

Colorado Challenges, Colorado Solutions

Attachment M



"Our iconic forests, rivers, grasslands and mountains make Colorado such a vibrant place to call 'home.' Together, we can protect this beautiful state for the benefit of nature and people."

CARLOS FERNANDEZ,
COLORADO STATE DIRECTOR

Photo Credit: ©Chris Helzer/TNC.

Colorado represents more than the place we live—**it's part of who we are.** It's the backdrop to our most precious memories, the inspiration for our greatest accomplishments, the place we have chosen to put down roots and make a home. Now it's time for us to give back to the place that has given us so much.

Colorado Challenges

Our natural resources are at the heart of our **quality of life** in Colorado—from the fresh water we drink and the clean air we breathe to our economic prosperity and world-renowned recreational opportunities.

But the health of our lands, waters and forests that enabled past generations to prosper is now at risk. Colorado's population is expected to nearly double by 2050. **Increased needs for food, water and energy** will further strain Colorado's natural systems, which are already experiencing climate-induced changes, such as drought and extreme wildfires.

Colorado Solutions

Colorado's challenges require far-sighted solutions. **Solutions that combine science and creativity to deliver long-lasting, tangible results.**

Building on 60 years of experience, The Nature Conservancy is poised to address Colorado's biggest environmental challenges in ways that **balance the needs of nature with those of people.**

Our Approach

Although our work's magnitude has expanded, our values remain the same. **We're committed to science.** Science deepens our understanding of nature and what we need to conserve it. Our scientists pioneer lasting conservation solutions and continue to meet new challenges head-on.

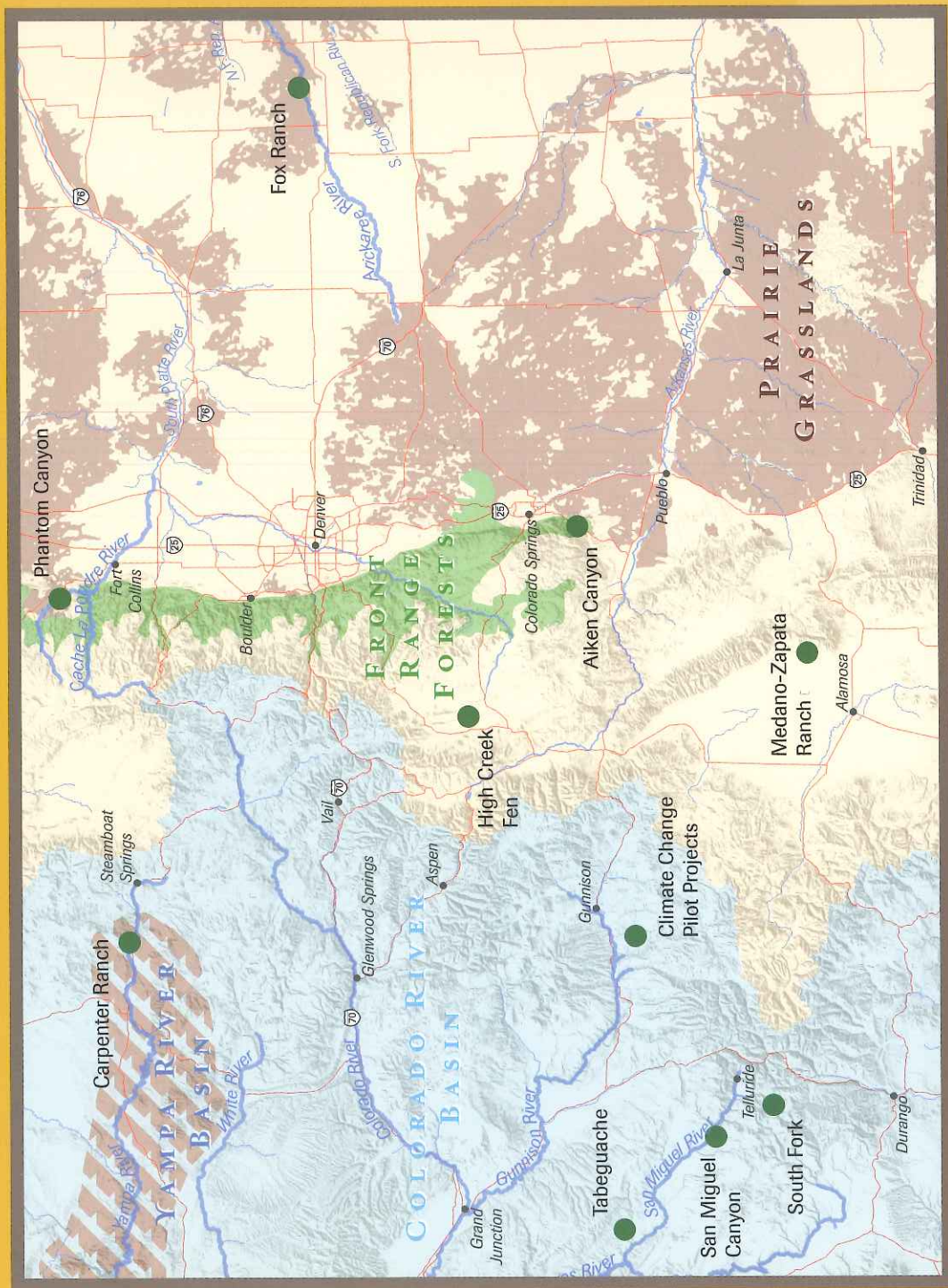
We're non-partisan and collaborative. We bring private landowners, local communities, businesses, municipalities, political leaders and other nonprofits to the table to find solutions.

