



2025
Annual Report



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About ECGC

The Eastern Colorado Grassland Coalition (ECGC) serves as a regional partnership under the Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Outdoor Regional Partnership Initiative, guided by Colorado's Outdoor Principles.

Mission:

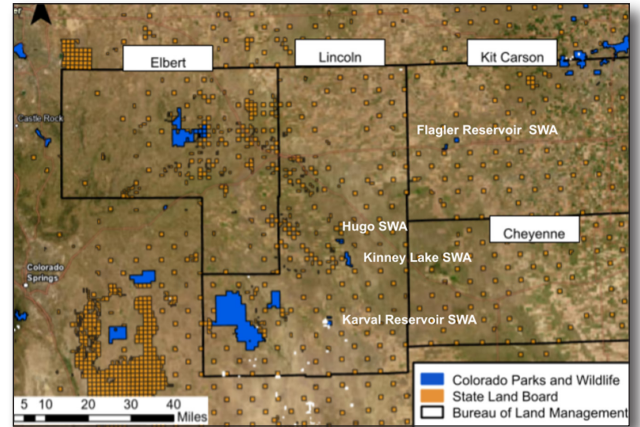
The Eastern Colorado Grassland Coalition works collaboratively to conserve and restore the region's grassland ecosystems while supporting responsible land use, outdoor recreation, and economic opportunities for local communities.

Vision:

A proud future where eastern Colorado's grasslands, croplands, and communities thrive, supporting biodiversity, sustainable land use, cultural heritage, and recreation for all.

Goals and Objectives:

- Conserve and Improve Habitat
- Sustainable Recreation and Public Access
- Landowner and Community Engagement
- Funding and Resource Development



ECGC represents Elbert, Lincoln, Kit Carson, and Cheyenne counties.

Core Values

Collaboration: Working across jurisdictions and with diverse stakeholders, including landowners, agencies, and communities.

Stewardship: Promoting responsible land use and ethical outdoor behavior.

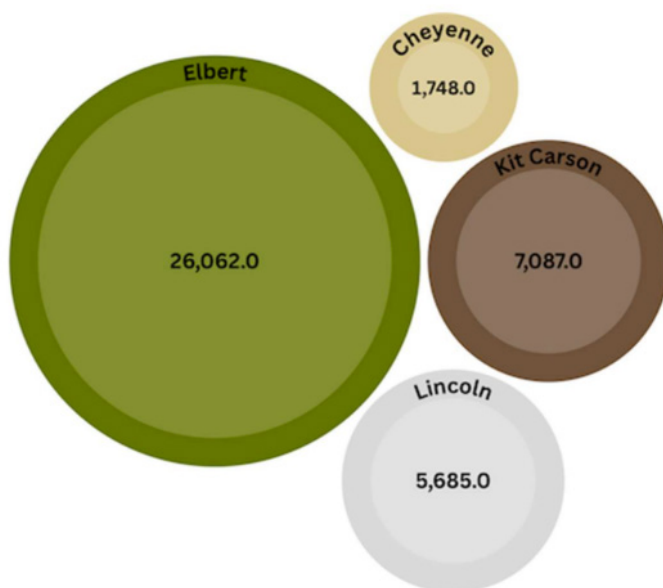
Resilience: Supporting land and water conservation.

Access and Inclusion: Ensuring equitable access to outdoor spaces and conservation opportunities.

Science-Based Management: Using the best available ecological and social science to guide conservation and recreation planning.

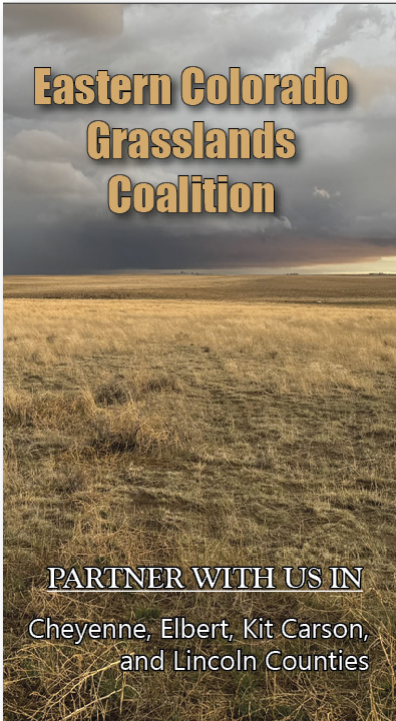
Sustainability: Balancing conservation, recreation, and economic needs for long-term benefits.

Communication: Sharing governance decisions, resources, opportunities, and best practices.



County populations in ECGC region.

2025: Year in Review



Regional Partnership Formation

The ECGC made great strides in 2025 toward establishing and building capacity for a Regional Partnership in eastern Colorado. Foundational tasks included:

- Developing a vision statement and foundational charter.
- Hiring staff to support the Coalition.
- Establishing Steering and Conservation Committees.
- Developing outreach tools.
- Facilitating stakeholder meetings.
- Participating in community outreach events.



Recreation

In June 2025, the ECGC hosted a **Family Fishing Day** at the Kinney Lake State Wildlife Area in Lincoln County. CPW provided free youth fishing poles and the Coalition sponsored lunch for 30 participants. ECGC intends to repeat this event again in 2026!

Conservation

More than 70 producers, agency representatives, and nonprofit partners gathered in October 2025 for ECGC's **Carbon, Cattle, and Collars Workshop** in Kit Carson, CO. Featuring a morning bus tour to local ranches that utilize virtual fencing and carbon programs for conservation, the event emphasized education, collaboration, and community engagement. An event survey also provided actionable insight for future Coalition activities.

