

# STATE OF COLORADO

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor

September 22, 2008

Dear Friends:

Colorado's magnificent outdoors and unparalleled beauty are two major reasons we are fortunate to call this great state home. As a child, I remember visiting majestic mountains under clear blue skies, hiking in isolated canyons, fishing in clear streams, and hunting in Colorado's backcountry. Today, my favorite recreation activities are fishing, bicycling, and skiing with my family. I believe opportunities and shared experiences like these have enriched me and my family in many ways. I also believe that these opportunities help define what is best about Colorado and Coloradans.

As Governor, I've worked hard in support of opportunities to recreate outdoors in some of this nation's most spectacular places – in Colorado's wilderness and roadless areas, along its waterways, and in natural areas across the state that support activities as diverse as hunting and bird-watching, or angling and skiing. Our quality of life and our economy are directly tied to the well-being of the natural places in which so many of us pursue our outdoor recreation passions.

But while Colorado's outdoors and abundant recreation resources continue to be enjoyed by both Coloradans and visitors alike, these resources face increased pressure from a many quarters. Now, more so than ever, we must work diligently to protect the places that provide the experiences and opportunities that make Colorado special. We must be stubborn stewards of these places, so they may continue to be enjoyed by our children and grandchildren.

Managing Colorado's outdoor recreation resources and addressing key recreation needs and issues are central themes in the *2008 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*. The SCORP is the collaborative product of the work of 33 Steering Committee members representing the private sector, state and federal agencies, local governments, and non-profit partners. It sets the framework and seeks to establish the overall direction and tone for statewide outdoor recreation planning through 2013.

The Colorado SCORP highlights the wide array of recreation amenities across the state, and identifies a variety of innovative strategies that merit additional exploration as potential ways to address the many challenges affecting outdoor recreation. I commend it to any and all who understand, as I do, the value of sustaining Colorado's outdoor recreation heritage, and who wish to pursue, through collaboration and partnership, an outdoor recreation vision for Colorado outlined herein.

Sincerely,

  
Governor Bill Ritter, Jr.