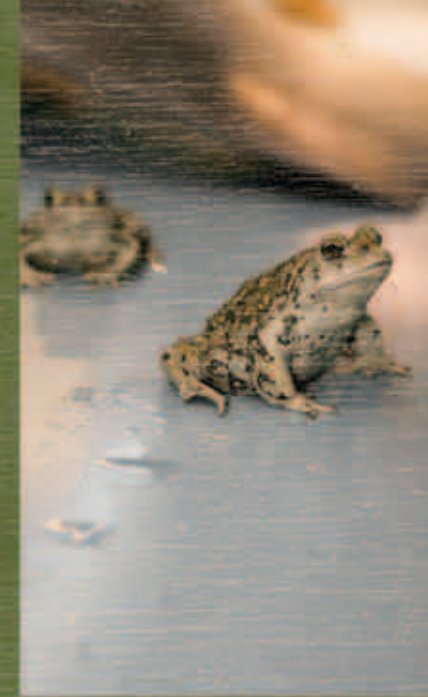




303 E. 17th Avenue  
Suite 1060  
Denver, CO 80203  
303.226.4500

Facsimile 303.863.7517  
[www.goco.org](http://www.goco.org)  
[info@goco.org](mailto:info@goco.org)



# 2012 FACT BOOK

GOCO'S INVESTMENT OF  
LOTTERY PROCEEDS



**Cover Photos** (clockwise from top left):

**Lafayette Community Skate Park**  
Boulder County

*Photo courtesy of the City of Lafayette*

**Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area**  
Chaffee County

*Photo courtesy of Colorado Parks and Wildlife*

**Boreal Toad**

*Photo courtesy of Colorado Parks and Wildlife*

**Fruitlands Forever Initiative**  
Mesa County

*GOCO Photo*

The **Great Outdoors Colorado** (GOCO) Trust Fund Board is responsible for keeping citizens, elected officials, and the media informed about how it meets its Constitutional mandate to help “preserve, protect, enhance and manage the state’s wildlife, park, river, trail and open space heritage” with Lottery dollars.

This publication is one of the reporting mechanisms developed to keep you aware of the GOCO Board’s activities. It highlights the questions most frequently asked about Lottery funds, and the Board’s process and authority.

The GOCO Board is interested in your questions, comments, critiques and project ideas. Contact GOCO at 303.226.4500 or at [info@goco.org](mailto:info@goco.org).



# HOW LOTTERY PROCEEDS ARE DISTRIBUTED

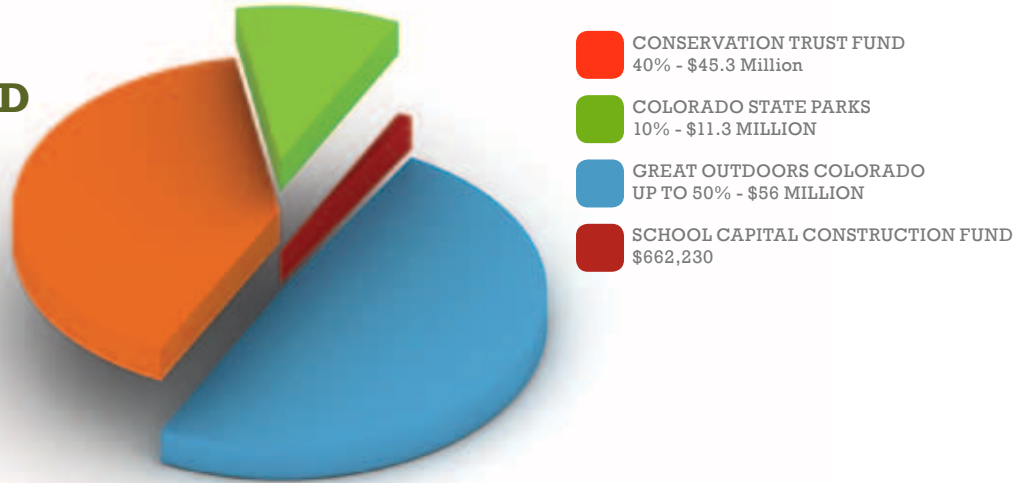
The distribution of Colorado Lottery proceeds is set forth in Article XXVII of the Colorado Constitution—the Great Outdoors Colorado program—enacted by voters in 1992.

