



# Biennial Report 2017-18



WARNER COLLEGE  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

## From the Director

Dear Friends,

On the cover is an image of a fen wetland in the San Juan Mountains above Silverton. As Coloradans, these places are our backyards and we are fortunate to enjoy the many benefits nature provides. Even as our population grows and our lands are developed, the benefits of nature are still abundant.

The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) is committed to making sure our children also receive those benefits, from clean water and fresh air, to beautiful views, open spaces, wildlife, and wildflowers. The people of Colorado value these things greatly; for many of us, they are why we are here! Protecting nature's benefits requires us to be good stewards of the land and protect our inheritance - Colorado's natural heritage.

CNHP is focused on supporting the stewardship, management, and protection of Colorado's natural resources. The way we do that is unique, and it starts with data—the raw information that we and our partners use to do science. CNHP collects and carefully curates data on Colorado's natural resources to understand where species might live, check how they are doing, map priority landscapes for conservation, and many other things. But to get from data to conservation takes a few other really important steps that tend to get overlooked. Science has to be communicated, and it has to help people. It is only through helping people that we can earn trust and respect. Without trust and respect, there cannot be partnerships. Once we are working together in partnerships, we are ready to do the planning that will lead to successful conservation. We are very proud that CNHP is successful in all of these steps.

In 2017, we completed a new five year strategic plan to help guide us through all of these steps. Over the last two years we have connected with hundreds of partners, and thousands of people through our projects, reports, outreach, and teaching. We have supported the career development of many young people with professional roles and training, and are excited to continue to increase our role in helping emerging professionals.

I hope that you enjoy reading about our recent highlights. In an effort to save trees, we explore each topic Online. We are very excited about our new digital format. I'd love to hear what you think about it! View the full report:

[cnhp.colostate.edu/biennial-report](http://cnhp.colostate.edu/biennial-report)

Yours truly,

David G. Anderson

Photos: Joanna Lemly, cover; Vincent Del Conte, interior; Renee Rondeau, interior inset; Toryn Walton, back cover

# CNHP at a glance



**\$4,884,088**

total revenue over 2017-18

**DONATIONS: \$158,934**

**AWARDED: \$4,725,154**

**155+**

number of partner organizations including state and federal agencies, NGOs, educational institutions, consulting firms and researchers



**38,853**  
mapped locations

CNHP has mapped sensitive species and natural communities across Colorado in every county.



**1,801**  
tracked species

**46**

county surveys

**1,912** potential conservation areas



CNHP's potential conservation areas highlight areas contributing to Colorado's biological diversity.

## OUR VISION

Our vision is a future in which Colorado's native species and ecosystems are secure and thriving. We are committed to our role in helping our partners to actualize this vision. We support their decision-making needs and provide the science and data needed to conserve Colorado's natural heritage.

## Parachute Penstemon Monitoring

Parachute penstemon (*Penstemon debilis*) is a federally threatened plant species endemic to Garfield County, Colorado, and a Tier 1 species in the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) Rare Plant Addendum. Monitoring of population trends is a high priority for this species. CNHP is partnering with the Colorado Natural Areas Program to establish a long-term monitoring plot for Parachute penstemon to meet conservation goals.

## Bat Monitoring

Bats are increasingly threatened across North America. CNHP is working with state and federal agencies, private citizens, and recreationists to address survey and monitoring needs of bats in Colorado. We are involved in population surveys, roost monitoring, acoustic monitoring and data processing, and Colorado's implementation of the North American Bat Monitoring Program.

## Colorado Wetlands Information Center

Wetlands occupy less than 2% of Colorado's landscape, but are vital for clean water and healthy wildlife populations. The Colorado Wetlands Information Center (CWIC) is a comprehensive online resource for Colorado wetlands. In 2018, CNHP launched a modern and more user-friendly CWIC with interactive mapping tools and in-depth information on wetland types, wetland condition, and important considerations for working in wetlands. CWIC is an essential resource for professionals and private citizens interested in Colorado's natural resources.



## Private Lands Conservation

The majority of Colorado is privately owned. These lands include family farms and ranches that support prime farmland, wildlife habitat, water resources, and scenic vistas. Because of their richness, they deliver many benefits to Coloradans. Private land owners make conservation a priority for many reasons, and often it is to preserve the natural heritage of their property for current and future generations. CNHP has worked with private land owners for as long as we have existed and we offer a wide range of services that support private lands conservation in Colorado.

## Gunnison Basin Mesic Meadow Restoration

Gunnison Sage Grouse, a federally threatened species, is a sagebrush obligate with a complex life cycle. Biologists have determined that chick-rearing is the most vulnerable life stage, as the chicks must leave the sagebrush cover in order to find succulent plants and insects for survival. Wet meadows provide most of this food, yet most are compromised due to past disturbances. CNHP is part of the Gunnison Climate Working Group, dedicated to restoring wet meadows using simple hand-built rock or wood structures that reconnect the floodplain. As our climate warms, safe areas for Gunnison Sage Grouse chicks become more important than ever.



Accomplishments in 2017-18

**6,389** new mapped locations | **90** projects | **77** reports

Read the full biennial report at [cnhp.colostate.edu/biennial-report](http://cnhp.colostate.edu/biennial-report)



## SERVICE, SCIENCE, AND OUTREACH

Our home at CSU makes it easy for us to bring student interns into our collaborative, multi-source funded projects. Students learn skills, build resumes, network, and find success under the guidance of our passionate staff mentors. Through the vision and generosity of our donors, we are able to host a paid summer internship, the Siegele Conservation Science Internship, that is going into its fourth year in 2019. We also support the research of honor's undergraduate students through the Linda S. Hamilton Conserving Colorado award and regularly engage with students in classrooms across CSU as guest lecturers.

**1,680**  
students engaged  
in 2017-18



### CONTACT

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Colorado State University

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