

IMPACT OF PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT TO WESTERN COLORADO



Overview

- ▣ **Economics**
- ▣ **User Demographics**
- ▣ **Current Planning**
 - Daily Spending
 - Total Spending
 - Jobs
- ▣ **Myths of recreation**
 - Wildlife Watching is non-motorized activity
 - Wilderness is an economic driver



Economics of Recreation





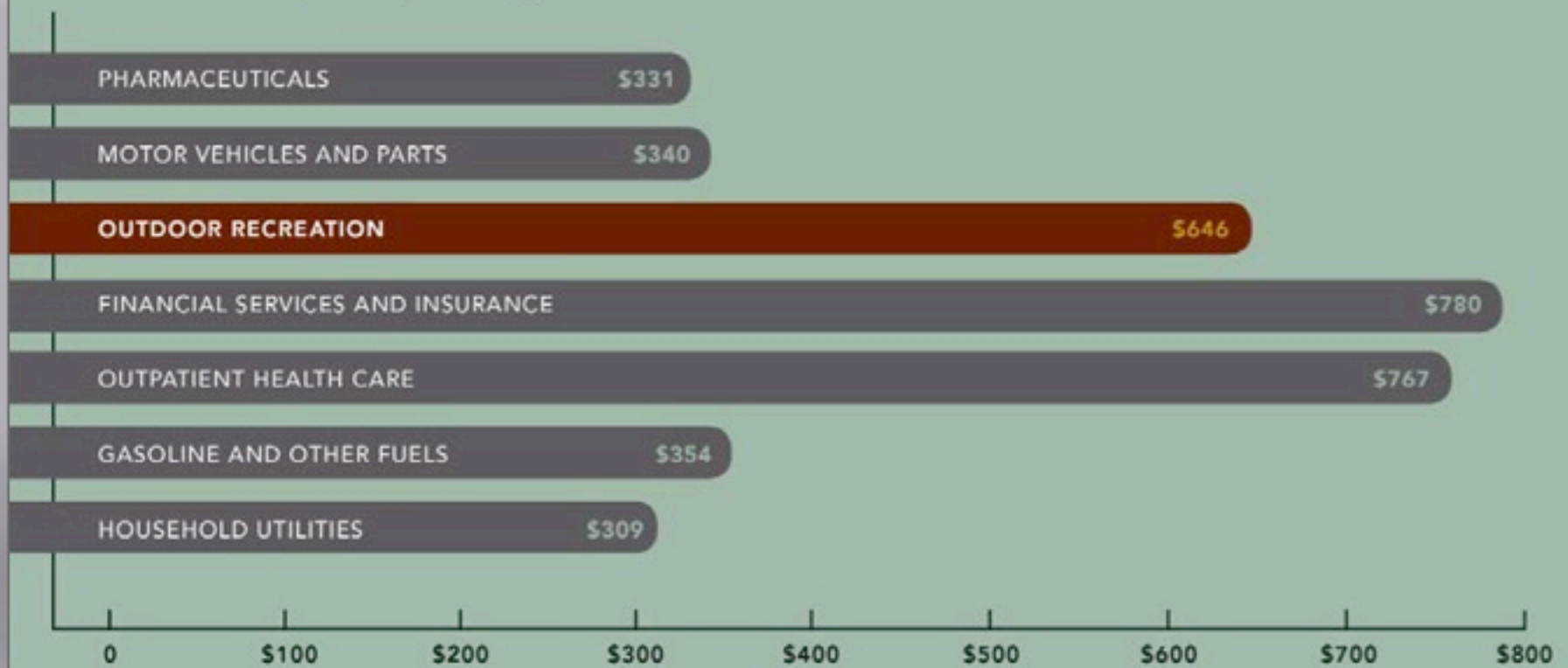
A Snapshot of
The Economic Impact
of Outdoor Recreation

June 2012

**2012
Western
Governors
Economic
Impact Report**

An Overlooked Economic Giant

Annual Consumer Spending, in Billions



Excerpt from "The Outdoor Recreation Economy," Outdoor Industry Association. Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Personal Consumption Expenditures by Type of Product, based on available 2010 data.

Western Governors report clearly identified the significance of outdoor recreation

"Spending on outdoor recreation is a vital part of the national and western economies. It means jobs and incomes and can be the lifeblood of many rural communities in the West."

What we are going to discuss was identified as a known problem by WGA

"Several managers stated that one of the biggest challenges they face is the undervaluation of outdoor recreation relative to other land uses."



WGA also clearly stated why proper valuation is important

"Good planning not only results in better recreation opportunities, it also helps address and avoid major management challenges – such as limited funding, changing recreation types, user conflicts, and degradation of the assets. Managers with the most successfully managed recreation assets emphasized that they planned early and often. They assessed their opportunities and constraints, prioritized their assets, and defined vision





Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition
**Economic Contribution of
Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation
in Colorado**

Executive Summary

July 2009

**COHVCO 2009
OHV Study
Over \$1 Billion per year
And it is conservative**



www.cohvco.org



THE Louis Berger Group, P.C.