We're problem solvers. We continue to build on our successful track record as an innovative and pragmatic partner and hold ourselves accountable to ensure **we deliver results.**

We work locally and globally. We combine the hands-on impact of a local nonprofit and the global reach of a powerful international organization to inform our strategies and get things done at home in Colorado and around the world.

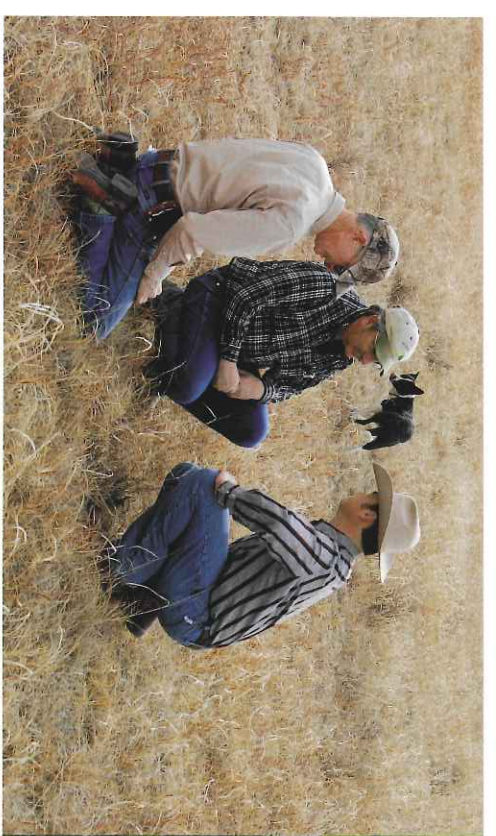
We're optimists. By working together, we can chart Colorado's future and inspire people to take action.





“A top personal passion for me is to preserve the natural beauty and treasures of our state. The Nature Conservancy has a science-based, practical approach that I feel can create huge results in a short time and tie to a very bold and long term vision. I am excited to be involved and support the Conservancy in its efforts.”

KEN GART, COLORADO BOARD MEMBER



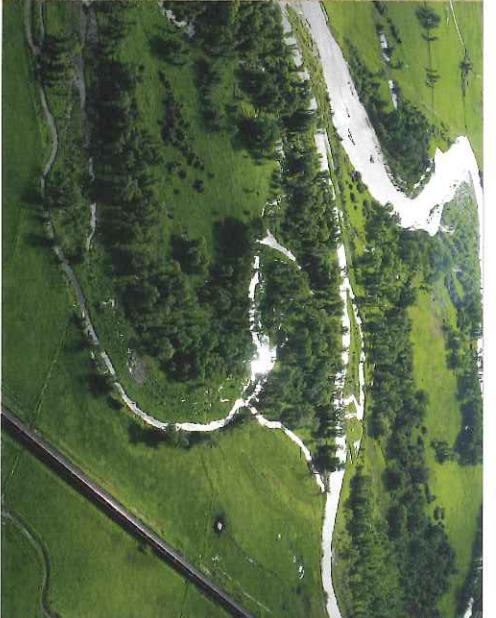
Conserving the Most Important Lands

Colorado's landscapes are spectacular, but areas that are important to people and nature are at risk. In the Yampa River Basin in northwest Colorado, sage grouse, elk and ranchers all share one thing in common: they depend on large, unbroken tracts of land. Development in the region threatens to divide this landscape into pieces. The result? Habitats and water supplies are stretched thin.

