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GOCO invests a portion of annual Colorado Lottery revenues in trails, parks, wildlife, open spaces, river corridors, playgrounds, and Youth Corps in all 64 counties through competitive grants. Created by a vote of the people in 1992, GOCO is managed by an independent board and uses no tax dollars. It also provides direct support to Colorado Parks & Wildlife programs and facilities. Lottery revenues also support the Colorado Conservation Trust Fund and school construction.



Annual Report designed by *Signify*.
Cover photo by *Sean Sheridan*.

GOCO

GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO

Annual Report
2014

TRAILS

PARKS

WILDLIFE

OPEN
SPACES

RIVERS

GOCO is here to ensure that today's youth not only inherit the same state you know and love but are also invested in **preserving, protecting, and enhancing Colorado's great outdoors.**



GOCO by the NUMBERS

Since GOCO's inception in 1992:

3:1 DEMAND
FOR REQUESTED VS. AVAILABLE FUNDING

INVESTED IN efforts supporting **43** ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES

CREATED & ENHANCED OVER **1,000** community parks & outdoor recreation areas

OVER **\$400M** invested to date in Colorado Parks & Wildlife

INVESTED IN MORE THAN **8,000** youth corps members through the Colorado Youth Corps Association

RESTORED/RECONSTRUCTED **850** miles of trails

MORE THAN **750** miles of rivers protected

ADDED OVER **47,000** acres to the State Parks system

MORE THAN **1 MILLION ACRES** have been protected through fee simple acquisition or conservation easements