12596 W. Baywood Ave. | Suite 201 | Lakewood, CO 80228 | www.louisberger.com

Forest Service research indicates OHV user are multiple use

This research indicates that OHV recreationalists are frequently a broad spectrum outdoor enthusiasts, meaning OHV for recreation one weekend but the next weekend they will be:

1. Walking for pleasure (88.9%)
2. Using a Wilderness or primitive area (58.1%),
3. Using a developing camping facility (44.7%),
4. Fishing (44.6%)
5. Hunting (28.4)



Forest Service research indicates Motorized usage directly relates to 5 of top 6 uses of public lands

Table 14. Percent of National Forest Visits* Indicating Use of Special Facilities or Areas

Special Facility or Area	% of National Forest Visits†
Developed Swimming Site	1.8
Scenic Byway	25.4
Visitor Center or Museum	7.7
Designated ORV Area	10.6
Forest Roads	14.1
Interpretive Displays	5.7
Information Sites	6.2
Developed Fishing Site	4.7
Motorized Single Track Trails	6.1
Motorized Dual Track Trails	11.9
None of these Facilities	57.5



HUNTING AND FISHING VALUATION

**2008 CPW research indicates \$1.8 Billion
in annual spending for hunting and
fishing
includes values of truck, trailers,
Recreational vehicles**

CURRENT FEDERAL
PLANNING IN WESTERN
COLORADO –



BLM Resource Management Plan expected life span - 20-30 years



BLM Offices with draft resource plans released -2,000,000 acres

1. GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE -1,100,000 ACRES(RED)
2. KREMMLING FIELD OFFICE - 400,000 ACRES (RED)
3. COLORADO RIVER VALLEY FIELD OFFICE - 500,000 ACRES (RED)

Offices with draft resource plans to be released in the next year

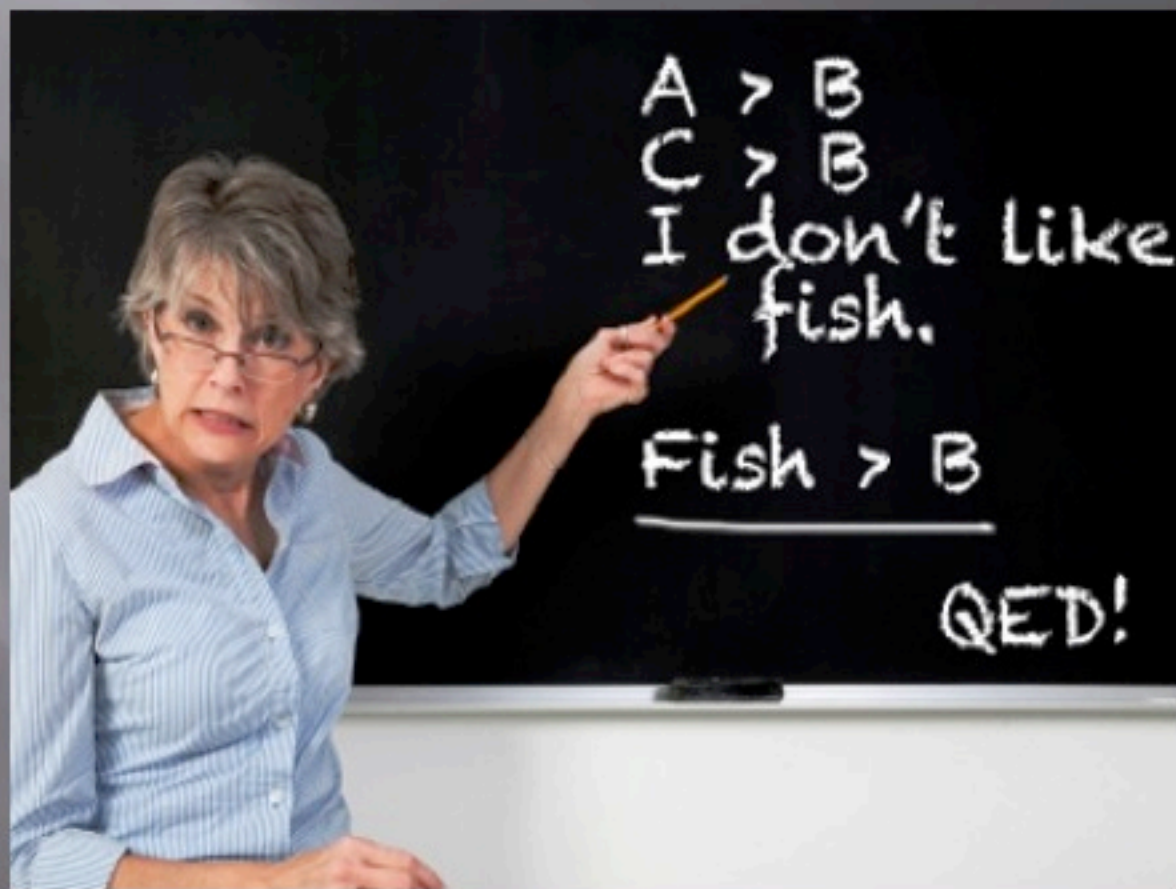
1. UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE -BLUE
2. GRAND GORGE FIELD OFFICE - BLUE

