

Impact Report

2024



Conservation
Colorado

Welcome From Our New Senior Director of Community Engagement



Hola comunidad,

For over two decades, I have worked at the intersection of community building, social justice and climate stability because I believe in our collective power to create meaningful change. This year is particularly special as we celebrate Conservation Colorado's 60th anniversary and the 10th anniversary of Protége, our Latino advocacy and leadership program that has contributed powerfully to the environmental movement by bringing in an essential voice missing in Colorado.

At the same time, we are embarking on an exciting new chapter: integrating all the Latino-led environmental work of Protége into our broader work under the new name Conservación Colorado for our work with bi-lingual and spanish speaking communities and launching a new Community Engagement Team. I'm honored to be leading this new team as its senior director. By becoming one unified brand, our name and new logo embody our commitment to integrating more voices, especially those of disproportionately impacted communities – diverse communities who face higher environmental and health burdens due to pollution and climate change – into our work.

By advocating more effectively for policies that benefit all Coloradans and building leadership that looks, sounds and feels like Colorado, we strengthen our community ties and enhance our collective power.

This renewed focus couldn't come at a more critical time. Thanks to your support, in 2024 we secured nationally leading climate policies, which you can read about on page 3. But as 2025 brings unprecedented uncertainty for our environment and communities, it's clear now more than ever that leadership on meaningful climate policy must come from the states. Conservation Colorado is determined to keep our state at the forefront of progress, while making sure community voices are reflected in our policies and politics. In that spirit, this report outlines the many ways you can be part of this effort.

I am so grateful for the members, advocates, leaders and partners like you who are fighting for a healthier, more just Colorado.

For Colorado,

Handwritten signature of Beatriz Soto.

Beatriz Soto

Senior Director of Community Engagement

Our Impact

In 2024, we fought to secure nationally leading policies on climate, air quality, land conservation, water and healthier communities—all while stopping an attempt by the oil and gas industry to roll back a decade's worth of climate progress. None of this would have been possible without the critical contributions of our members, partners, advocates, donors and supporters like you.

Here's how Conservation Colorado and the Conservation Colorado Education Fund each made an impact through their own work:



Passed 16 priority conservation bills into law



Secured one of the largest investments in Colorado's parks and wildlife



Secured historic funding for public transit, combating sprawl and promoting housing affordability



Secured meaningful reductions on ozone air pollution



Led and collaborated with 65+ partner organizations across more than 20 coalitions



Empowered 23 new leaders through our Climate Justice Leadership Academy and inaugural Boards and Commissions Fellowship—four of whom are currently serving on a board or commission



Hosted the first Colorado Climate Justice Summit, offering Latino and BIPOC youth and adults opportunities to expand their understanding and involvement in environmental and climate justice



Endorsed 80 candidates, including in primary and RTD races for the first time, with 85% of candidates winning their races. Of our endorsed candidates, 31% were candidates of color and 63% were female candidates



Our Impact

We are committed to fighting climate change, conserving public lands, keeping Colorado's rivers healthy and flowing and advancing environmental justice to ensure all Coloradans have equitable access to a healthy environment. Our key strategies include:

1



Building Colorado's conservation leadership

With rollbacks at the federal level, states like Colorado play a crucial role in ensuring a healthy environment. As we approach the 2026 state elections for governor, attorney general, secretary of state and legislative leaders, we are focused on developing the policy, partnerships, strategy and community engagement needed to ensure these leaders are prepared to enact bold environmental policies in 2027.

3



Fighting to clean up our air and hold polluters accountable

While Colorado remains a national leader in climate action, we are still falling behind in our goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030. To get back on track, we're pushing for stronger regulations to hold corporate polluters accountable, advocating for greener transit options to reduce emissions and accelerating the shift to renewable energy to provide clean, affordable and reliable energy for all Coloradans.

2



Protecting our communities and fighting for equitable access to a clean environment

We partner with disproportionately impacted communities—diverse communities who face higher environmental and health burdens due to pollution and climate change—to push for fair policies that reduce pollution, expand clean energy access and protect vulnerable populations from environmental harm. By promoting equity, diversity and inclusion, we ensure disproportionately impacted communities are represented and actively involved in efforts to protect the state we love.

4



Making progress to protect at least 30% of Colorado's lands and water by 2030

Achieving this ambitious goal will conserve nature and wildlife, connect people, mitigate the impacts of climate change, protect our economy and safeguard Coloradans' quality of life for generations to come.

Who We Are (And How You Can Support)

Conservation Colorado is a statewide organization that works at the intersection of policy and politics to advocate for solutions to environmental problems by organizing people, influencing decision makers and electing conservation-minded leaders.

Our mission is to protect Colorado's climate, air, land, water and communities through organizing, advocacy, education and elections. We believe that achieving racial, social and environmental justice are critical to this mission.

The Conservation Colorado family of organizations is comprised of six separate entities, each of which bring different tools to the work and allow us to move our state forward in different impactful ways. As the state's largest environmental organization, we are also one of the few in our field that focus on elections—because we recognize the importance of pro-environmental leaders and holding our electeds accountable.

A contribution to any one of our organizations empowers our mission. However, when you choose to invest in our multiple entities, you strengthen Conservation Colorado's unique ability to bring people, policy and politics together to protect our state's environment and communities. All six entities are legally separate, and any gifts made to one of our organizations are expended strictly in compliance with that organization's IRS status and any additional restrictions associated with the gift.

Conservation Colorado Education Fund

The Education Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization that conducts public education and community organizing. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Conservation Colorado

Conservation Colorado is a 501(c)(4) organization that works on advocacy and elections. Each year, the first \$50 of all eligible donations made to Conservation Colorado will be transferred to the **Conservation Colorado Small Donor Committee** to support pro-conservation candidates.

Conservation Colorado Action Fund

The Action Fund is a state political committee that makes direct contributions to pro-conservation candidates. Each individual can give up to \$725 in an election cycle to the Action Fund.

Conservation Colorado Victory Fund

The Victory Fund is a state independent expenditure committee that supports independent efforts to help elect pro-conservation champions and defeat candidates who stand in the way of environmental progress. Donors can give any amount to the Victory Fund.

Conservation Colorado Grassroots Action Fund

The Grassroots Action Fund works either in coordination or independently of candidates for local office depending on local election laws. Donors can give directly to local committees where we work.

Contributions to Conservation Colorado, Conservation Colorado Action Fund, Conservation Colorado Victory Fund, and Conservation Colorado Grassroots Action Fund are not tax-deductible because they are used to support our lobbying and election efforts

THE FUTURE IS WORTH THE FIGHT

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