Challenges Ahead

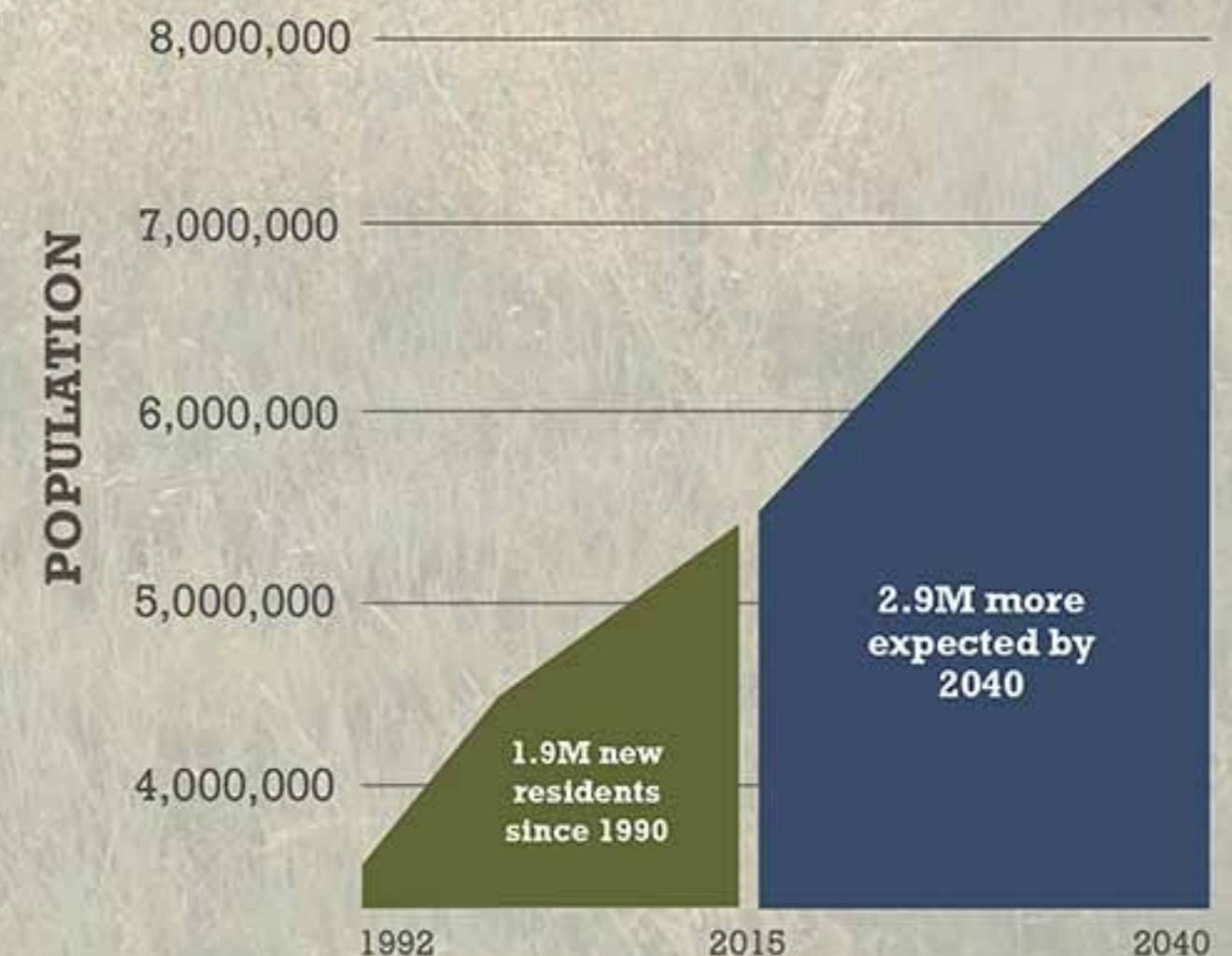
Loss of Land

2.5 MILLION acres of ag land lost in the last **40** YEARS

ONE MILLION MORE could be lost by 2030
THAT'S MORE THAN **10x** THE SIZE OF Rocky Mountain National Park

The Demand Continues

Population Growth



Economic Impact

- Outdoor recreation contributes **\$34.5 billion** to the Colorado economy, creating **313,000 jobs** in the state.
- Wildlife activities account for **over \$5 billion** of economic output in Colorado, supporting **nearly 50,000 jobs** within the state.

What is GOCO DOING?

As Colorado becomes more populated and diverse, GOCO works efficiently to meet growing demands for outdoor space and recreation.

This means **listening carefully and crafting programs to fund the various types of projects people want in their backyard and in the back country.**

FY2014 Funding & Projects

- 215 grant applications seeking \$53.3 million in funding
- 98 projects funded for a total investment of \$32.1 million
- \$61.5 million in matching funds leveraged
- Projects from 38 counties awarded funds

For a complete list of GOCO grants by county, visit goco.org/find-projects. For a complete list of grants from the last fiscal year, go to goco.org/grantlist.

Funded 27 local parks and outdoor recreation projects to better serve Colorado communities, including skate parks, an off-road bike park, and an outdoor ice rink.

Protected 17 properties in 13 counties, ensuring that over 55,000 acres of open space and agricultural lands are preserved forever.

Transformed 24 school play yards into engaging spaces for outdoor learning, affecting nearly 10,000 children.

Completed the final portion of the Colorado Riverfront Initiative, connecting 50.5 miles of continuous trail in Mesa County with an overall investment of nearly \$10 million to date.

Invested in Colorado Parks & Wildlife's launch of the Schools and Outdoor Learning Environment (SOLE) program in an effort to connect students, teachers, and their families to the outdoors.

How GOCO RESPONDS

The fall 2013 flooding wreaked havoc across the Front Range. Since then, **we have invested nearly \$5 million in helping affected communities repair beloved parks, trails, and recreation facilities that residents rely upon daily.**

Pictured: Bear Creek after the City of Lakewood's Bank and Channel Restabilization Project was completed.



THIS YEAR | 14 COMMUNITIES RECEIVED FUNDING TO RESTORE PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND TRAILS | \$1 MILLION INVESTED IN MEADOW PARK TO RESTORE A CRITICAL SOURCE OF INCOME FOR THE TOWN OF LYONS | OVER \$2.5M INVESTED IN TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION AND RESTORATION



THIS YEAR | 24 UPGRADED SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS SERVING NEARLY 10,000 KIDS | 12 NEW COMMUNITY PARKS | 3 NATURE-BASED PLAYSCAPES | NEW ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES | \$500,000 INVESTED IN CUATRO VIENTOS/ FOUR WINDS PARK (PICTURED), THE FIRST PARK FOR DENVER'S WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD IN 25 YEARS

Engaging YOUTH

Today's youth spend half the amount of time outdoors that their parents did, but connecting with nature is integral to kids' mental and physical well-being. Moreover, **children who learn and play outdoors grow up to be future stewards of Colorado's beloved natural heritage.**



Employing YOUTH

GOCO employs hundreds of youth each year to respond to flood and fires, rehabilitate trails, launch attacks on invasive species that lower the water table, and accomplish other vital tasks through GOCO grants and Colorado Parks & Wildlife projects.