Miles of multiple use routes to be closed in currently released plans

4,500 miles
50%-70% of current routes



4,500 miles closed
based on questionable analysis



Average recreational spending per day comparison

Federal and State Agency research

- ▣ Regional Forest Service NVUM daily average recreational spending is \$61.92;
- ▣ Forest Service research indicates hunting, developed camping or motorized recreation spend on average 2-3x the average recreational spender;
- ▣ CPW daily average spend for in state hunters is \$106; and
- ▣ CPW daily average spends for out of state hunters is \$216.

BLM Planning economic calculations

- ▣ **GJFO calculates recreational spending at \$10.17 per user day;**
- ▣ **CRVO calculates recreational spending at \$16.27 per user day; and**
- ▣ **Kremmling Office calculates recreational spending at \$15.66 per user day.**

Total recreational/tourism total spending comparison

- ▣ Grand Junction RMP - asserts all recreational spending will only contribute 7.2 million dollars by 2029.
 - CPW - hunt/fishing in Garfield and Mesa counties accounts for almost \$130 million;
 - COHVCO's OHV recreation accounts for almost \$140 million annually in the GJFO area; and
 - CTO found tourism/travel contributed over \$384 million to the Mesa and Garfield county economies.

Total recreational/tourism total

spending comparison

- ▣ Colorado River Valley RMP - asserts recreational spending is 5.5 million :
 - CPW found that hunting and fishing in the area contributes over \$122 million to Garfield and Eagle Counties annually;
 - COHVCO CRVO regional OHV spending results in over \$205 million in OHV recreation;
 - CTO found tourism/travel spending accounts for over \$939 million in Eagle and Garfield Counties.

Total recreational/tourism total spending comparison

- ▣ Kremmling field office - asserts recreational spending is 5.6 million:
 - CPW found that hunting and fishing in the area contributes over \$63 million to Grand and Jackson Counties annually;
 - CTO - tourism/travel contributed over \$218 million to Jackson and Grand County; and
 - COHVCO- OHV recreation provided over \$64 million to the KFO region.

Jobs Comparison – Grand Junction

- **Grand Junction RMP – asserts all recreational activities on GJFO public lands employ 90 people:**
 - **CPW - Mesa and Garfield counties employ 1,392 in hunting and fishing related positions;**
 - **CTO found tourism/travel in Mesa and Garfield counties results in 4,310 jobs;**
 - **COHVCO - Mesa and Garfield counties area employs 2,147 persons in positions involving OHV recreation; and**
 - **The Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce identifies that Cabela's Outdoor World employs over 200 people in Grand Junction alone.**

Jobs Comparison - Colorado River Valley

- ▣ Colorado River Valley Office- asserts recreation and visitor services account for 143 jobs:
 - CPW found hunting and fishing results in 1,487 jobs in Eagle and Garfield counties;
 - CTO found tourism/travel in Eagle and Garfield county result in 8,010 jobs; and
 - COHVCO found CRVO regional OHV spending accounted for 2,765 jobs.

Jobs Comparison – Kremmling

- ▣ Kremmling Field Office – asserts all recreation accounts for 157 jobs and tourism accounts for 938 jobs:
 - CPW found hunting and fishing accounts for 710 jobs in Jackson and Grand Counties.
 - CTO found tourism/travel in Grand and Jackson county accounts for 2,610 jobs; and
 - COHVCO OHV recreation accounts for 1,016 jobs in the KFO region.

WHY?

GJFO – completely excludes spending from analysis and estimates value at ZERO

Kremmling – does not account for out of region spending



2(b)2. Forest Service Regional National Visitor Use monitoring data specifically identifies economic importance of local and out of region users -