In eastern Colorado's grasslands, you'll find one of the largest expanses of intact prairie left in the United States. Pronghorn, migratory birds, fossils, Native American history—they're all part of this spectacular landscape. So, too, are the ranchers, farmers and communities that depend on the landscape for their way of life.

The Conservancy in Colorado has helped protect nearly 1 million acres across the state.

At The Nature Conservancy, our long-term vision is to protect these important places that are large enough to sustain nature and resilient enough to withstand climate change and ongoing development.



Protecting Water for Nature and People

In the arid West, water is our most important resource. Majestic rivers like the Rio Grande and the Colorado aren't just crucial for nature, they supply drinking water to tens of millions of people.

The number of diversion points where water is taken out of Colorado's rivers

46,000

Today, Colorado faces its toughest water challenges. One hundred and fifty years of water development and management have significantly altered our streams and waters. Our rivers have been tapped extensively and future water shortages are expected. As competing interests vie for our water resources, nature is feeling the impact.

Forty percent of Colorado's fish are at risk, and invasive plants, including tamarisk and Russian olive, continue to choke rivers, crowd out native vegetation and alter stream flows.

At The Nature Conservancy, our long-term vision is to ensure that enough water stays in Colorado's rivers so that the full array of native fish and wildlife can thrive as we balance the water needs of nature and people.



