



**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 towns and cities along Colorado's Front Range and Eastern Plains. Because we offer this unique perspective, we have members from Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, California, and British Columbia.

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

### **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 ensure 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 resort issues.

### **Value & Benefit**

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

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

The organization engages in issues of importance to members. CAST has long been involved in dealing with the impacts of short term rental on our mountain communities. A comprehensive study and best practice guide on this subject was commissioned by CAST in 2015. The 2021 Mountain Migration Study looked at the impacts the COVID-19 pandemic had on resort community economies and communities.

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 and 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, Carbondale, Crested Butte, Dillon, Durango, Estes Park, Fraser, Frisco, Glenwood Springs, Granby, Grand Lake, Gunnison, Keystone, Leadville, Minturn, Mt. Crested Butte, Mountain Village, Ouray, Pagosa Springs, Salida, Silverthorne, Snowmass Village, Steamboat Springs, Telluride, Vail, Winter Park.

Associate Members are Summit County, Eagle County, Gunnison County, Grand County, Routt County, Pitkin County, Chaffee County, Lake County, City of Denver, Keystone Neighborhood Group, Beaver Creek Resort Company, Copper Mountain Resort Association as well as Jackson, WY; Park City, UT; Moab, UT; Teton Village Association, WY; Teton County, WY; Ketchum, ID; Whistler, BC; Big Sky Resort Area District, MT; Mammoth Lakes, CA and Mono County, CA.