Elevate Conservation: Outdoors for All Summer 2026 Celebration Helps Kick off the Outside Days in Denver

Date: Wednesday, May 27, 2026
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PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

Denver, CO: Tonight, a coalition of over 20 conservation organizations, outdoor advocacy groups, and outdoor industry companies gathered with nearly 300 attendees for the 8th 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 Days, 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 Cyn 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 Jackie Miller GOCO for creating the Generation Wild program and statewide leadership of Colorado Outdoor Strategy; as well as current and former federal land managers. Staff at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and others, are facing unprecedented challenges and uncertainty. We thank those professionals for their commitment to public service and for caring for our shared public lands. Tracy Stone-Manning, former Director of the BLM and current President of The Wilderness Society, provided remarks honoring these public servants.

Colorado State Representative Rick Taggart was also honored at a Grand Junction Colorado Public Lands Day event earlier this month for his work to support continued public ownership of our national public lands, improved equitable access to our great outdoors, and Colorado's outdoor recreation industry. In the last year, he has been a vocal advocate through sponsorship of HB26-1008 - the Colorado Outdoor Opportunities Act, a bill to support the balance of wildlife conservation and recreation, and support of SJR26-015 Protecting Colorado's National Public Lands, a resolution that reaffirms the General Assembly's support for public access and involvement in management of our public lands.

Eeland Stribling - Environmental comic and biologist who strives to find true life balance in the outdoors of Colorado was the Emcee and host.

"Coloradans and Americans across geography, ideology, and background strongly support public lands and want to pass them down to future generations, which is why bringing together this diverse, energized coalition at Elevate

Conservation is so important: because our wild places and public lands are for us all, and it will take all our voices to protect them," **said Tracy Stone-Manning, President of The Wilderness Society**. "At a time when the federal threats to our public lands are unprecedented and the agencies that manage them are under attack, our work has never been more important. I'm inspired by the energy and dedication of so many conservation organizations, businesses and individuals who are carrying the urgency of this moment into Outside Days Festival this week."

“Being part of Generation Wild has been one of the greatest honors of my career. What started as a bold idea from GOCO’s statewide network has grown into a powerful movement, thanks to the hundreds of partners, communities, and champions who have come together to connect Colorado kids to the outdoors,” **said GOCO Executive Director Jackie Miller.** “I’m proud to share that this same spirit of collaboration is driving Colorado’s Outdoors Strategy forward, with organizations, communities, and leaders stepping up to shape a more protected, connected, and accessible future for our outdoors. I’m deeply grateful to the partners advancing this work and helping ensure a strong future for our people, lands, and wildlife.”

“Public lands are integral to many of the things that have shaped my life. From my time in the outdoor industry, leading brands that were fueled by customers using our products on public lands to riding bikes and recreating on our public lands for my own health and well-being, these places have shaped so much of who I am. Sharing these experiences with people who haven’t always had access to these places, and ensuring they exist for future generations, is why I have championed policies like HB26-1008 Colorado Outdoor Opportunities Act, as well as supported SJR26-015 Protecting Colorado’s National Public Lands. These policies showcase how integral public lands are to Western Colorado, the people and wildlife that make this such a special place” **said State Representative Rick Taggart.**

Organizations and brands participating included:Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), The Wilderness Society, Conservation Colorado, Colorado Mountain Club, GOCO, Everyone Outdoors Colorado, Rising Routes, Basecamp, Colorado Office of Outdoor Recreation, Conservation Communications, Trust for Public Land, Conservation Lands Foundation, Sierra Club National and Sierra Club Colorado, Rails to Trails Conservancy, Nature Conservancy, Environment America, National Wildlife Federation, MiiR, New Belgium Brewing, National Wildlife Federation, Lincoln Hills Cares, Metro Denver Nature Alliance, 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, 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.