



Counties and individual commissioners across Colorado working to provide a unified, nonpartisan and independent voice at the statehouse. Collectively, CCAT represents all regions of the state and the diversity of issues facing every corner of Colorado.

2018 Policy Priorities

Protect Public Lands

CCAT:

- **Supports policy to manage public lands and natural resources** while balancing diverse needs and rights of community stakeholders. Specifically,
 - **Preserving open spaces** for recreation use, wildlife habitat, and sustainability of our agricultural heritage; and,
 - **Managing our wildland urban interface area** for both fire preparedness and healthy forests.

- **Opposes efforts for the disposal, transfer, sale or conversion of federal public lands to state, local or private ownership.**

Public lands provide irreplaceable economic, environmental, ecological, recreational and health benefits to our citizens and visitors. Federal public lands are open to the public while only 20% of Colorado State-owned lands are open to the public. Federal public land transfers would have long-term detrimental impacts to our local economies, environment and headwaters, employment and quality of life. The Colorado outdoor recreation industry generates roughly \$13 billion in consumer spending; 125,000 direct jobs; \$4 billion in wages and salaries; and \$0.9 billion in state/local tax revenue. 95% of Coloradans visited Colorado's 22.9 million acres of federal public lands in 2014.

2018 Policy Priority: *Protect Federal Lands & Recreation Management*

CCAT urges the retention of Colorado's federal public lands as federal public lands.

1. **Provide needed funding** to federal land agencies that allows for upkeep of public assets and completion of decades-long deferred maintenance projects.

2. **Eliminate United States Forest Service fund transfers** for fire-fighting, to retain vital operations funding.

3. **Provide permanent full funding of the Payment in Lieu of Taxes and Secure Rural Schools programs**, which serve to partially replace funds counties need to provide essential services including education, public safety, and environmental stewardship.

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