

# ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF HIPCAMP PROPERTIES

## Land conservation through camping on private land

 PARK COUNTY, COLORADO

### NATURAL LANDS

Nearly 2,400 acres of Park County's natural lands are listed on Hipcamp.

### ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

These lands provide ecosystem goods and services that support livelihoods, wellbeing, and a sense of place.

### BENEFITS TO COMMUNITIES

The average Hipcamp property in Park County provides over \$800,000 in benefits, every year.

### HIPCAMP ECOSYSTEMS



**GRASSLANDS**  
1,248 ACRES



**SHRUBLANDS**  
342 ACRES



**WETLANDS**  
305 ACRES



**DEVELOPED OPEN SPACE**  
63 ACRES



**FORESTS**  
417 ACRES



**ALL OTHER LANDS**  
17 ACRES

Local landowners in Park County partner with Hipcamp to make their properties available for camping and other outdoor experiences in natural grasslands, forests, wetlands, and open green spaces. These properties range from 160-acre family homesteads bordered by national forest and old growth bristlecone pine stands to working cattle ranches and former scout camps. The nearly 2,400 acres currently listed on Hipcamp provide multiple benefits to Park County communities, such as cleaning the air and water and providing habitat for wildlife. It is estimated that Hipcamp properties generate over \$40 million in benefits each year—that's \$16,700 per acre, every year.

# \$40 MILLION

THE ANNUAL VALUE OF ECOSYSTEM GOODS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY LOCAL HIPCAMP PROPERTIES



# NATURE'S SERVICES SUPPORT RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND HUMAN WELLBEING

Ecosystems produce goods and services we depend on everyday—from clean water and air, to thriving fisheries, protection from storms, beautiful views, and recreational opportunities. Identifying the economic value of these goods and services can highlight the importance of natural capital to our communities.

## SOME ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF HIPCAMP PROPERTIES



**AESTHETIC QUALITY** Hipcamp properties in Park County contribute to the county's beautiful landscapes—views that are inspiring to campers and others who visit and appreciate these aesthetic qualities. **These services have been valued at \$11,500 an acre, totaling \$27 million per year in the county.**



**CARBON SEQUESTRATION** Ecosystems help regulate local and global climate stability, capturing and storing carbon in plants and soils. Forests, grasslands, and wetlands play critical roles, absorbing carbon and mitigating climate change damages. **Hipcamp properties in Park County sequester \$199 million of atmospheric carbon each year, an average of \$83 an acre per year.**



**EROSION CONTROL** Vegetated areas help control soil erosion—thus maintaining soil fertility, improving the soil's capacity to process waste, and helping improve the quality of rainwater that runs over the soil. **These erosion control services have been valued at \$2.70 an acre, totaling \$6,400 per year in the county.**



**RECREATION** Beautiful landscapes, clean water, and thriving wildlife are central to outdoor recreational experiences. Camping, swimming, birdwatching, and picnicking are all enhanced by healthy natural capital. **The recreational benefits Hipcamp properties provide to visitors—beyond what they pay out of pocket—are estimated at \$820 per acre in the county, totaling \$1.9 million each year in nonmarket value.**

