



2023 Legislative Issue Form

To propose a CCI legislative issue, please complete this form.

Feel free to use more than one page and include any supplemental materials.

1.) **Contact Information** (of person bringing forth issue):

- a. **Name:** Amy Mitchell
- b. **Title:** County Commissioner
- c. **County:** Park
- d. **Phone Number:** 719-838-0340 cell, 719-836-4210 office
- e. **E-Mail Address:** amitchell@parkco.us

2.) **Issue/Problem to be addressed** Maintenance of county roads that provide access to state parks. 29 counties have 42 state parks within their boundaries.

3.) **Background on this Issue/Problem:** With increased state park usage, the impact on county roads that provide access to state parks is exponentially higher than normal county traffic. These access roads quickly deteriorate with extreme use of trucks towing campers, trailers, boats and recreational vehicles. The residents living on and the visitors to the state parks are negatively impacted. This financial burden to maintain the county roads is severely impacting county budgets. In 2019 14.8 million people visited Colorado State parks. In 2020 the number increased to 18.3 million visitors (January-October with partial November and December data included). Lake Pueblo recorded 2.7 million visitors January through October 2020. Eleven Mile Reservoir visitor estimated increase from 300,000 to 400,000 2019 to in 2020. The use of county roads to access state parks is an unfunded mandate for the 29 counties containing state parks based on the current use and the intended increase attendance to state parks with the Keep Colorado Wild State Park Pass program, SB21-449. See attached State Parks list.

Additionally, State Wildlife Areas (SWA's) offer wildlife-related recreation to the public and cause additional use of county roads by visitors. Colorado Parks and Wildlife manages about 350 SWA lands around the State.

4.) **Proposed Solution/Legislative Remedy to this issue.** Until the Keep Colorado Wild pass is part of Colorado Motor Vehicle registration, add a road maintenance fee onto the standard annual park pass fee and disperse the fees per the proposed formula. Also add a fee to the daily state park pass. The fee collected at the entrance is distributed to that specific county for road maintenance.

After the Keep Colorado Wild pass is initiated, allocate a portion of the Keep Colorado Wild pass fee and a portion of the separate annual pass fee, to counties containing state parks using an allocation formula. **Suggested formula: number of miles of roads providing access to the park from a state road, factoring type of road, (paved, chip seal, dirt) plus number of visitors accessing the park.**

Though access is not tracked like state parks, the Keep Colorado wild fund should allocate road maintenances resources to the counties with SWA's. See attached map.

5.) **Have you explored a non-legislative solution to this problem?** Yes. Previous Park County Commissioners contacted Colorado Parks and Wildlife multiple times, beginning about 15 years ago asking for a road maintenance fee be added to the park entrance fee at Eleven Mile Reservoir for road maintenance. The requests were denied.

Please submit this completed form to Katie First at kfirst@ccionline.org

By Friday, July 8.



- 6.) **Statutory Citation to be modified AND proposed/revised language (The Colorado Revised Statute is available for free at [this link](#), by selecting “Colorado Revised Statutes”).**
TBD
- 7.) **Relationship of this issue to County Commissioner’s roles and/or authorities.** Specific to maintenance of county roads.
- 8.) **Has this proposal been approved by the Board of County Commissioners?** No formal proposal has been approved, but it is supported.
- 9.) **List any potential Proponents/Opponents & their perspective; indicate any groups/individuals with whom you have already discussed this issue.**
- 10.) **Have you visited with your legislator(s) about this proposal? What was their reaction? Are members of your delegation likely to sponsor, support, or oppose this proposal?** Discussion in process. Mark Baisley, Colorado Senate District 4 has agreed to sponsor and reserve a bill title for this legislation.
- 11.) **Anticipated Fiscal Impact (to counties, state, other stakeholders, etc.).** To be determined.
- 12.) **Please list the local subject matter experts CCI staff can follow-up with for more information on this proposal.** Park County Road and Bridge manager Darrell Evig provided the Park County specific road maintenance costs.
- 13.) **If your county is submitting multiple issue forms, please rank each issue.**

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