

COLORADO | DOGE Impacts on Public Lands Workforce

Overview

President Trump's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) hit Colorado's public lands harder than any other state. Colorado ranks **1st nationally** and **1st among western states** in total public land agency job losses.¹

Across federal land management agencies, including the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service, employment of **Colorado residents dropped by 1753 jobs in 2025**. That is a 26% loss across the public lands workforce in Colorado.

Workforce losses by agency in 2025

Agency	Colorado Staffing Net (%) Change in 2025
Forest Service	-337 (-19%)
National Park Service	-294 (-28%)
Geological Survey	-282 (-26%)
Bureau of Land Management	-336 (-36%)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	-126 (-31%)
Bureau of Reclamation	-317 (-27%)
Indian Affairs	-12 (-13%)
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	-7 (-88%)
Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement	-35 (-47%)
Office of the Inspector General	-7 (-11%)

Source: [US Office of Personnel Management](#)



Impacts

America's public lands — our national forests, parks, wildlife refuges, and rangelands — are the source of drinking water for millions, habitat for fish and wildlife, grazing land for ranchers, and the economic lifeblood of rural communities. The staff in our parks and public lands are essential to ensuring these places remain safe, accessible, and well-managed. Colorado has lost mission critical jobs impacting public land management, rangeland conservation, outdoor recreation, wildfire preparedness and response, and water resources planning.

Compared to the end of 2024:

- **Natural Resource Science:** Colorado has 11% fewer regional hydrologists, 13% fewer ecologists, and 36% fewer soil scientists.
- **Rangeland Management:** Colorado has 60% fewer range technicians and 20% fewer rangeland managers, who help keep grazing lands healthy, resilient, and viable.
- **Emergency Response:** Colorado has 27% fewer dispatchers — the individuals responsible for coordinating the prioritization and deployment of personnel and equipment in emergency response efforts.

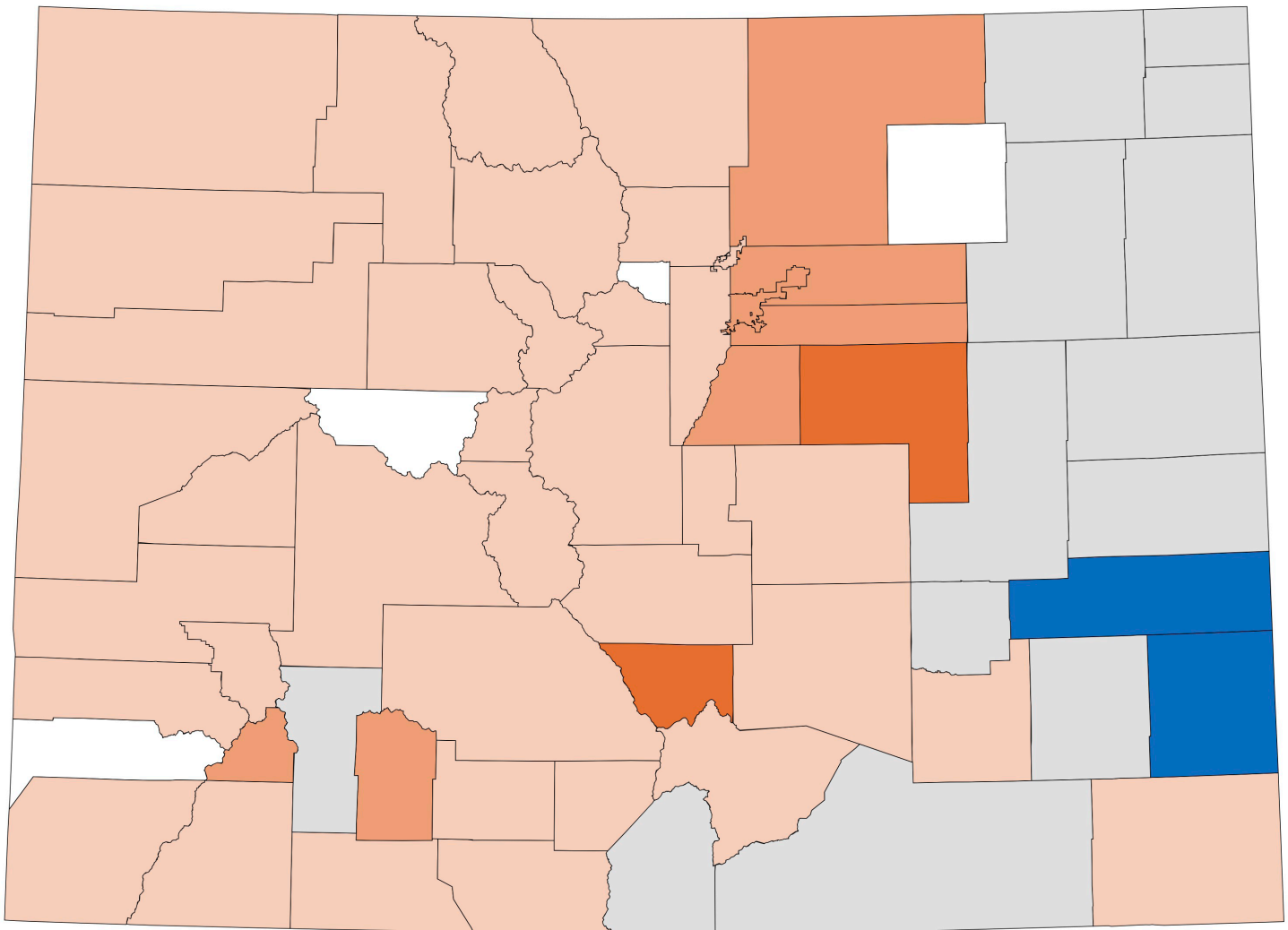
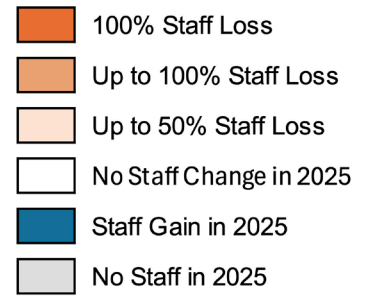
Continued on the back...

Impacts

Frontline employee losses were staggering: 36% of reductions in Colorado targeted junior and probationary employees, the newly hired federal employees who are the foundation of visitor services, field operations, and emergency operations.

Nearly one third of the drop in Colorado's headcount comes from the reassignment of staff from regional offices to the Department of the Interior Headquarters, including mission critical staff in grants management, human resources, and contracting. This shift of personnel from the field to Washington, DC increases the risk of bureaucratic bloat and loss of agility, especially during the wildfire season.

Percent Change in Federal Land Agency Employment (2025)



Powered by Bing
© GeoNames, TomTom

1. Analysis by Prospect Partners, LLC and Hawk Eye Strategies, LLC of US Office of Personnel Management data obtained March 5, 2026 from <http://data.opm.gov>.