

*Taishya Adams is a passionate and dedicated servant leader laser focused on justice and liberation through community building, personal transformation, and systems change. With over 25 years of experience across the country and the world, Taishya serves at the intersections of education, health, workforce, science, and environment. Collaborating with multidisciplinary stakeholders to strengthen access, representation, meaningful participation and quality, Taishya is committed to fighting the good fight for our each other and our planet. Taishya is the Policy Director and Colorado Co-lead for Outdoor Afro. Outdoor Afro is a nationwide network with 90 volunteer leaders in 30 states guiding thousands of outdoor events each year based on a simple mission to celebrate and inspire African American connections to nature. As Policy Director, Taishya engages with our networks, policy makers, and mission aligned organizations on education, health, and environmental policies affecting Black people and the planet. She also leads the implementation of Outdoor Afro's policy priorities at the federal, state, and local levels. In 2019, Taishya was appointed by Governor Jared Polis to serve on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission – the first African American woman in the Commission's history – where she provides oversight on Colorado state parks and wildlife management. Previously, Taishya worked at American Institutes for Research as a Senior Education Equity leveraging policy, research, and practice to strengthen public education. Taishya also worked with the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, the DC Public Charter Schools Board, Global Classrooms Washington, DC, and the Children Defense Fund Freedom Schools. Taishya is the founding Board President of New Legacy Charter School – a public charter high school and early learning center for teen parents and their children in Aurora, Colorado. In addition to Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission, Taishya also sits on the Colorado Nature Areas Council, and the Conference on World Affairs at University of Colorado Boulder. Taishya holds a MA in International Education from George Washington University and a BA from Vassar College in Political Science and Film.*

