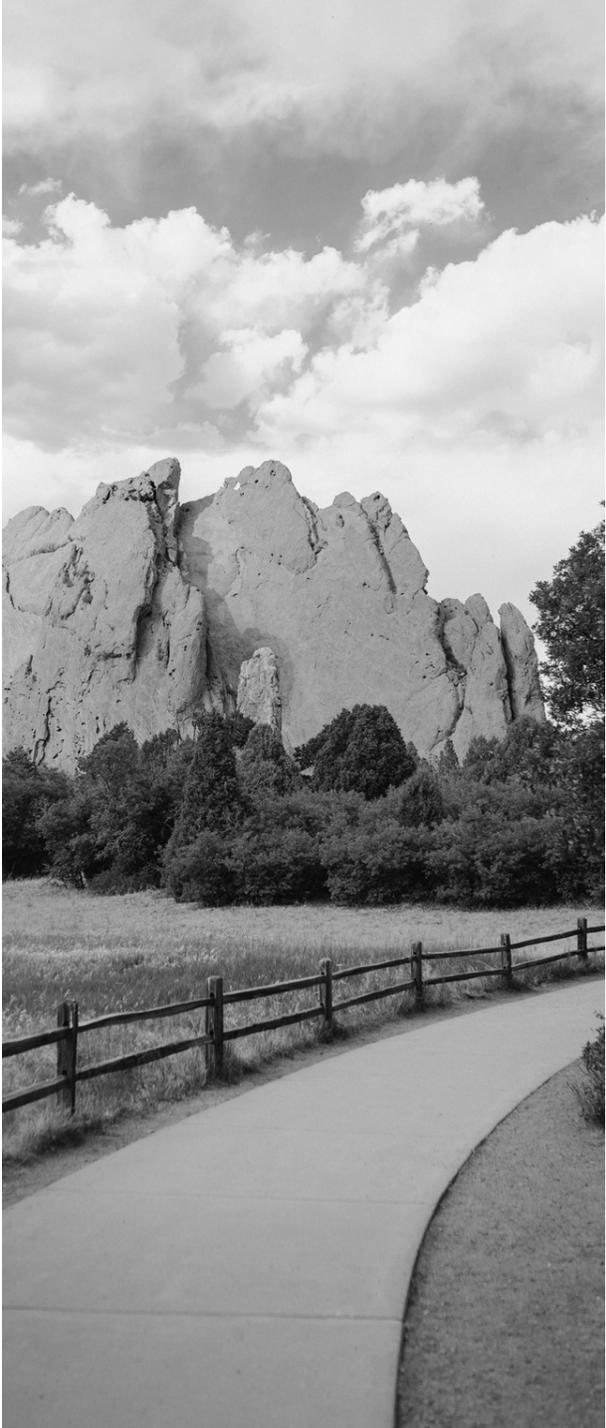
<p>Coloradans love our outdoors:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thriving natural environments and amazing outdoor experiences are a key part of what makes Colorado special• The health of our wildlife, people, and communities depends on the outdoors.
<p>Our outdoors face significant pressures:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growing populations and visitation• A variety of human uses of the landscape• Increased temperatures, droughts, wildfires, and floods
<p>Communities are striving to balance:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connecting people to the outdoors• Protecting plants and animals• Conserving and restoring habitats• Meeting, managing and/or growing recreation demand• Keeping agricultural lands working• Supporting healthy economies• Sustaining their community character and way of life



WHAT?

- A regionally rooted, statewide vision and action plan.
- Colorado's Outdoors Strategy **supports and aligns efforts of diverse partners across the state** working to advance conservation, outdoor recreation and climate resilience.





The strategy will create:

‘North Star’ Goals and Milestones to plan for and track progress

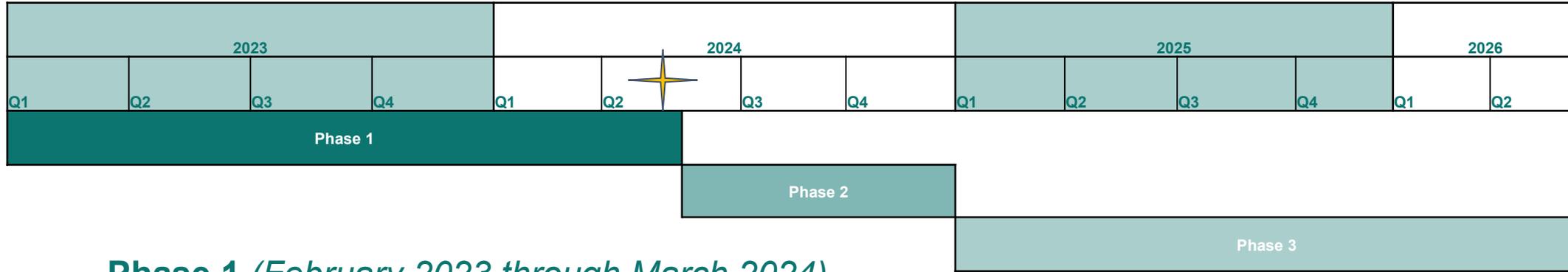
Coordination and alignment across planning efforts