**Despite the Amendment’s title, Great Outdoors Colorado receives only a portion of Lottery proceeds.** In fact, three distinct and separate outdoor funds are designated in Article XXVII. Only one of these funds is overseen by the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Trust Fund Board. Additionally, a cap is placed on the total amount of funding GOCO receives each year; once that cap is reached, all additional proceeds are distributed to the Public School Capital Construction Assistance Fund.

**Lottery proceeds are allocated as follows:**

- 40% goes to the Conservation Trust Fund, which equaled \$45.3 million in FY 2011. These funds are distributed to local governments, and park and recreation districts on a per capita basis to use for parks, recreation and open space.
- 10% goes to Colorado’s State Parks—\$11.3 million in FY 2011—for state park and outdoor recreation projects.
- Up to 50% goes to the GOCO Trust Fund, which is capped at \$35 million in 1992 dollars adjusted for inflation. In FY 2011, GOCO received \$56 million in Lottery proceeds.
- In FY 2011, \$662,230 over the GOCO cap was distributed to the Public School Capital Construction Assistance Fund.

**LOTTERY PROCEEDS DISTRIBUTED IN FY2011**



# WHAT GOCO FUNDS

The Colorado Constitution requires GOCO to allocate its proceeds substantially equally over time to four areas:

**WILDLIFE**

“Investments in the wildlife resources of Colorado through the Colorado Division of Wildlife, including the protection and restoration of crucial wildlife habitats, appropriate programs for maintaining Colorado’s diverse wildlife heritage, wildlife watching, and educational programs about wildlife and wildlife environment.”

**OUTDOOR RECREATION**

“Investments in the outdoor recreation resources of Colorado through the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, including the State Parks system, trails, public information and environmental education resources, and water for recreational facilities.”

**OPEN SPACE**

“Competitive grants to the Colorado Divisions of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and Wildlife, and to counties, municipalities, or other political subdivisions of the state, or non-profit land conservation organizations, to identify, acquire, and manage open space and natural areas of statewide significance.”

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

“Competitive matching grants to local governments or other entities that are eligible for distributions from the Conservation Trust Fund, to acquire, develop, or manage open lands and parks.”



# GOCO'S GRANT PROGRAMS

From its four funding areas and in close consultation with grantees and citizens, GOCO has developed a variety of grant programs:

- Conservation Excellence grants
- Grants for larger projects—including Legacy and Special Opportunity grants—that draw from one or more of GOCO's four funding purposes
- Local government park and outdoor recreation grants, including Mini grants for smaller projects
- Open space land conservation grants
- Outdoor recreation investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Planning grants
- Trail grants
- Wildlife investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife

## Grant Cycles

While the dates of every grant cycle are decided by the GOCO Board and vary each year, GOCO generally offers two grant cycles annually—in the spring and the fall—for its Local Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Mini, Open Space, Planning, and Conservation Excellence grant programs.

Applications for GOCO's spring grant cycle are typically due in March with grant decisions made by the GOCO Board in June. Applications for GOCO's fall grant cycle are typically due in August with decisions made by the GOCO Board in December. Trail grants are offered each year through the Colorado State Trails Program, which GOCO helps fund. Visit <http://parks.state.co.us/Trails/> for details.

GOCO offers Special Opportunity grant cycles periodically to address the needs of grantees beyond what is offered in GOCO's regular grant cycles and to forward the goals set forth in the Board's strategic plan. GOCO is offering a Special Opportunity grant cycle in Fiscal Year 2012 for projects centered around river corridors.

All grant cycle dates and deadlines are posted online at [www.goco.org](http://www.goco.org) as soon as they are finalized by the GOCO Board. Grant applications are available at [www.goco.org](http://www.goco.org) or by calling 303.226.4500.

# WHAT GOCO GRANTS & INVESTMENTS ACCOMPLISHED IN FY2011

In Fiscal Year 2011, the Great Outdoors Colorado Board awarded \$52.9 million in Lottery funds for 189 projects in 51 counties. Projects preserve land including wildlife habitat, provide new and enhanced community outdoor recreation areas, protect wildlife species, improve existing facilities at state and local parks, and expand the state's trail system. Included in the total amount GOCO awarded in FY 2011, is a \$1 million grant to the Colorado Youth Corps Association that created 400 land stewardship jobs statewide for youth and young adults at no cost to taxpayers. Because of the GOCO/Lottery grant, youth corps crews are working to maintain and help develop trails, parks, open space and wildlife habitat projects throughout Colorado.

