



Colorado Mountain Club Conservation Department Structure, Roles, and Responsibilities October, 2009

Mission

The Colorado Mountain Club is organized to:

- Unite the energy, interest, and knowledge of the students, explorers, and lovers of the mountains of Colorado;
- Collect and disseminate information regarding the Rocky Mountains on behalf of science, literature, art and recreation;
- Stimulate public interest in our mountain area;
- Encourage the preservation of forests, flowers, fauna, and natural scenery; and
- Render readily accessible the alpine attractions of this region.

Vision

We connect people with the Colorado mountain experience. We are the premier membership organization providing human-powered mountain adventures that are safe, enjoyable, and environmentally responsible.

Conservation Department Purpose

The purpose of the department is to primarily plan and implement the conservation and stewardship goals and objectives of the CMC as directed by the Board of Directors and to secondarily support the goals and objectives of the organization as a whole. The goals of the CMC as established by the Board through strategic planning are:

1. Provide an excellent experience for members and prospective members.
2. To provide and encourage enjoyable, safe, environmentally responsible, human-powered recreation activities.
3. Teach mountaineering and outdoor skills to enhance safety, enjoyment, and the appreciation of the natural environment.
4. To sustain wilderness, wildlife, and native ecosystems in Colorado for the appreciation and enjoyment by current and future generations.
5. Provide an organizational structure and infrastructure that optimally supports the organization.
6. Build and sustain a strong, diverse financial base.

Composition

The Conservation Department is composed of staff supervised by the CEO. In addition, there is a Conservation Advisory Council of volunteers, both CMC members and nonmembers, that provide strategic advice and input to the department's work.

Duties of Staff

Staff of the Conservation Department have job descriptions that are routinely followed and with day to day supervision provided by the CEO. The Conservation Director is in turn the direct supervisor of non-management level department staff. In addition to job descriptions and other duties as assigned by the CEO, staff are responsible for the following:

1. Preparation of an annual department work plan and annual department budget, in advance of each fiscal year, or as otherwise directed by the Board of Directors or CEO.
2. Operation of the department commensurate to the budget each fiscal year.
3. Public representation of CMC on conservation related matters, including, but not limited to, preparation of written or oral statements, meeting with political or governmental representatives, dealings with media, approval in advance of any conservation related press releases from Groups or other sources.
4. Approval of public presentations by volunteers and oversight of work performed by volunteers representing the Club on boards or in other related activities.
5. Preparation of periodic conservation reports to the Board of Directors, CMC Groups, and Club publications.
6. Providing support to the groups in conformance with the annual work plan and overarching strategic plan.

Structure of the Conservation Advisory Council

1. The Advisory Council may have up to 15 members and will strive to represent unique voices of Colorado's conservation and human powered recreation community and be representative of the varied interests of the Club.
2. The Advisory Council will meet 2-4 times per CMC fiscal year. Meeting dates will be fully announced within the Club and open to attendance by interested members. Nonmembers of the Advisory Council will be encouraged to join the Club.
3. Members of the Council will be selected by the Conservation Director, under general oversight from the CEO. Council members will serve two (2) year terms and may be eligible to serve three (3) consecutive terms.
4. In the initial year (2009-2010), the Council will be chaired by the Director of Conservation. After the initial year, the Council will elect a Chair to serve a one (1) year term. No re-election will be possible.
5. It is desirable for at least one (1) CMC Board member to be a member of the Conservation Advisory Council to provide synergy and connectivity to the direction of the overall organization.

Connectivity to Group Committees

Each CMC Group that so chooses shall organize a Group level Conservation Committee, appoint leaders as necessary, and undertake activities as provided by its governing Group Council and any limitations imposed within these Guidelines. Committees shall cooperate fully with the Conservation Department when working on common

conservation issues. Groups may elect to have separate committees for Stewardship, Trail Maintenance, or Access. But work of any said committee is still to be overseen by the Conservation Department.

Scope of Department Interests

The Conservation Department can become involved in any issue – social, economic, technical, or political – that affects the CMC’s ability to achieve its mission or the stated purposes of the Department. The Department will involve itself primarily in environmental and stewardship issues of the Southern Rockies ecosystem. Regional and national issues may be pursued if they would affect the Southern Rockies ecosystem or establish precedents that may affect the Southern Rockies ecosystem.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Conservation Advisory Council

1. Provide advice and input to department staff in preparation of the annual work plan and annual department budget. In addition, the council will provide advice and counsel on issue work of the department, under procedures developed by the Conservation Director with assistance of the CEO.
2. Advise and conduct short and long-term planning within each of the four standing campaigns within the Conservation Department – Protecting Wildlands, Preserving the Quiet Experience, Stewardship, and Access.
3. Perform an annual review of the Conservation Department’s accomplishments with input from the Director of Conservation and will be submitted by the CEO to the Board of Directors every fall.
4. Assist staff in developing resources, particularly partnerships with land managers, academia, and other conservation-based non-profit organizations.
5. Provide guidance to the Director of Conservation and staff on funding opportunities.
6. Seek, develop, and attract new members to the Conservation Advisory Council.
7. The CEO may seek the advice and counsel of the Advisory Council on the hiring of management level Conservation Department staff.
8. Demonstrate familiarity with the CMC’s mission and strategic program goals and objectives as they relate to CMC’s Conservation Department.
9. Visit and/or participate in at least one CMC sponsored event, trip, or stewardship project.
10. Demonstrate knowledge of trends in environmental conservation, stewardship, volunteering and other factors affecting CMC’s Conservation Department and CMC’s overarching field of service.
11. Work with the Director of Conservation to supply informational memos to the board of directors about controversial issues and positions.

Conformance with Board Policies and Procedures

Nothing in this charter shall endeavor to work in opposition to any CMC Board of Directors policy, procedure, or recommendation.