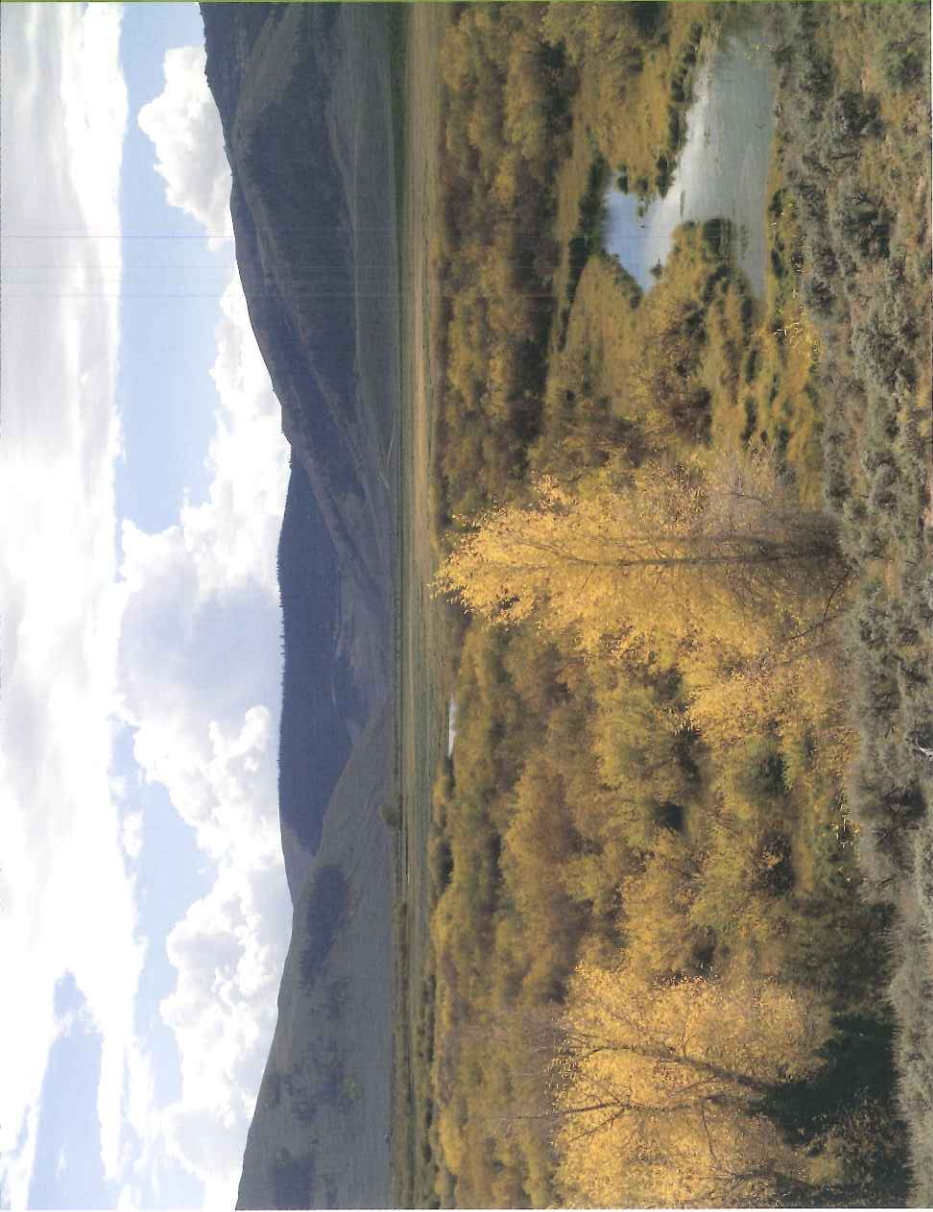
Restoring Our Forests

After devastating wildfire seasons, it's clear the pace of forest restoration in Colorado must increase. Six million acres of our forests urgently need restoration. Poor forest conditions have caused uncharacteristically large and severe wildfires as well as insect and disease epidemics. These conditions pose an ongoing wildfire risk, threatening lives, property, wildlife habitat and forested watersheds that filter and supply drinking water for most Coloradans. And conditions are expected to get worse as Colorado gets hotter and drier.

The percentage of Coloradans who get water from Front Range forests

70

At The Nature Conservancy, our long-term vision is to restore Colorado's forests to a more resilient and healthy condition, preserving wildlife habitats, ensuring clean drinking water, and providing recreational benefits for people and nature long into the future.



Our Vision

The Nature Conservancy has established an ambitious vision to drive conservation in Colorado. We will change Colorado's future by:

- Conserving the Most Important Lands
- Protecting Water for Nature and People
- Restoring Our Forests
- Connecting People to the Value of Nature

Photo Credit: ©Mark Godfrey/TNC.

Did you know that The Nature Conservancy in Colorado has...

Helped protect nearly 1 million acres of land.

Restored more than 1,000 river miles.

Advanced protection along the entire Colorado River by creating the Colorado River Program to share knowledge gained through on-the-ground work and influence policy to restore this life-giving waterway.

Improved forest conditions through our Southern Rockies Wildland Fire Module. This nationally acclaimed fire crew manages wildfires and has safely implemented nearly 50 prescribed burns, reducing the potential for damaging megafires.

Produced a scientific tool that, for the first time ever, identifies how much water we must keep in Colorado's rivers to keep them healthy for nature.

Restored the banks of the entire San Miguel River—one of the only naturally functioning, tamarisk-free rivers in the Southwest.

Created, in partnership with the local community and federal agencies, our nation's 58th national park—The Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.

Supported projects in more than 16 countries around the world.

Connecting People to the Value of Nature

Nature is a real and relevant part of our daily lives, from the water we drink, to the food we eat, to the air we breathe. Unfortunately, many children do not spend much time outdoors, and many people do not appreciate the importance of nature in their daily lives.

Taking action now to preserve Colorado's resources can help solve many of the key environmental challenges facing our state. But finding solutions to protect our lands, waters and forests requires support from more Coloradans.

At The Nature Conservancy, our long-term vision is to create a public that values nature and understands the urgency to protect it now and for future generations.

**"Everywhere I go in America
working on the conservation
agenda of the United States,
The Nature Conservancy is there.
They are one of the best conservation
leaders in the entire world."**

**KEN SALAZAR,
FORMER SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR**

Local Connections, Global Results

The major conservation challenges facing Colorado echo our global predicament of a growing population with increasing demands for resources in the midst of a changing climate.

At The Nature Conservancy, we work around the world sharing our science with our international partners. For example, our Colorado staff members have brought their expertise to Argentina, Mongolia, Africa and China. We have helped to preserve grasslands in Patagonia and to protect Kenya's black rhino, which was on the brink of extinction.



Photo Credit: ©Erika Nortemann/TNC.

Our mission:
To conserve the lands and waters
on which all life depends.



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

The world we depend on, depends on us. Learn how you can join us to preserve the places that enrich, sustain and inspire us all by visiting our website: www.nature.org/colorado.

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