



Elevate Conservation: Outdoors for All Summer 2025 Celebration Helps Kick off the Outside Festival in Denver

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PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

Denver, CO: Tonight, May 29, 2025, a coalition of over 20 conservation organizations, outdoor advocacy groups, and outdoor industry companies gathered with over 300 attendees for the 7th annual [Elevate Conservation: Outdoors for All](#) at the Basecamp at Market Station in Denver. The event's goal has been to foster and maintain the integral roles that conservation, climate change mitigation, sound public lands policies, and equity play in supporting a successful outdoor industry. The focus of the evening was to help kick off the Outside Festival, happening this weekend in Denver, and to "honor the intersection of outdoor recreation and conservation, celebrate the ways we already work together, challenge ourselves to do more, and acknowledge how equitable policies are good for us all."

Musicians included a welcome by the Denver Singers, a Native American drum and dancing group started in the 1970s that is composed of many different tribes and is now in their 2nd and 3rd generations of singers. DJ Adrian Garcia also played.

As with past events, the Elevate Conservation: Outdoors for All coalition of organizations and businesses honored the work of some people and organizations and offered space for those organizations to introduce themselves to participants along with how we can take action to support the honorees' work.

This year's honorees included the Members of the Colorado Congressional delegation who co-sponsored the EXPLORE Act and previous bills that ended up in one of the most consequential pieces of legislation to better our outdoor recreation experiences and economy - Senator Bennet and Representative Joe Neguse accepted the award. The other honorees were Colorado State Leadership on public lands represented by the passage of pieces like SJR25-009, opposing public lands sell off, HB25-1215, increasing funding for outdoor equity and recreation, and HB25-1332, elevating conservation on State Trust Lands - State Rep. Junie Joseph accepted the award.

Ernest House emceed the event, Maria Handley, Abby Levine, and Scott Jurek presented the awards.

*"Here in Colorado, we are deeply fortunate to be surrounded by the great outdoors and breathtaking landscapes — and we have a sacred obligation to treasure and protect these public lands for future generations. I was proud to work on a bipartisan basis last year to champion the EXPLORE Act, a generational investment in protecting our public lands and strengthening our outdoor recreation economy," said **Congressman Neguse**. "Now, more than ever, we must build on those efforts and advance further protections for public lands and our way of life in the Rocky Mountain West — and stand firmly against efforts to rollback and reverse the progress we've made."*

Colorado State Representative Junie Joseph, an honoree of the event said, "Passing HB25-1215 was important to me because it embodies my commitment to equity, education, and the environment. By investing in the Outdoor Equity Fund and public school infrastructure, we are expanding opportunities for all Coloradans. This legislation is a crucial step toward building a more inclusive and sustainable future for our state."

Organizations and brands participating included: Colorado Parks and Wildlife, NRDC, Conservation Colorado, Colorado Mountain Club, Colorado Office of Outdoor Recreation, Basecamp at Market Station, Conservation Communications, Klean Kanteen, The Wilderness Society, Lincoln Hills Cares, Conservation Lands Foundation, Trust for Public Land, Environment America, Sierra Club and Sierra Club Colorado, The Nature Conservancy, Rails to Trails Conservancy, Protect Our Winters, Alpacka Raft, League of Conservation Voters, Metro Denver Nature Alliance, Fat Tire, and The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition.

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For more information on the event participants and sponsors, see here: www.elevateconservation.com

Since 2018, [Elevate Conservation: Outdoors for All](http://www.elevateconservation.com), has brought together over 50 Colorado and national conservation organizations, outdoor industry companies, and diverse community leaders as hosts to honor the intersection of outdoor recreation and conservation, celebrate the ways we already work together, challenge ourselves to do more, and acknowledge how equitable policies are critical to our long term success.

We have come together to foster and maintain the integral roles that conservation, climate change mitigation, sound public lands policies, and equity play in supporting a successful outdoor industry.