Planning and management tools and frameworks

A strategic funding plan



STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE



Phase 1 (February 2023 through March 2024)

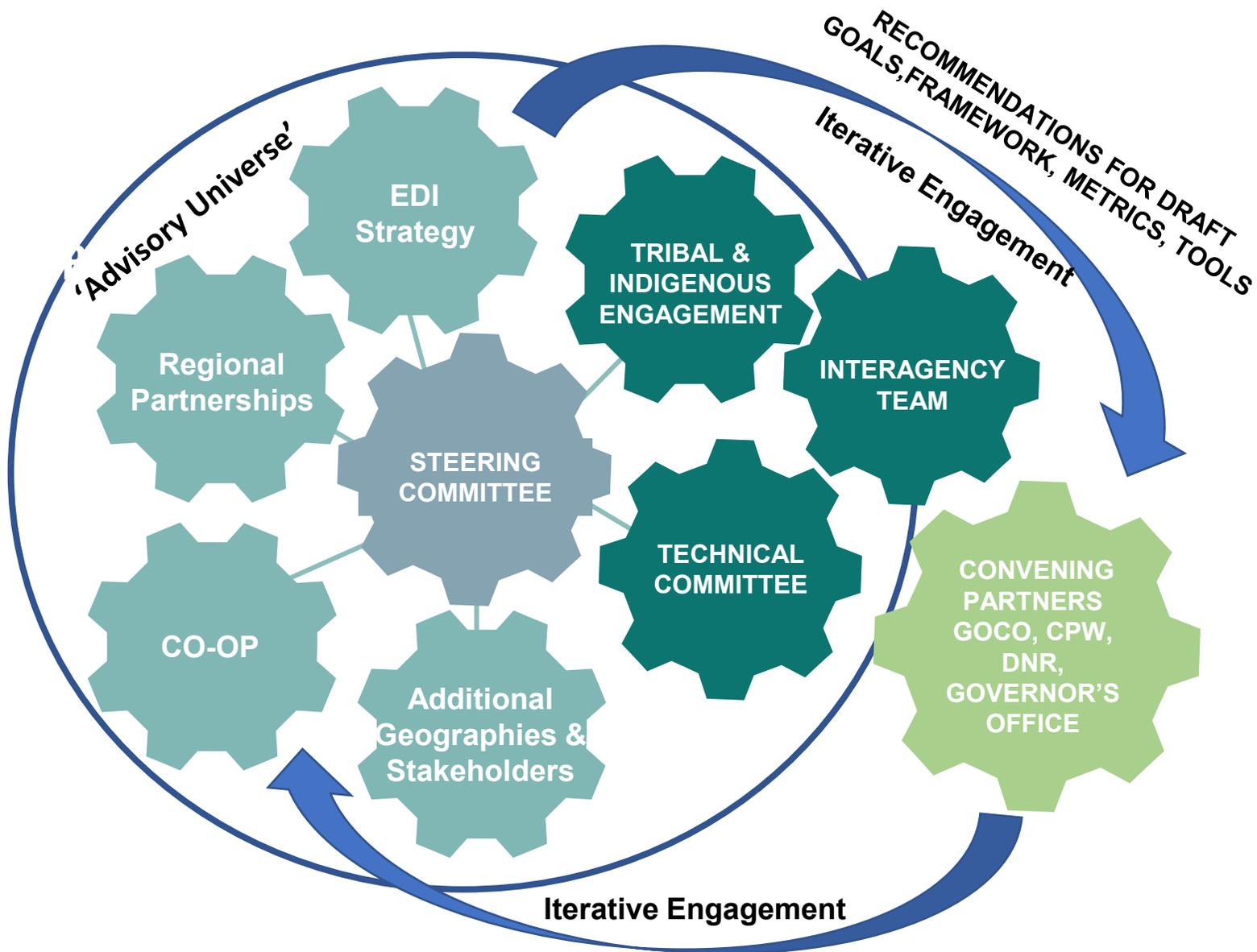
- Stakeholder and technical engagement, research and review of relevant plans and literature, and development of a draft strategy inclusive of new frameworks, metrics and tools.

