



# Conservation Report

## May 2026

### 2026 Conservation Priorities:

- Beyond Carbon
- Wilderness and Wildlands
- Fountain Creek
- Urban Issues (including Open Space and Development, Recycling)
- Wildlife

### Beyond Carbon

#### Nixon Plant Decommission

State Senator Marc Snyder and State Representative Amy Paschal along with House Minority Leader Jarvis Caldwell (northern El Paso County) have introduced a new bill, SB 26-182 to replace SB 26-022, which would allow a shorter extension of the period of time by which CSU must meet 2030 clean energy goals, permitting it to delay meeting these goals and closing down Nixon by 3 years until December 31, 2032. A final Senate vote on this bill is scheduled for today, April 4, following which it would go to the House. Sierra Club is neutral on this version.

#### Rooftop Solar

CSU has completed its focus groups survey on net metering and plans to present it to City Council, acting as the Utilities Board Working Group in May, then develop a draft proposal in June, and present it to the Board for action in July.



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## **Nuclear Power**

CSU is strongly supporting use of nuclear power as a means of meeting its clean energy goals and will be taking part in a feasibility study on small modular reactors.

<https://www.cpr.org/2026/04/23/nuclear-reactor-colorado-springs-study/>

## **HB 26-1226**

The Sierra Club is supporting a bill in the Colorado legislature that would mitigate the impacts of federal orders requiring aging coal plants to continue to operate beyond their planned closure date. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb26-1226> Some of the provisions would specifically affect Colorado Springs Utilities if the Nixon plant continues to operate beyond its scheduled closure date at the end of 2029. The bill has passed the House Energy Committee with amendments.

## **Wilderness and Wildlands**

### **Roadless Rule Rescission**

The federal government is expected to release an updated proposal for rescission of the federal roadless rule and accompanying draft environmental impact statement, along with a request for additional public comments, by March 2026. A final decision is expected in late 2026. This rule change would not directly affect Colorado, which has a state-specific roadless rule. A comment period on a draft roadless rule rescission is expected shortly.

### **Pikes Peak thinning**

No new info



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## **Fountain Creek**

PPG joined with Roswell Neighbors in a cleanup of the Roswell Reach section of Monument Creek on May 2nd as part of the Great American Cleanup. The event was organized by Roswell Neighbors. Approximately 6 PPG members and supporters were among the approximately 20 participants.

## **Urban Issues**

### **Parks, Open Space, and Development**

#### **Parks Master Plan**

Colorado Springs has begun the process of updating its 2014 Parks Master Plan. <https://coloradosprings.gov/ParkSystemMasterPlan> The current timeline calls for a draft master plan to be tentatively released for a 1-month public comment period in the Summer of 2026, no release date has yet been announced and no public meetings have yet been scheduled.

#### **E-Bikes.**

No new info on impacts or whether City Parks has gathered info. [E-Bikes on City of Colorado Springs Trails | City of Colorado Springs](#)

## **Outdoor Pikes Peak Initiative**

The Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance (PPORA) proposal to have Colorado Parks and Wildlife would take a leading role in management of the Pikes Peak massif is reportedly moving forward. Jim attended their Outdoor Leadership Summit, April 10th. The event featured a keynote speech by Conor Hall, Director of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office. Jim attended two breakout sessions “Biking Toward a World-Class Destination” which focused on ways that the Pikes Peak Region could become a mecca for a broad range of mountain biking interests, including bikepacking on a completed Ring the Peak Trail and expert/extreme downhill mountain biking in the recently-acquired Pikeview Quarry, and “Fisher’s Canyon: A Climber’s Dream?”



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focusing on rock climbing in the new Fishers Canyon Open Space. Jim then took part in a roundtable discussion group focusing on resolving conflicts between recreational use and preservation of wild areas.

Colorado Springs Utilities has published a draft master plan for recreation on the North Slope of Pikes Peak.

<https://www.csu.org/hubfs/Document-Library/NSRA-Recreation-Plan-Draft.pdf?hsLang=en> It has been approved and finalized by City Council, acting as the Utilities Board.  
[North Slope Recreation Area recreational impact study](#)