## GOCO grants awarded in FY 2011 are helping to:

- Protect more than 20,680 acres of open space in perpetuity, including land along river corridors and in mountain valleys, land for wildlife habitat, agricultural land, and land in urban areas.
- create or enhance 54 community parks and outdoor recreation areas including skate parks, ballfields and playgrounds. Fifteen of these grants were to small communities to assist them with projects costing \$60,000 or less.
- help construct, maintain, plan and design trails throughout the state by helping to fund 10 trail projects through GOCO's continued partnership with the Colorado State Trails Program.

- Create 400 outdoor land stewardship jobs throughout Colorado for youth and young adults at no cost to taxpayers through a \$1 million grant to the Colorado Youth Corps Association.
- support Colorado wildlife by funding 14 projects for non-game species and habitat protection, and opportunities for Coloradans to watch and learn about the state's vast wildlife.
- support Colorado's state parks by funding 45 projects to enhance facilities, provide quality experiences for visitors, and expand environmental education opportunities.
- advance 17 efforts that help communities produce plans to protect and enhance open space, wildlife habitat and parks.

GOCO continues to keep its administrative expenses low, including its operating expenses, Board expenses and capital investments. Throughout GOCO's history, these expenses have totaled approximately 3% of total revenues—substantially less than interest earned on cash dollars.

# HOW THE GOCO BOARD IS ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PUBLIC

The Board takes seriously the enormous responsibility the citizens have given it to allocate these public funds and works hard to be an accountable organization. The Board:

- has adopted bylaws.
- has adopted the State Code of Ethics and Board norms.
- has adopted the Colorado Open Meetings Law.
- is subject to an annual audit by the State Auditor presented to the Legislative Audit Committee.
- must provide an annual report to the Governor, Colorado General Assembly and Colorado citizens.
- regularly conducts stakeholder meetings with citizens who represent organizations with involvement or expertise in each of GOCO’s funding categories to set grant award criteria.
- has conducted five extensive public hearing processes in conjunction with formulating four strategic plans and one rule-making.
- holds one-half of all Board meetings outside the Denver metro area.
- commissioned four statewide surveys to identify citizen priorities for use of Lottery proceeds and to gain a better understanding of Coloradans’ preferences for open space, parks, outdoor recreation and wildlife.
- commissioned three surveys of eligible grant recipients to assess the grant process and where additional technical assistance should be provided.
- holds grant writing workshops twice a year throughout the state.

## WHAT GOCO CAN’T DO

- The Board does not have the power to regulate. It only makes grants to willing recipients.
- The Board itself does not have the authority to acquire any interest in real property. The Board makes grants to eligible agencies and organizations to acquire interest in real property.
- The Board does not have the power of eminent domain. GOCO dollars cannot be used to acquire real property by condemnations.
- The Board cannot have an effect on Colorado water law. However, it can make grants to purchase water for recreational purposes or for aquatic habitat restoration or enhancement pursuant to Colorado water law.

# GOCO BOARD STRUCTURE & MEMBERS

The structure of the 17-member GOCO Board is designed to provide representation to all parts of the state based on population:

- There must be two members from each congressional district.
- No two members from one congressional district can be from the same political party.
- One member of the Board must represent agricultural interests.
- Two members must live west of the Continental Divide.
- The Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and representatives from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission are members.

The Board is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate.

**Congressional District 1**  
Peggy Montaño (D), Denver  
James Smith (U), Denver

**Congressional District 2**  
Christian Meyer (R), Erie  
Matt Sugar (D), Winter Park

**Congressional District 3**  
Thomas Burke (R), Grand Junction  
Alan Schwartz (D), Snowmass Village

**Congressional District 4**  
Philip James (U), Fort Collins  
Chana Reed (R), Lamar

**Congressional District 5**  
Heather Carroll (D), Colorado Springs  
David Palenchar (R), Colorado Springs

**Congressional District 6**  
Timothy Daly (D), Evergreen  
Thomas Swanson (R), Evergreen

**Congressional District 7**  
Jacy Rock (U), Golden  
James Spaanstra (D), Lakewood

**Colorado Department of Natural Resources**  
Mike King

**Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission**  
James Pribyl

**Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission**  
Robert Streeter

**GOCO Executive Director**  
Lise Aangeenbrug