

## NEWS RELEASE

January 11, 2022

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**OUTDOOR**  
PIKES PEAK INITIATIVE

### **Public input needed to advance outdoor recreation and conservation planning** **Make your voice heard during Community Listening Sessions**

**Colorado Springs, CO** – The Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance (PPORA) wants to understand the public's desires and values for ensuring that Colorado remains a world-class outdoor destination while preserving our land, water, wildlife, and quality of life within the three counties of El Paso, Teller and Fremont. As the Colorado Outdoor Regional Partner for the Pikes Peak region, PPORA has launched the Outdoor Pikes Peak Initiative (OPPI) and is conducting a series of Community Listening Sessions to offer the public the opportunity to weigh in on what's important to them.

The listening sessions will take place **January 23 through 28, 2023** in six locations over the three counties, with both in-person and virtual options.

**Pre-register for any or all of the in-person and virtual Community Listening Sessions at: [www.OutdoorPikesPeakInitiative.org](http://www.OutdoorPikesPeakInitiative.org)**

- **Monday, Jan. 23**, In-person 5 p.m. and Virtual 7 p.m.  
Cheyenne Mountain Jr. High, 1200 W. Cheyenne Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80906
- **Tuesday, Jan. 24**, In-person 5 p.m. and Virtual 7 p.m.  
The Heritage Center, 9283 Hwy CO-67, Cripple Creek, CO 80813
- **Wednesday, Jan. 25**, In-person 5 p.m. and Virtual 7 p.m.  
The Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 E. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, CO 80863
- **Thursday, Jan. 26**, In-person 5 p.m. and Virtual 7 p.m.  
Pathfinder Regional Park Auditorium, 6639 Hwy 115, Florence, CO 81226
- **Friday, Jan. 27**, In-person 5 p.m. and Virtual 7 p.m.  
Pikes Peak State College, Centennial Campus Atrium, 5675 S. Academy Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO 80906
- **Saturday, Jan. 28**, In-person 10 a.m. and Virtual 12 p.m.  
Library 21c, 1175 Chapel Hills Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80920

“With the ever-growing increased use of our outdoor environment throughout the Pikes Peak region, we are at a critical point in needing solutions for protecting, preserving and enhancing our natural resources and recreation opportunities. These listening sessions are a crucial step in the process enabling the community to share ideas and concerns about the future of the outdoors and learn about the initiative,” said Becky Leinweber, Executive Director of its parent organization, Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance.

“Outdoor recreation and conservation are extremely important to the health and well-being of the citizens, economy, and environment of southern Teller County. It is vital that you participate in the OPPI Listening Sessions to provide valuable input and feedback so that informed decisions can be made. Citizen involvement in the process is invaluable and your voice matters,” said City of Cripple Creek Special Projects Director, Jeff Mosher.

The recent grant award of \$150,000 is the second through the Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative, following a \$75,000 award received in 2021, that is funding the OPPI plan. A diverse task force of land managers and conservation and recreation partners across El Paso, Teller, and Fremont counties is providing strategic leadership to the process. The goal is to produce a comprehensive and balanced Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Plan for the Pikes Peak Region by summer 2024.

For more information about OPPI and the January listening sessions, visit: [www.OutdoorPikesPeakInitiative.org](http://www.OutdoorPikesPeakInitiative.org). For OPPI updates, sign up [HERE](#).

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### **ABOUT PIKES PEAK OUTDOOR RECREATION ALLIANCE (PPORA)**

Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance’s mission is to strengthen the outdoor recreation industry for the Pikes Peak region through leadership and collaboration. PPORA’s work is rooted in 5 pillars: To GROW, INSPIRE, STRENGTHEN, STEWARD, ADVOCATE. Visit [www.ppora.org](http://www.ppora.org) to learn more about the organization and [www.pikespeakoutdoors.org](http://www.pikespeakoutdoors.org) for resources to enjoy the outdoors in the Pikes Peak region.

The [Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative](#) is funded jointly through Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Great Outdoors Colorado and was created to ensure that our State remains a world-class outdoor destination while preserving our land, water, wildlife, and quality of life. Read the full text of the [Executive Order B 2020 008](#) that helped create the Regional Outdoor Partnerships. Funding is designed to support new and existing coalitions that meet criteria under a State-level Vision and advance development of local and regional planning elements to inform a Statewide Conservation and Recreation Plan.