Table 9. Percent of National Forest Visits* by Distance Traveled

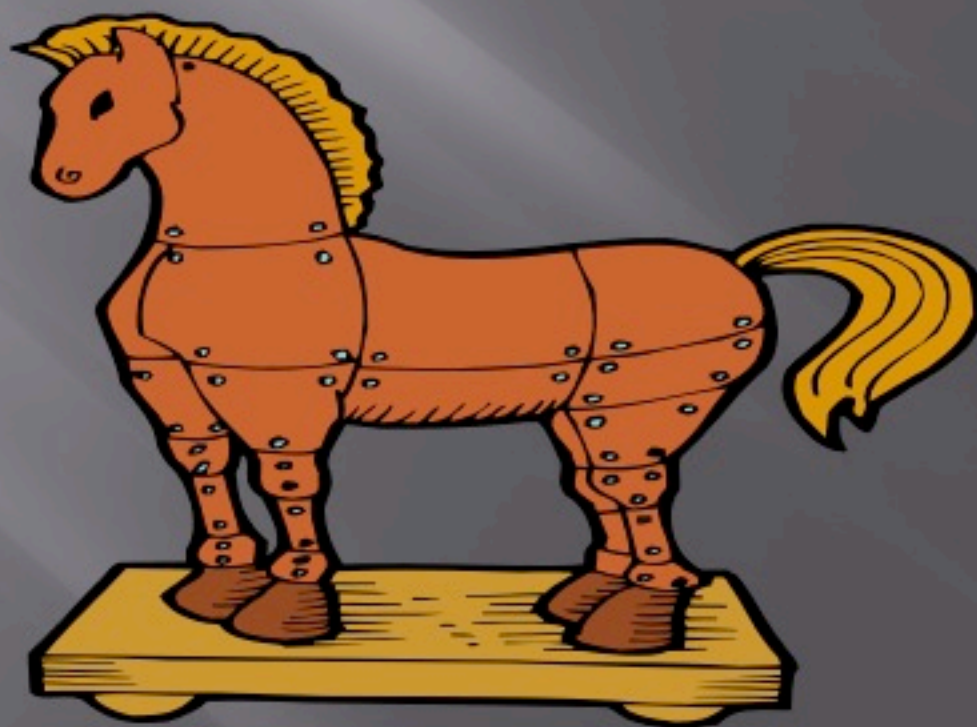
Miles from Survey Respondent's Home to Interview Location†	National Forest Visits (%)
0 - 25 miles	24.6
26 - 50 miles	13.7
51 - 75 miles	10.1
76 - 100 miles	9.5
101 - 200 miles	8.6
201 - 500 miles	4.1
Over 500 miles	29.5
Total	100.1

USER DEMOGRAPHIC Cautions Wildlife Watching and Wilderness



MYTH

WILDLIFE WATCHING IS A
NON-MOTORIZED ACTIVITY



Wildlife Watching is an Area Frequently Misunderstood

Table 32. Trip and Equipment Expenditures in Colorado for Wildlife Watching by Colorado Residents and Nonresidents: 2006

(Population 16 years old and older)

Expenditure item	Amount (thousands of dollars)	Spenders (thousands)	Average per spender (dollars)	Average per participant (dollars)
STATE RESIDENTS AND NONRESIDENTS				
Total	1,354,778	1,377	984	738
Food and lodging	345,652	716	483	396
Transportation	165,370	739	224	181
Other trip costs ¹	26,405	499	53	30
Equipment ²	817,351	952	858	447
STATE RESIDENTS				
Total	974,187	1,019	956	674
Food and lodging	97,779	402	243	200
Transportation	53,693	423	127	95
Other trip costs ¹	*14,399	*272	*53	*29
Equipment ²	808,315	909	889	563
NONRESIDENTS				
Total	380,592	358	1,062	977
Food and lodging	247,873	314	789	645
Transportation	111,677	316	354	290
Other trip costs ¹	*12,006	*227	*53	*31
Equipment ²

* Estimate based on a sample size of 10-29. ... Sample size too small to report data reliably.

¹ Includes equipment rental and fees for guides, pack trips, public land use, private land use, boat fuel, other boating costs, and heating and cooking fuel.

² Includes wildlife watching, auxiliary and special equipment.

Note: Detail does not add to total because of multiple responses and nonresponse. See Table 33 for a detailed listing of expenditure items.

71.8% of purchases for wildlife watching are directly related to motorized activity

Fish and Wildlife service definition of Special Equipment is VERY relevant

Only source of information in 2006 OIF Study

Special equipment— Big-ticket equipment items that are owned primarily for wildlife-related recreation:

- ▣ Bass boats Other types of motorboats Canoes and other types of nonmotorboats - Boat motors, boat trailer/hitches, and other boat accessories
- ▣ Pickups, campers, vans, travel or tent trailers, motor homes, house trailers, recreational vehicles (RVs)
- ▣ Cabins
- ▣ Off-the-road vehicles such as trail bikes, all terrain vehicles (ATVs), dune buggies, four-wheelers, 4x4 vehicles, and snowmobiles

MYTH

Wilderness is an economic driver

Hidden Gems has taken many forms

Dianna DeGette -
Jared Polis - Eagle and Summit
County
Sen. Michael Bennet
Sen. Mark Udall



