



The Colorado Association of Ski Towns (CAST) is a membership organization unlike any other in the U.S. or abroad. It was founded on the premise that mountain resort communities face challenges and issues that are different in scope than those in the larger towns and cities along Colorado's Front Range. Because we offer this unique perspective, we have members from Utah, Wyoming, Idaho and British Columbia.

CAST meets five times a year to network, share information, and listen to speakers and presentations on relevant issues such as water, transportation, affordable housing, tourism, climate change and sustainability.

History

In June of 1979, representatives from Aspen, Breckenridge, Crested Butte, Dillon, Frisco, Mt. Crested Butte, Snowmass Village, Steamboat Springs, Telluride, Vail and Winter Park agreed to form an association to assure that their mutual problems could be resolved more satisfactorily through a joint effort, and to insure that their needs were better understood by elected and appointed officials of Colorado and the nation. Critical issues identified at this initial meeting included housing, transportation, a balanced economy, and relationships with the USFS, ski corporations and the State of Colorado. The original Articles of Association were signed on August 25, 1979. The organization has evolved over the years, and today is a well-respected voice on mountain town issues.

Purpose

CAST was created with the following intentions:

To cooperate between Colorado cities and towns immediately impacted by the skiing industry in the improvement of municipal government;

To study the needs and render such services as may be proper for the further enrichment of Colorado ski cities and towns;

To assist in the securing of legislation enactments beneficial to the number of municipalities and to oppose all legislation deemed injurious thereto;

To hold conferences, or meetings at such times and places as may be determined for the discussion of mutual affairs of member cities and towns and to adopt measures for the betterment thereof;

In general, to do all acts and things necessary, proper and expedient for the welfare and benefit of municipalities and the citizens thereof impacted by the skiing industry.

Value & Benefit

Members share the benefits of their diverse knowledge, experience and leadership through meetings, conferences, surveys and other informational venues, as decided by the membership. CAST members say the greatest benefit is the social networking and information sharing that goes on at meetings and dinners.

CAST members use the power of the coalition to seek support for legislation that will benefit and sustain the mountain communities. The organization supports actions that keep mountain communities livable, protect its pristine environment, and promote community-based land use, mass transit, affordable housing, and sustainable tourism.

The organization engages in issues of importance to our members. CAST has long been involved in dealing with the impacts that VRBO and Airbnb are having on our mountain communities. A 52-page comprehensive study and best practice guide was commissioned by CAST in 2015.

CAST gathers sales tax data from each of its members and prepares a quarterly comparative Sales Tax Report.

If one mountain town is facing a challenge, it is almost certain that another CAST member has tackled that same issue. CAST distributes topic-specific surveys to members, compiles the responses, and shares the results with the entire membership.

CAST will send a team of experts to help member towns on issues they're grappling with through the Member-to-Member Task Force Assistance program. For example, Estes Park had housing issues after a recent flood, so CAST sent a team to tour the town, meet with the mayor, manager, town council, housing authority, etc. and develop a report with suggestions and recommended actions.

Membership

Members are municipalities that are largely dependent on the ski industry and tourism and include: Aspen, Avon, Basalt, Blue River, Breckenridge, Crested Butte, Dillon, Denver, Durango, Estes Park, Fraser, Frisco, Glenwood Springs, Grand Lake, Gunnison, Ouray, Minturn, Mt. Crested Butte, Mountain Village, Pagosa Springs, Silverton, Silverthorne, Snowmass Village, South Fork, Steamboat Springs, Telluride, Winter Park, and Vail.

Associate Members are Summit County, Eagle County, Gunnison County, Keystone Neighborhood Group, Beaver Creek Resort Company, Jackson Hole, Moab, Teton Village Association, Ketchum, Whistler, Teton County, and Park City.