THIS YEAR | PROJECTS FUNDED IN 14 COUNTIES, INCLUDING WILDFIRE RESTORATION IN ROYAL GORGE PARK | \$1 MILLION INVESTED IN EMPLOYING YOUTH FOR GOCO AND COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE PROJECTS | 20,506 HOURS FUNDED FOR PROJECTS IN 14 COUNTIES, INCLUDING WILDFIRE RESTORATION IN ROYAL GORGE PARK | 628 ACRES OF INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES CLEARED | 200 ACRES OF TREE THINNING COMPLETED | 11 MILES OF TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE AND 2.5 MILES OF RIVERBANK RESTORATION PERFORMED



photo credit: Sean Sheridan

THIS YEAR | \$11 MILLION INVESTED IN COLORADO'S STATE PARKS | 16 TRAILS CONNECTED, CONSTRUCTED, OR IMPROVED, INCLUDING THE MANITOU SPRINGS INCLINE | WATER ACCESS IMPROVED OR CREATED ON 4 DIFFERENT COLORADO RIVERS | \$4 MILLION INVESTED IN PATHS TO PARKS INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE ACCESS AND CLOSE GAPS IN TRAILS, INCLUDING 45 MILES OF CONTINUOUS TRAIL FROM CHATFIELD TO BRIGHTON

Enhancing **PARKS & TRAILS**

GOCO invests in both state and community parks so Colorado families can either head to the hills or just walk around the corner to enjoy the great outdoors. **Connecting trails to parks and schools will improve access and safety.**



Protecting **OPEN SPACE**

Colorado's history is deeply entrenched in its land, rivers, and wildlife, but over 1 million acres of open space are projected to be lost between 2000 and 2030. As our state's population continues to grow, **Colorado's natural resources and open spaces need protection more than ever.**

THIS YEAR | 55,000 ACRES OF ECOLOGICAL AND AGRICULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE PRESERVED FOR SCENIC BYWAYS AND CRITICAL HABITAT | 42 MILES OF RIVERS AND STREAMS PROTECTED | NEARLY \$300,000 INVESTED IN ADVANCING MANAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP OF COLORADO'S OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

Supporting **WILDLIFE**

It's important for Colorado to grow gracefully in order for the nearly 1,000 species within our great state to survive and thrive. Colorado boasts a diverse habitat with 12 different biotic zones represented throughout the state. **The preservation of the state's rivers, plains, and mountains is vital to the survival of species that also call Colorado home.**



THIS YEAR | \$11 MILLION
INVESTED IN WILDLIFE HABITAT
ACQUISITION THROUGH
COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE |
MORE THAN 5,000 ACRES OF
HABITAT AND MIGRATION
CORRIDORS PROTECTED
FOR THREATENED AND
ENDANGERED SPECIES |
400 ACRES OF CRITICAL IN-
HOLDINGS ACQUIRED IN STATE
WILDLIFE AREAS | \$600,000
INVESTED IN WETLAND AND
RIPARIAN HABITAT RESTORATION

GOCO FINANCES

GOCO has awarded grants from lottery proceeds for:

- Local government park, outdoor recreation and environmental education facilities projects.
- Outdoor recreation and wildlife enhancement projects through the Colorado Parks & Wildlife.
- Open space projects.
- Trail projects.
- Special opportunity and "Legacy" projects that integrate parts of GOCO's four constitutionally-mandated funding categories.

Administrative expenses over time are approximately three percent of total revenues, substantially less than interest earned on cash balances. GOCO is not tax-supported.

For our complete 2014 financial statements, visit goco.org/resources. For past audit reports, contact us at info@goco.org.