BLM has also decided all WSAs
must be managed as Wilderness
despite FLPMA

**Numerous issues with that
assertion**

**First issue – no one uses what is currently
designated**

**FS Region 2 -3.9% of all visitors visit a
Wilderness areas in Colorado**

**Percentage of Federal Public lands in Colorado
Designated as Wilderness – 15.3%**

**Using 15.3% of any resource to obtain a 3.9%
return is questionable**

National research indicates similar usage situation-

Low levels of usage is a national issue

**Total Usage of 19.2% of National Forest Lands
3.3% of visitor days**



Second Issue for Wilderness as a driver

Almost all non-motorized activities are prohibited in Wilderness

COLORADO

COLORADANS PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION

ACTIVITY CATEGORY	# OF PARTICIPANTS*	% OF POPULATION*
 BICYCLING • Paved-road bicycling • Off-road bicycling	1,212,400	35%
 CAMPING • RV camping at a campsite • Tent camping at a campsite • Rustic lodging	982,690	28%
 FISHING • Recreational fly • Recreational non-fly	541,520	15%
 HUNTING • Shotgun • Rifle • Bow	156,297	4%
 PADDLING • Kayaking (recreational, sea, or whitewater) • Rafting • Canoeing	392,451	11%
 SNOW SPORTS • Downhill skiing, including telemark • Snowboarding • Cross-country or Nordic skiing • Snowshoeing	743,263	21%
 TRAIL • Trail running on an unpaved trail • Day hiking on an unpaved trail • Backpacking • Rock climbing (natural rock or ice)	1,405,329	41%
 WILDLIFE VIEWING • Bird watching • Other wildlife watching	1,190,000	33%

*Wildlife-based participation is based on adult population 16 years of age and older living in Colorado in 2005: 3,629,733 (US Census). Non wildlife-based participation is based on adult population 18 years of age and older living in Colorado in 2005: 3,464,517 (US Census). Detailed activity definitions and participation calculations are available in the technical report.

Colorado not only attracts those from out-of-state to take part in active outdoor recreation but also, with exceptional close-to-home recreation, generates economic activity from active Coloradans.

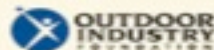
The economic analysis was conducted by Southwick Associates, Inc. The consumer survey was developed and executed by Harris Interactive®.

SOUTHWICK ASSOCIATES, INC. specializes in quantifying the economics of fish, wildlife, and outdoor related activities for government agencies and industry.
www.southwickassociates.com

OUTDOOR INDUSTRY FOUNDATION (OIF) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to inspire and grow future generations of outdoor enthusiasts.

Additional national, regional, and state Recreation Economy reports and technical background are available for free download.
www.outdoorindustryfoundation.org

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Fishing
Includes motorized

Paddling
includes municipal pools

Snowsports
-heavily motorized

Trail
Includes municipal trails and developed Parks

Issue with Wilderness being an economic driver

Low average spending compared to other multiple uses of public lands-

Motorized multiple use spend on average 2-3 times the average recreational spending. Most spending is associated with a local municipality



OR



Next Issue with Wilderness as an
economic driver:
Forest health & the need
for active management of Forests



Wilderness Act does allow mechanized fire fighting and Forest Health maintenance

Problem -

NO roads and they take time to build so the end result is



Fire is very visible but will only impact a small portion of Wilderness

Bigger Problem is GRAVITY!



Imagine taking kids over this or removing game over these route

Acceptable Trail Management under Wilderness Act

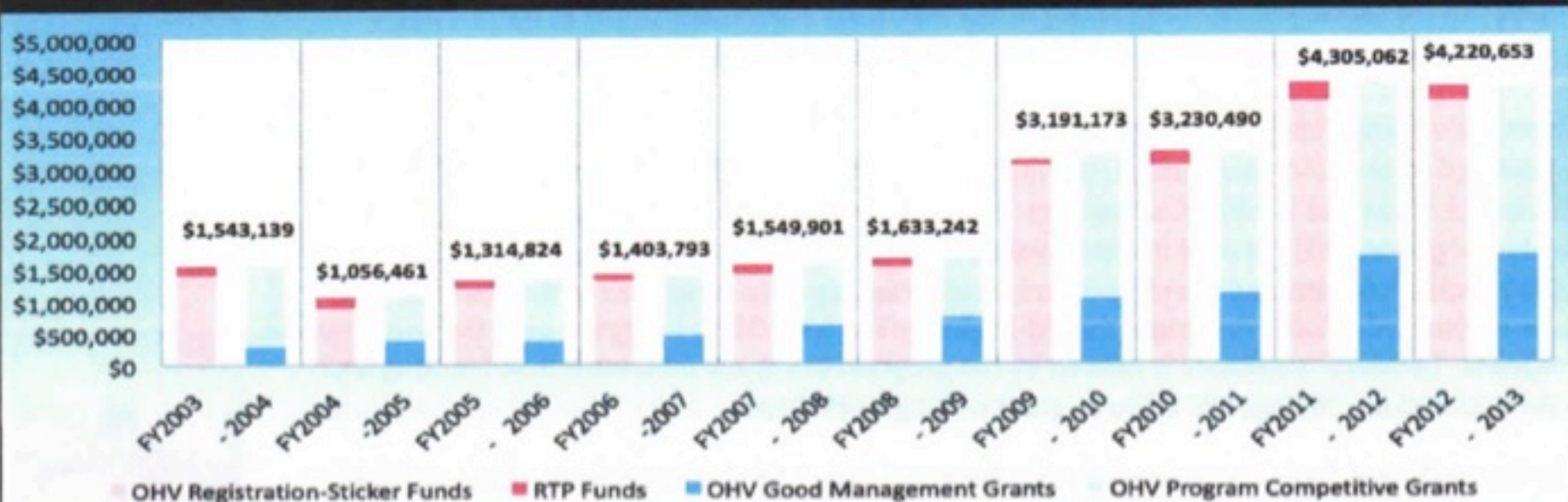


Colorado State Trails Program-

Entirely funded by OHV registrations and gas taxes

Over \$54 MILLION in grants over the last 10 years!
Entirely to keeping multiple use trails open -
No user pay program for non-motorized