Phase 2 (April through December 2024)

- Broader opportunity for stakeholders and communities statewide to learn about and provide feedback on the draft strategy and tools. This feedback will be used to refine and finalize the strategy.

Phase 3 (January 2025 through June 2026)

- Adaptive implementation, training and support for implementation/use of frameworks, tools, metrics & strategy recommendations.



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Early and ongoing engagement of stakeholders, technical experts through existing and new fora will support the collaborative development of a draft strategy.

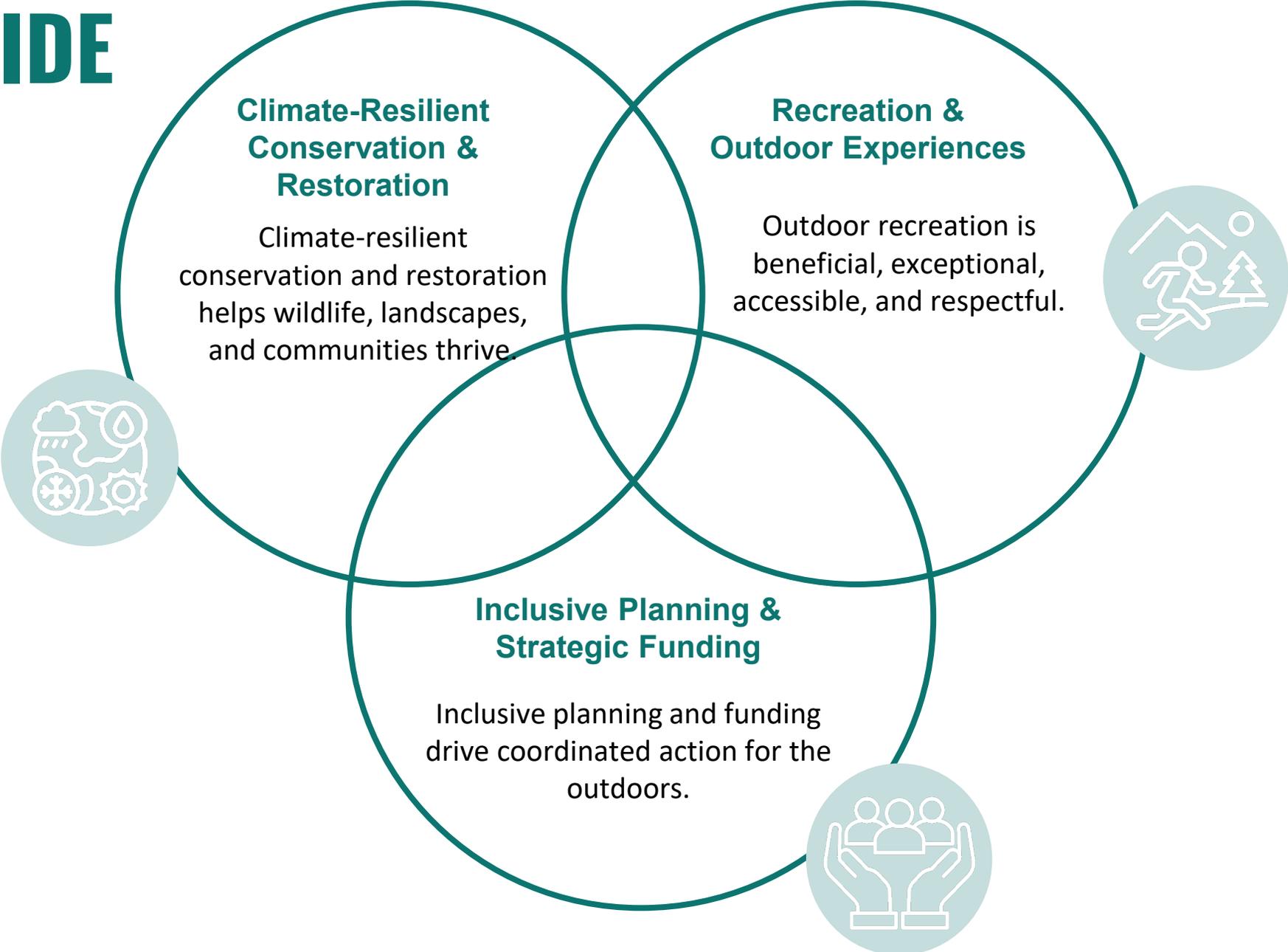
DRAFT and FINAL STATE STRATEGIES WITH GOALS, METRICS, MAPS & TOOLS FOR REGIONAL USE

REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS

BY THE NUMBERS



STATEWIDE GOALS



DRAFT STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

Vision Pillars	Climate-Resilient Conservation	Outdoor Recreation & Experiences	Inclusive Planning & Funding
Goals	Climate-resilient conservation and restoration helps wildlife, landscapes, and communities thrive.	Outdoor recreation is beneficial, exceptional, accessible, and respectful	Inclusive planning and funding drive coordinated action for Colorado's outdoors
Indicators	Thriving biodiversity Connected and resilient ecosystems High functioning ecosystems and ecosystem services	Exceptional experiences Equitable Access Rec benefits/impacts (economy, environment, climate)	Funding and capacity Coordinated and inclusive planning
Measurements (and scale)			
Maps/Data (existing, desired)			
Planning Resources and Case Studies			
Key Plans and Partners			
Key Statewide Objectives/Actions (Draft)	Achieve Key Outcomes for the Outdoors: Implement efforts to enhance the quality and benefits of conservation and outdoor recreation for healthy and thriving outdoors, people, and communities.		
	Catalyze Coordinated Planning	Develop Data and Tools	Support Strategic Funding

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS

Achieve Key Outcomes for the Outdoors: Implement efforts to enhance the quality and benefits of conservation and outdoor recreation for healthy and thriving outdoors, people, and communities.

- Collaboratively identify the best and most appropriate places on the landscape for conservation and outdoor recreation to occur.

Catalyze Coordinated Planning:

Coordinate and support new and existing conservation, outdoor recreation, and climate resilience planning efforts.

- Promote integrated and proactive conservation and outdoor recreation planning.
- Promote inclusive planning processes that recognize diverse values, knowledges, and cultures and enable Tribal sovereignty within the State of Colorado.
- Coordinate outdoor recreation leadership to advance and achieve outdoor recreation goals.

Develop Data and Tools:

Create and sustain conservation and outdoor recreation data, maps, and decision support tools to inform outdoors planning, priorities, and management.

- Launch new and updated data and tools for outdoor recreation and conservation planning.
- Invest in the Data, Information, and Knowledge Roadmap to address outstanding gaps in conservation and outdoor recreation data.
- Sustain and update data and tools with appropriate funding, capacity, coordination, and training for their maintenance and use.

Support Strategic Funding:

Align strategic funding statewide for conservation, outdoor recreation, and nature-based climate resilience.

- Align relevant existing and new public and private funding opportunities with the goals, project needs, and priorities identified through the Strategy and Regional Partnership planning efforts to support implementation of strategic objectives and actions.
- Enhance coordination and alignment of current funding opportunities and partnerships.
- Identify additional funds for investment in priority conservation and outdoor recreation needs.