EVENTS

Financial Summary

2025 Funding

Regional Partnership Initiative Grant

June 2024 - May 2026

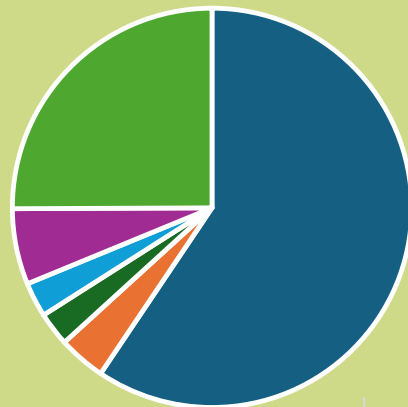
Award Amount.....	\$ 76,000.00
2024 Expenses.....	\$ 17,004.92
2025 Expenses.....	\$ 18,194.16
Remaining.....	\$ 40,800.92

The Nature Conservancy Grant

October 2025 - December 2026

Award Amount.....	\$ 50,000.00
2025 Expenses.....	\$ 2,500.00
Remaining.....	\$ 47,500.00

2025 Expenses



- Project Coordinator
- Equipment
- Meeting Facilitation
- Marketing & Outreach
- Graphic Design
- Administrative

Partners

ECGC Steering Committee

- Dan Merewether - Rancher, Karval Community Alliance
- Maggie Hanna - Central Grasslands Roadmap Initiative
- Sarah Albright - Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
- Peyton Burt - DNR Habitat Biologist
- Kelsey Pope - Rancher, Colorado Agritourism Board
- Tara Castaneda - Mile Hi Youth Corps
- Hailey Tresch - CPW (non-voting member)
- Tyler Kersey - CPW (non-voting member)

ECGC Conservation Committee

- Dan Merewether - Rancher, Karval Community Alliance
- Maggie Hanna - Central Grasslands Roadmap Initiative
- Sarah Albright - Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
- Peyton Burt - DNR Habitat Biologist
- Kelsea Mauk - Partners for Fish and Wildlife
- Lance Wheeler - Rancher
- Charlie Johnson - Rancher
- Zach Hurst - Playa Lakes Joint Venture
- Scott Stinnett - Colorado State University Extension
- Hailey Tresch - CPW (non-voting member)
- Tyler Kersey - CPW (non-voting member)

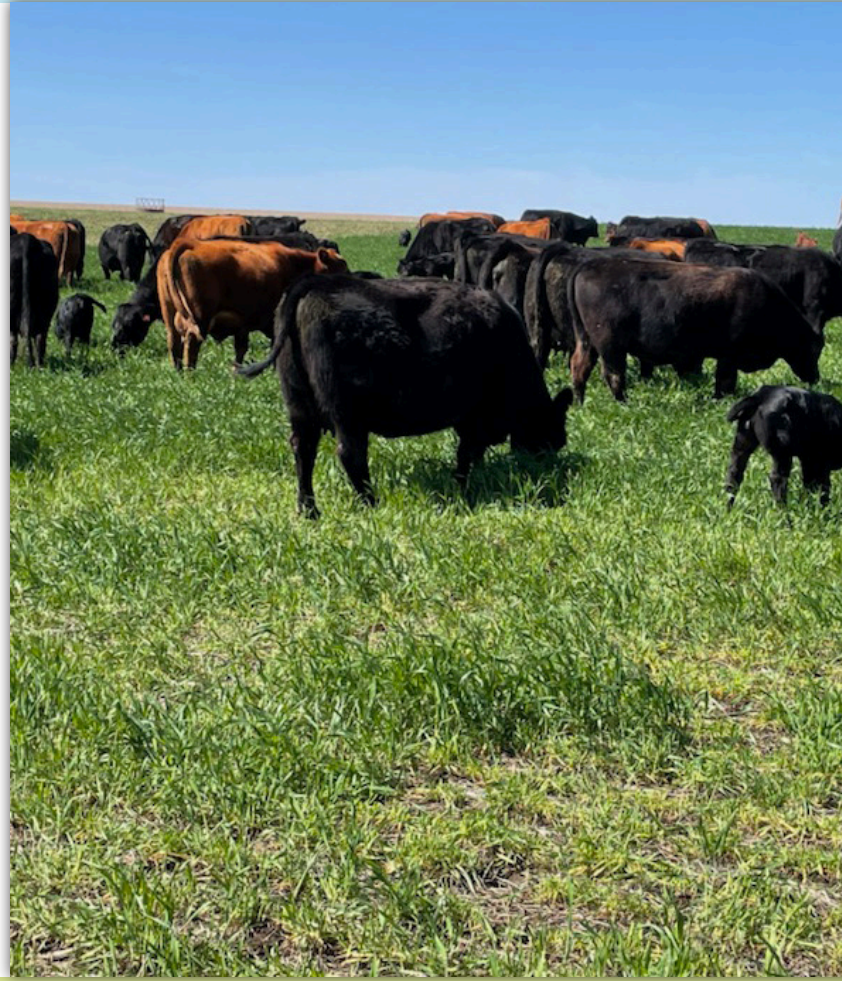


Looking Ahead: 2026 and Beyond

ECGC plans to prioritize connecting and collaborating with stakeholders across the region in 2026. The working committees for the coalition will also coordinate education and outreach events, such as:

- Educational Conservation Presentations
- Habitat/Wildlife Projects
- Cheatgrass Workshop
- Zeedyk Work Day
- Fishing Events
- Bike Ride Event
- Community Listening Sessions

This work will inform the development of a Conservation and Recreation Plan for the region and ensure future work remains driven by local needs and priorities.



Contact Information

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