Annual Off-highway Vehicle Grant Program Funding and Allocations

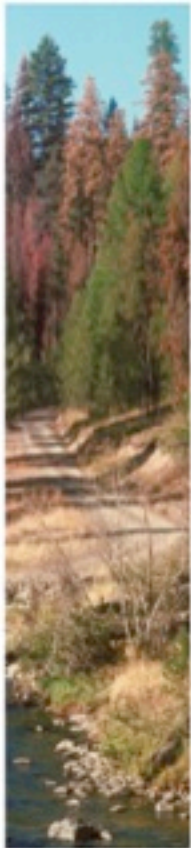


CPW OHV Trails Program funds trail management like this



Next issue- Forest Health Research

Two significant agency reports greatly support previous concerns from those opposing Wilderness. Two different issues

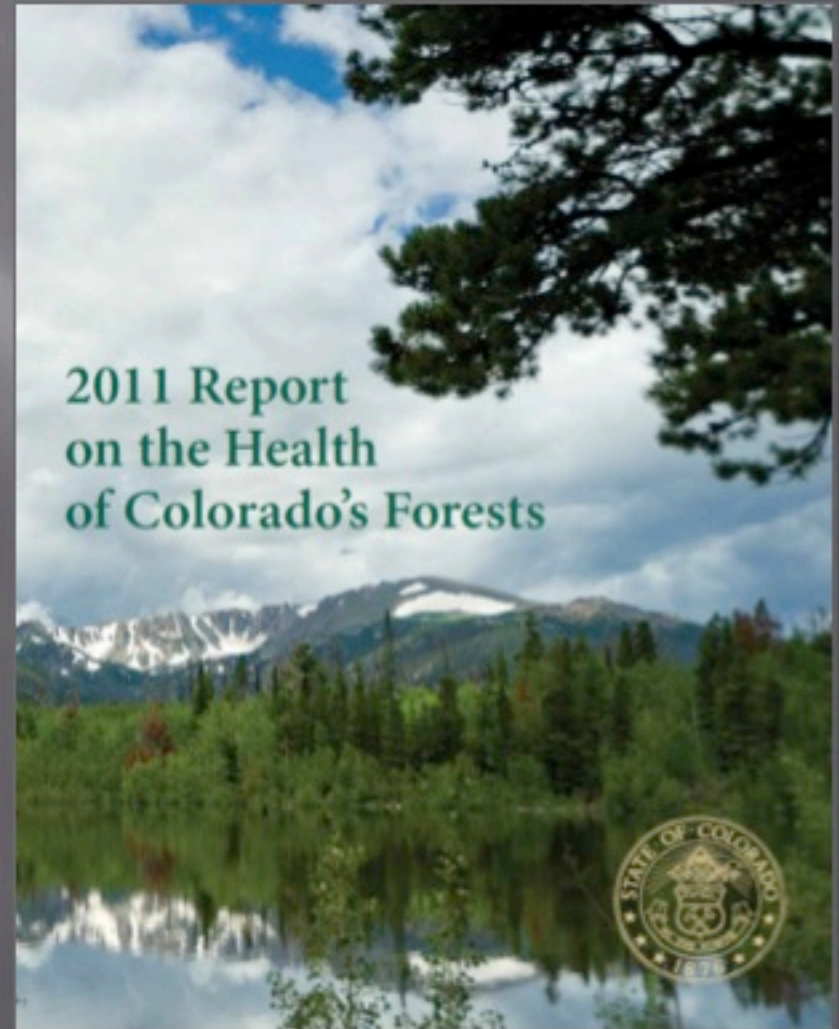


Review of the Forest Service Response:
The Bark Beetle Outbreak in Northern
Colorado and Southern Wyoming



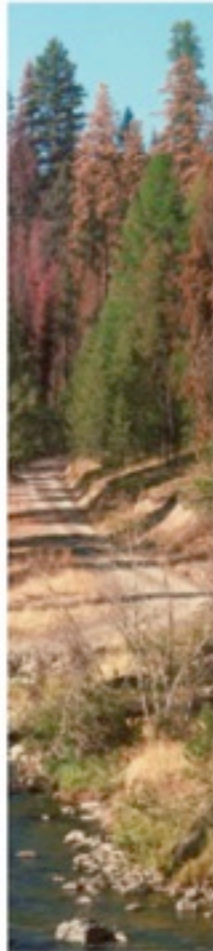
A report by
USDA Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Region and Rocky Mountain Research Station
at the request of Senator Mark Udall

September 2011



2011 Report
on the Health
of Colorado's Forests

Forest Service Pine Beetle Report prepared at the request of Senator Udall



Review of the Forest Service Response: The Bark Beetle Outbreak in Northern Colorado and Southern Wyoming