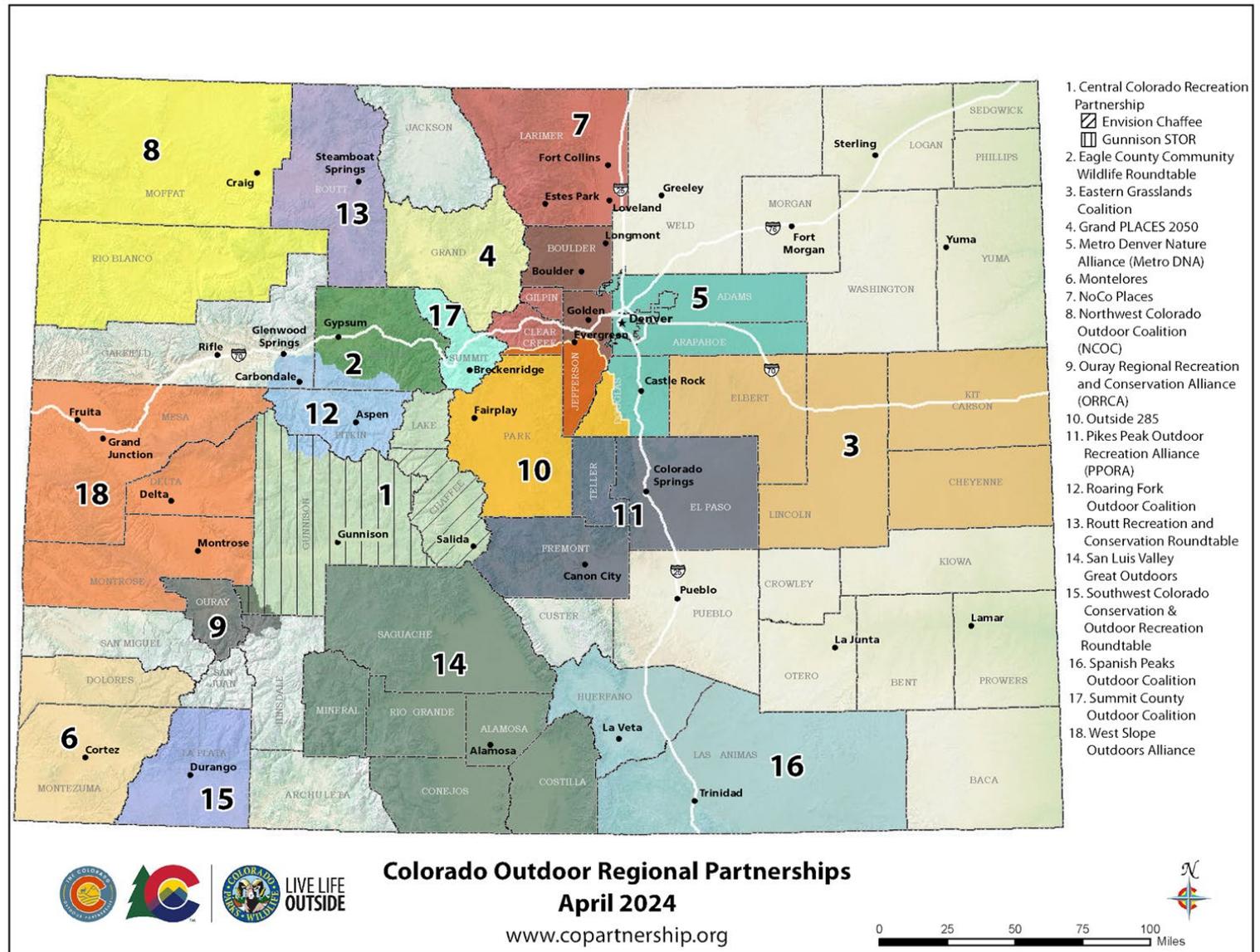


Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative

- Regional collaboration and leadership
- Resources and information sharing
- Networking and coordination across regional and statewide initiatives
- Informing future funding investments



- 18 Regional Partnerships
- 70% of Colorado covered
- 31 grants awarded
- \$3,565,000 total funding





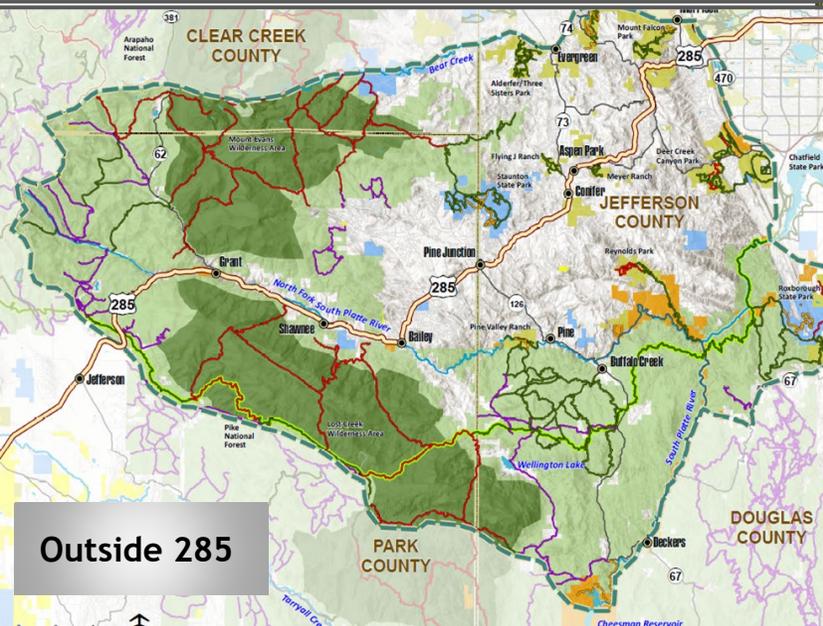
Outdoor Regional Partnerships



Metro DNA



SLV GO!



Outside 285



Gunnison STORC

Summary & Discussion

- What it Won't Be: Prescriptive
- What it Will Do: Empowers Counties
- Our Ask: When can we engage and share the Draft Strategy with you?