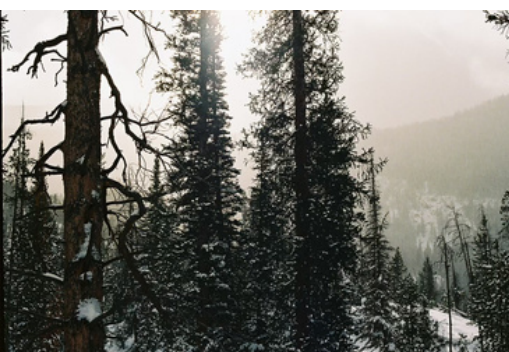


# Grand PLACES 2050



## 2022 Annual Report

### What is Grand PLACES 2050?

Grand PLACES 2050 is a coalition of local government entities, nonprofit groups, state and federal land managers, and businesses. We focus on Grand County's PLACES - people, land, access, conservation, ecosystems, and sustainability. Grand PLACES 2050 collaborates to protect and conserve natural and cultural resources while providing equitable access and a quality outdoor recreation experience for current and future generations.

### Vision

Grand PLACES 2050 strives to become a model coalition that sustainably manages our natural and cultural resources in balance with quality outdoor recreation experiences.

# WELCOME TO GRAND COUNTY



## A Brief History

Grand PLACES 2050 was formed out of a desire to address the rapid growth and demand for outdoor recreation in the region. The group convened in June of 2019 as “East Grand PLACES 2050” kicking off with local and regional participants. Leaders from Winter Park Resort, the Town of Winter Park, and the Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forest provided guidance to think through timely questions: How do we capitalize on the growing outdoor recreation economy? How do we deal with human resource and other constraints? How can we blur jurisdictional boundaries and proactively create solutions to these issues? And finally, how can we move forward?



Following the initial meeting, East Grand PLACES 2050 was formed, developed a work plan, and achieved several key milestones, including the mapping of outdoor recreation hotspots in 2019 and the finalization of an MOU between all governmental parties in 2020. Eventually, the group formally transitioned to Grand PLACES 2050 to encompass the entire county and more fully realize its vision. The group gained new momentum in 2022, adopting a Charter and Operating Guidelines.



## 2022 Highlights

There have been numerous highlights across the participating organizations' program of work in the year 2022 both supported by and working towards our shared goals and objectives of the Grand PLACES 2050 collaborative. From community planning to address increased visitation to the advancement of sustainable recreation and engagement, Grand PLACES 2050 members have worked tirelessly to envision the future of people, land, access, conservation, ecosystems, and sustainability across Grand County.

The Town of Winter Park's sustainable planning, the annexation of the Cooper Creek Village in partnership with Winter Park Resort and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has been a highlight of the last year. Their project with DHM Design to review public lands around Winter Park as well as the dispersed camping area in Vasquez has also been a primary area of focus.

Through the comprehensive support and involvement in the Grand PLACES 2050 group, the Headwaters Trails Alliance (HTA) and their work with the USFS on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest has led to numerous achievements to be proud of. The establishment of the Recreation Resource Working Group, which will convene quarterly in 2023, and the State recognition of several HTA initiatives are two key accomplishments to call attention to. The USFS and HTA creation of the Stewardship Ambassador Program (made possible through a \$150,000 Agreement over the next three years), Stand Grand campaign, Trail Smart Sizing, and Phases Redevelopment project have all been essential in continuing to foster a strong relationship with partners across the county, including Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). CPW emphasizes the Stewardship Ambassador Program has been key in balancing wildlife management with high quality recreation opportunities. They look forward to advancing programming in 2023. Furthermore, the USFS was pleased to host a Visitor Information Summit in Grand County. HTA has also made headway with their educational and engagement initiatives, such as the Tap Talks and the Quarterly Book Club with the Colorado Headwaters Land Trust.

The Town of Grand Lake has established new trail access from town to the national forest and national park through both private and town-owned lands. Additionally, their agreement with the Elk Creek Campground to provide hikers and trail users access to shower facilities marks a win for both Continental Divide Trail (CDT) thru-hikers and local day hikers alike. Grand County Economic Development notes the sustainable tourism work they've championed and the Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant they received as outcomes worth underscoring.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) partnered with Northern Water to complete aerial application of wood mulch on approximately 1,811 acres of BLM land in the Headwaters Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA) within the East Troublesome (ETF) burn scar. They have continued to work with HTA in the Strawberry Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) "Phases" on trail improvements and informational kiosk installation in compliance with the completed environmental assessment in 2018. The BLM also finished the Jacques trail reroute and campsite delineation environmental assessment NEPA document that includes 1.8 miles of reroute and six campsites at the Jacques trail head. The reroute will be funded through HTA and the campsite delineation will be completed by BLM employees both during the 2023 field season. Lastly, advancing Grand PLACES 2050's vision, The BLM completed the Wolford Mountain single track trail environmental assessment NEPA document for 1.8 miles of trail to be rerouted on the Wolford Mountain Trail in the Wolford SRMA. 1 mile of the approved 1.8 miles reroute was constructed by the USFS statewide OHV trail crew with assistance by BLM employees. Completion of the trail will occur during the 2023 field season.

In 2022, Grand County worked in partnership with USFS, BLM and Northern Water on continued aerial mulching of over 7,500 acres of the East Troublesome Fire (ETF) burn scar. Grand County also continued its work and implementation of significant Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) projects to protect life and property from post-fire flooding and debris flows from the ETF burn scar. Grand County also continued its funding of many important HTA and Town trail maintenance projects through its Open Lands, River and Trails (OLRT) Fund. In partnership with other Grand PLACES 2050 partners, Grand County began a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) update in 2022. The plan assesses and identifies areas in the county that are at risk for wildland fire, makes recommendations for hazardous fuels treatments, and prioritizes areas for wildfire mitigation funding.





Additionally, the Town of Hot Sulphur Springs (HSS) is updating its comprehensive plan to address sustainable growth options, including managing tourism impacts. HSS has also implemented a major trail maintenance project at the Himebaugh Gulch property to improve trail sustainability and capacity. This work was done in concert with the BLM completion of a categorical exclusion NEPA document, changing the designation of 850 feet of administrative route to horse, foot, and bicycle along this route. This project, with funding from OLRT and GOCO, consists of decommissioning and rerouting steep eroding sections and building a new trailhead with information kiosks .



Concurrently, The Town of Fraser has looked to merge their work with the sustainability plans where appropriate.



Lastly, as a group, in 2022 the participating members finalized governance documents and valued the opportunity for community collaboration. This important work and impressive project list compiled by our members and carried out across the county has stemmed from conversations, planning and engagement at the Grand PLACES monthly meetings and beyond. Grand PLACES 2050 hired the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and Fountainhead Consulting for facilitation, applied for the CPW Outdoor Regional Partnership Initiative Grant, and worked together as partners to contribute significant funding to support the group's operations. Grand PLACES 2050 looks to the coming year with excitement and momentum to address the pressing challenges facing our mountain community.





# Participating Organizations

Grand PLACES 2050 is composed of the following members and partner organizations.



**Grand County**  
Colorado



**COLORADO  
HEADWATERS  
LAND TRUST**



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