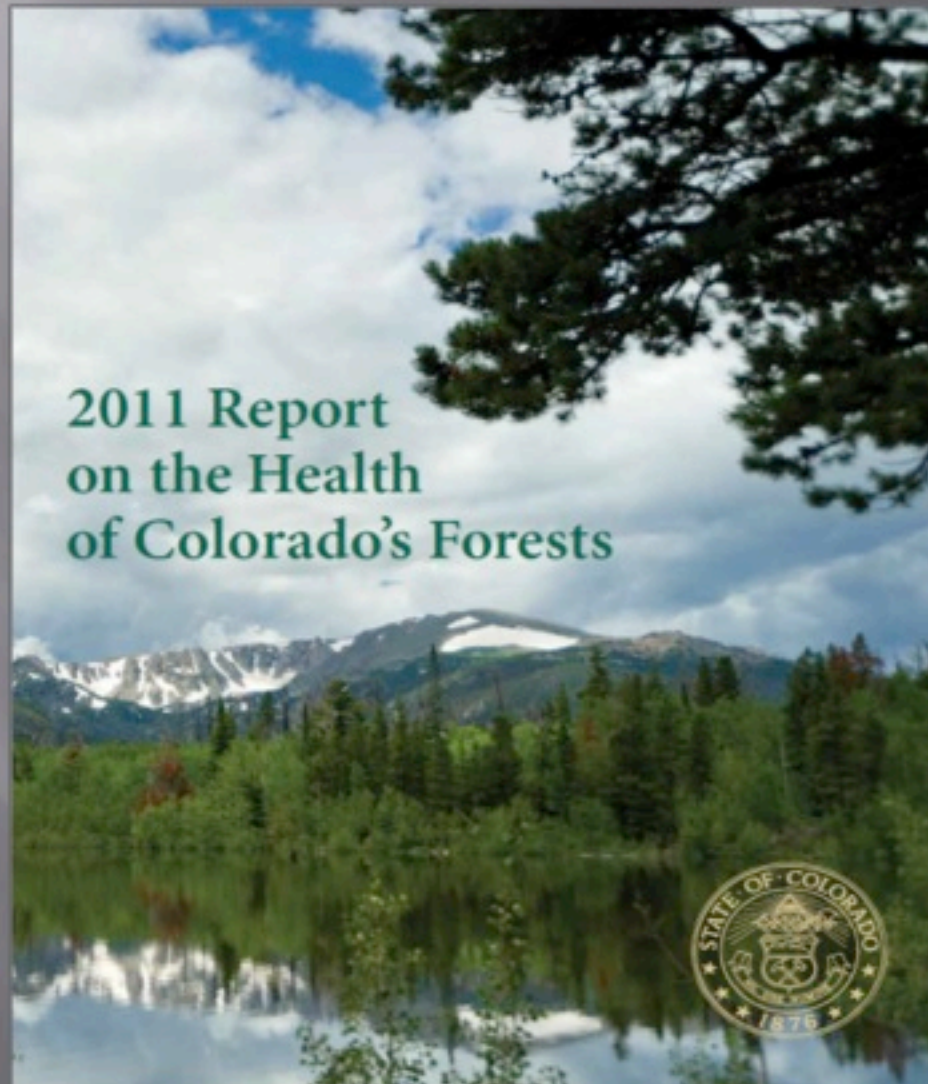
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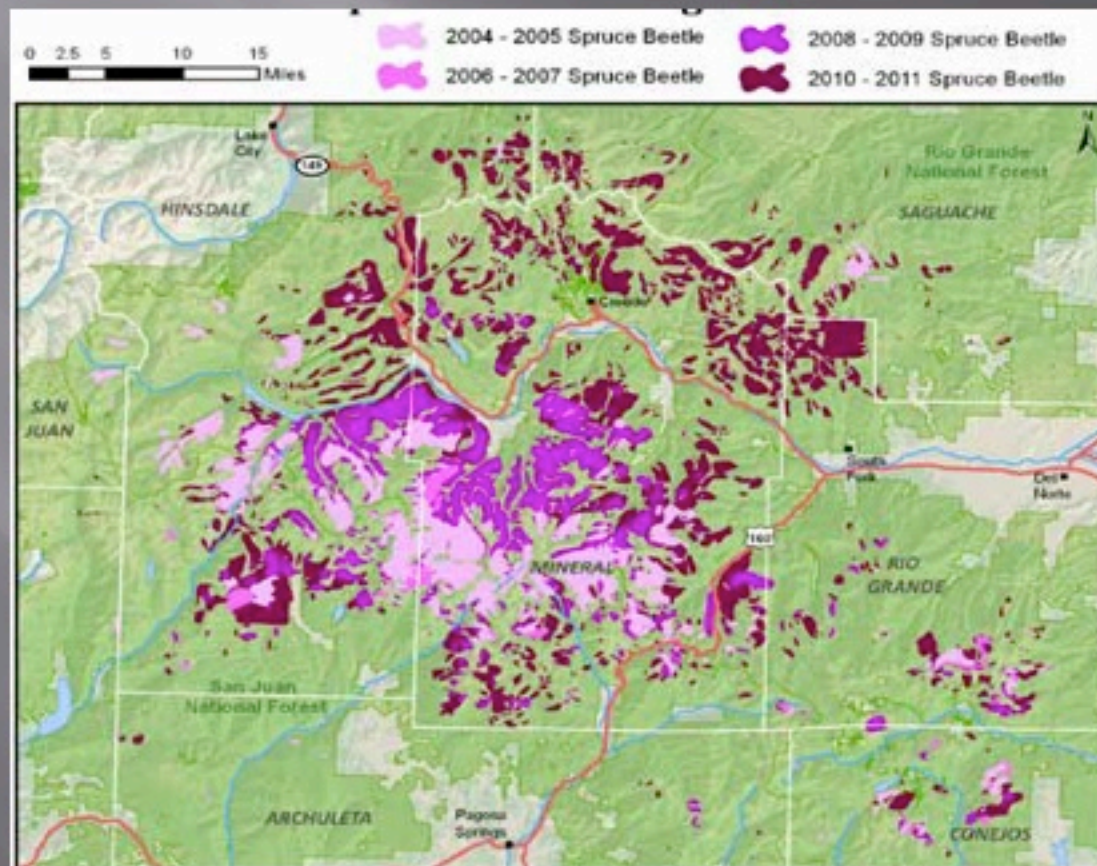
Recreational impact from the Pine Beetle per FS report

