

Greetings,

I am writing to follow up to the e-invitation you recently received for the upcoming Ouray Recreation and Conservation Alliance (ORCA) kick-off meeting. We are following up via email to ensure you have the necessary details prior to the meeting. The meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 21st from 5:00-7:00 PM** at the GEF Pavilions in the Pa-Co-Chu-Puk area of Ridgway State Park (near the park entrance). *Please see the attached meeting agenda with additional details, **as well as a map showing the meeting location**. Note that a Ridgway State Park pass will not be required to enter the park if you are only attending the ORCA kick-off meeting.*

How did we get here? With broad support, members of the organizing committee, listed below, worked together to apply for a grant from Colorado Parks and Wildlife to form a Regional Partnerships Coalition. The grant was awarded, and it funds the creation of a cooperative coalition in the Ouray region. Our coalition will work to build relationships and bridges across jurisdictional and land ownership boundaries to plan for wildlife and natural resource conservation along with the growing demand for recreation access. The aim for ORCA is to collaboratively address emerging issues and safeguard areas identified as significant for conservation, working lands, and recreation access in alignment with Colorado's 2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

For the past month, the organizing committee has been working to prepare for the kick-off meeting. Our committee is excited to further develop the ORCA concept with a larger group of stakeholders. On September 21st, we will host the first of several meetings aimed at understanding the recreation and conservation needs in the Ouray region. Eventually, with your help, we aim to develop a vision, mission, and group structure.

We hope that you'll be able to join us in person on September 21st. This meeting does not have a virtual attendance option. Please bring a jacket to be comfortable in evening temperatures at Ridgway State Park's covered outdoor pavilion. There will be universal masking except for those who cannot wear a mask due to a medical condition. If you are unable to join us on September 21st but wish to stay involved, please email orca@ourayco.gov to be added to the participant list.

We will look forward to seeing you next week!

With gratitude,

Commissioner Lynn Padgett on behalf of the Ouray Recreation & Conservation Alliance
Organizing Committee

Ouray County, City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, Gunnison County, Hinsdale County, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Ridgway State Park, the Ouray Ranger District of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests, the Bureau of Land Management, the

Uncompahgre Field Office, and the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, and the National Forest Foundation