REVENUES | GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO REVENUES ARE PRIMARILY FROM LOTTERY PROCEEDS AND INTEREST INCOME.

| REVENUES | FY 2013-2014 | AMOUNT TO DATE |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Lottery Proceeds | \$60,321,412 | \$909,257,601 |
| Interest & Other Income | \$470,966 | \$37,205,056 |
| Total Revenues | \$60,792,378 | \$946,462,657 |

EXPENDITURES | GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO EXPENDITURES INCLUDE PAYMENTS TO GRANTEES AND COVERING ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES INCLUDE OPERATING COSTS AND BOARD EXPENSES.

| EXPENDITURES | FY 2013-2014 | AMOUNT TO DATE |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Grant Expenditures | \$41,410,211 | \$866,415,872 |
| Administrative Expenses | \$1,819,297 | \$32,095,135 |
| Total Revenues | \$43,229,508 | \$898,511,007 |

BUDGET | FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 ESTIMATED BUDGET

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Lottery Proceeds | \$61,500,000 | Grant Expenditures | \$50,000,000 |
| Interest & Other Income | \$260,000 | Administrative Expenses | \$2,182,000 |
| Total Revenues | \$61,760,000* | Total Expenditures | \$52,182,000* |

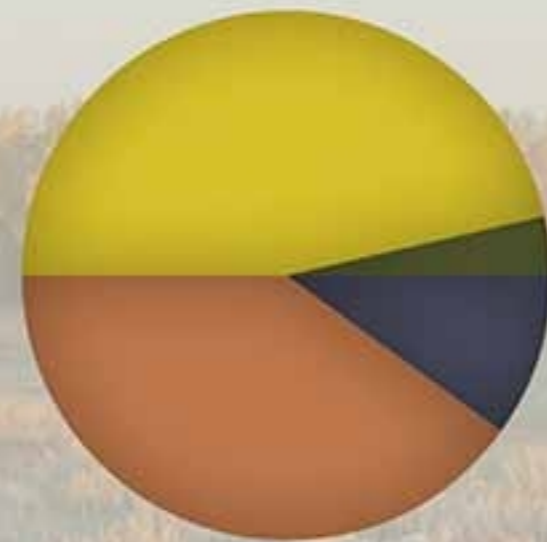
Grant Authorizations: The GOCO Board has approved a spending plan for FY2015 of grants and investments not to exceed \$53.2 million.

**Difference between budget revenues and expenditures reflects monies designated for prior grant obligations.*

GOCO MISSION

Constitutional Mandate

The Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund was created in 1992 when voters approved Amendment Article XXVII to the Colorado Constitution to allocate Colorado Lottery proceeds. It directs a portion to GOCO for projects that preserve, protect and enhance the state's wildlife, park, river, trail and open space heritage, and created a board of trustees to govern distribution. The text is available at goco.org/amendment.



| | |
|--|--------------------------------------------------------|
| | CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 40% - \$52.1 million |
| | COLORADO STATE PARKS 10% - \$13 million |
| | SCHOOL CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION FUND 5% - \$4.7 million |
| | GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO Up to 50% - \$60.3 million |

GOCO GOVERNANCE

An Independent Board

Board members decide how GOCO allocates its funds and which projects receive grants. They are responsive to communities' needs while remaining accountable as the trustees of public funds. More information is available at goco.org/board.

Members by Congressional District

- 1: Peggy Montaño (D), Jim Smith (U), both Denver
- 2: Matt Sugar (D), Winter Park; Tom Swanson (R), Evergreen
- 3: Tom Burke (R), Grand Junction; Alan Schwartz (D), Snowmass Village
- 4: Chana Reed (R), Lamar; Jody Rogers (U), Yuma
- 5: Heather Carroll (D, chair), Dave Palenchar (R), both Colorado Springs
- 6: Jason Brinkley (R), Linda Strand (D), both Aurora
- 7: Jacy Rock (U), Golden; Jim Spaanstra (D), Lakewood

State Agency Representatives

Natural Resources: Mike King
Parks and Wildlife Commission: Gaspar Perricone, Jim Pribyl

GOCO Leadership

Lise Aangeenbrug, Executive Director

U - Unaffiliated

The Constitution requires GOCO to allocate funds to four areas in substantially equal portions over time:



STRATEGIC PLAN

GOCO conducted a 14-stop Listening Tour across the state in 2014 to hear what Coloradans had to say about investments in the outdoors for the next five years. We also conducted a poll of the public and our stakeholders, invited feedback through our online survey, and conducted focus groups with youth and other groups. We've heard you, and now we're working diligently on our next Strategic Plan. The first draft will be available for public comment in early 2015 at goco.org/strategicplan.