- ▣ **The strategy identifies values at risk:**
 - **215,000 acres of wildland urban interface (WUI);**
 - **3,700 miles of forest system roads;**
 - **1,300 miles of trails;**
 - **460 developed recreation sites;**
 - **16 ski areas; and**
 - **550 miles of powerlines.**

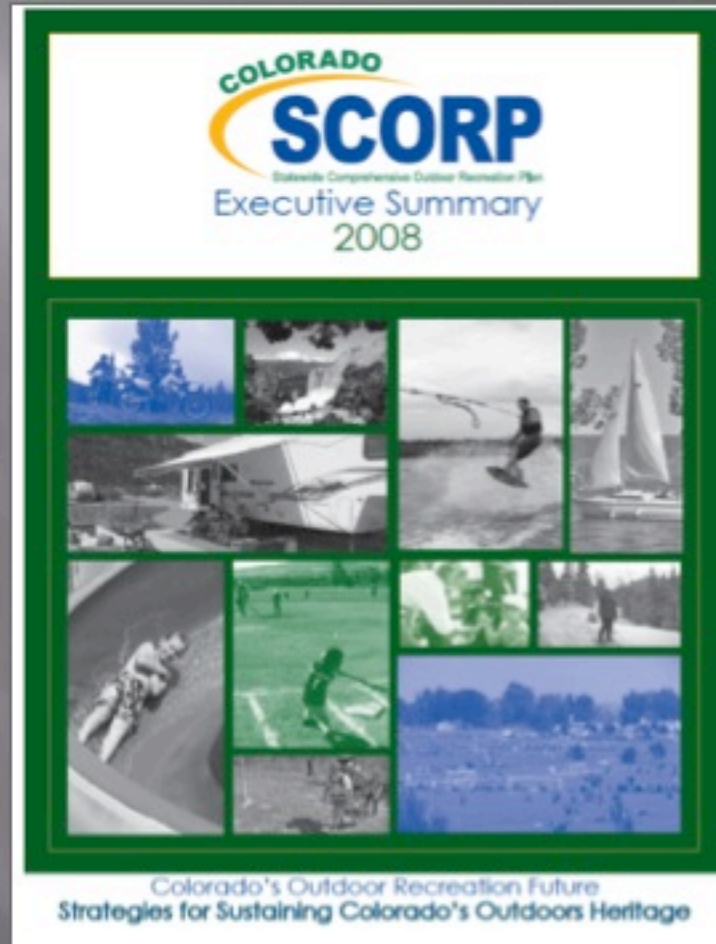
2011 Colorado State Forest Service Health Report



2011 Colorado Forest Service report - extensive discussion of unmanaged blow downs and spruce beetle



Colorado SCORP (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) Recreation plan required for Colorado to obtain numerous types of federal funding



Forest health was a significant issue in the 2003 SCORP and is increasingly so in 2008.

Recommended Watershed Management from Forest Service and has been adopted by all Front Range Water Districts

**PROTECTING FRONT RANGE FOREST
WATERSHEDS FROM HIGH-SEVERITY WILDFIRES**
AN ASSESSMENT BY THE PINCHOT INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION
FUNDED BY THE FRONT RANGE FUELS TREATMENT PARTNERSHIP



PINCHOT INSTITUTE
FOR CONSERVATION

Leadership in Forest Conservation Thought, Policy and Action

Recommended management of watersheds



For those wanting more information

COHVCO Annual Workshop

The Role of Colorado Communities in
Partnership with motorized recreation
on public lands.

June 2013

Denver Colorado

QUESTIONS?



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