



GOCO

GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO

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Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) receives half of Colorado Lottery proceeds each year, and invests that funding in improving Colorado's trails, parks, wildlife, open spaces, and rivers.

Created by a vote of the people in 1992, GOCO is managed by an independent board and uses no tax dollars.



Colorado Parks and Wildlife programs and facilities receive half of GOCO's funding each year for state parks and wildlife work.

El informe anual está en español a goco.org/informe.

Designed by **Laura Hartgerink, Signify, LLC**.
Cover photo by **Ashley Gisoldi**, courtesy of **The Nature Connection**.



GOCO

GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

PROTECT

CONNECT

INSPIRE

People from around the world come to Colorado for its renowned outdoor recreation, wide open spaces, and stunning scenery. And yet, we face the same issue as the rest of the country.

Kids today spend less than half the time outside that their parents' generation did.

But Coloradans are doing something about that.

In 2018, GOCO doubled down on our commitment to build the next generation of outdoor lovers. Nature is a stress reliver and creativity builder, and it helps us be better people. But just as importantly, the great outdoors is something that nearly all Coloradans hold dear.

In Colorado, 75% of people identify as conservationists and 75% as outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

GOCO's work will ensure those values endure, and that our next generation will take care of Colorado into the future. Our mission is to best serve the people of Colorado and what they care deeply about.

We do this by continuing our work to conserve land for people and wildlife and by building trails and parks that ensure equitable access to the outdoors for every person lucky enough to call this spectacular state home.



Pictured: Grant Frontier Park in Denver. PHOTO BY MOXIE82INC.

GOCO At-a-Glance

Projects funded in FY 2018*



KEY

- Inspire/Generation Wild Coalition
- Park/Planning
- Habitat Restoration
- State Park
- Wildlife Project
- Land Conservation
- Trail
- School Playground

In FY 2018, our grantees put GOCO funds to work for:

98
PROJECTS
FUNDED

INVESTED IN
41
counties

nearly
50,000
KIDS IMPACTED

28 SPECIES
OF WILDLIFE PROTECTED



21 RURAL
COMMUNITIES
FUNDED



64,816
ACRES CONSERVED
AND **138** acres of habitat
RESTORED



19 local
PARKS
improved



GOCO also funds regional and statewide projects through our conservation excellence grant program and Colorado Parks and Wildlife, which receives half of our funding. Find out more at GOCO.org/cpw.

*GOCO's FY 2018 ran from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

Serving Colorado

Since our inception in 1992:

3:1 DEMAND
FOR REQUESTED VS. AVAILABLE FUNDING

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

CREATED & IMPROVED MORE THAN **1,600** community parks and outdoor recreation areas **\$1.2 BILLION**

TRANSFORMED **56** school playgrounds that serve **21,000** STUDENTS IN LOTTERY PROCEEDS INVESTED BACK INTO COLORADO

5,209 projects were funded in all **64** COUNTIES | **EMPLOYED 9,400** young people through the Colorado Youth Corps Association

RESTORED/RECONSTRUCTED **900** miles of trails

NEARLY **1,000** miles of rivers protected

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

MORE THAN **1.2 MILLION ACRES** have been conserved

Economic Impact



OUTDOOR RECREATION contributes **\$28 billion** to the Colorado economy, creating **229,000 jobs** in the state.

Outdoor Industry Association: Outdoor Recreation Economy Report (2017).

HUNTING AND FISHING contribute more than **\$2.8 billion** to Colorado's economy.



Colorado Parks and Wildlife Fact Sheet (2017).



Grants from GOCO and the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) support **11,800 jobs** and **\$507 million in labor income.**

The Trust for Public Land: The economic benefits of Great Outdoors Colorado and the Conservation Trust Fund (2018).

GOCO grants and the state's conservation easement tax credit program's investments in land conservation have resulted in **\$13.7 billion** in benefits for Coloradans, a **\$4-\$12 return for every dollar spent on conservation.**

Colorado State University: Investing in Colorado (2017).



OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL SPENDING in local and regional parks in Colorado created **\$4.6 billion in economic activity** and supported over **36,000 jobs** in 2013.

2014 Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and 2013 Economic Impact of Local and Regional Park Agencies' Spending study.

Protect

GOCO created the Protect Initiative as part of its 2015 strategic plan to conserve more land for wildlife and people.

In FY 2018*, GOCO funded two projects that will achieve both of those goals.

Fisher's Peak, the iconic backdrop to the City of Trinidad, will be opened to the public for the first time in decades. It will fill a gap in available parks and trails for locals and establish Trinidad as an outdoor recreation destination.

Sandstone Ranch near Larkspur will be turned into a public open space to alleviate crowding at other popular Douglas County destinations, along with preserving unique red rock scenery.

THIS YEAR

\$11 MILLION AWARDED

21,238 ACRES OF LAND PROTECTED, AN AREA THAT COULD FIT 518 MILE HIGH STADIUMS

2 UNIQUE PUBLIC ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES CREATED

*GOCO's FY 2018 ran from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. This annual report summarizes those funding decisions.

THIS YEAR

\$8.9 MILLION AWARDED TO BUILD TRAILS
ACROSS THE STATE

5 TRAIL PROJECTS FUNDED TO BUILD 6.5 MILES
OF TRAIL

\$11 MILLION IN LOCAL FUNDING
LEVERAGED

Connect

Trails are more than just a way to get from point A to point B.

Trails get people out of their cars and into their communities. They attract economic development. They bring people together and make communities thrive.

GOCO's Connect Initiative helps communities embark upon bold new visions of what trails can do to connect people to the great outdoors.

Inspire

Bringing change *to* a community is not the same as empowering change *within* one.

GOCO invested in 15 locally led Generation Wild coalitions to look inward and decide what solutions would best serve their communities when it came to getting kids outside.

Our funding brought unprecedented levels of collaboration amongst local governments, schools, and nonprofits across sectors to elevate the voices of community members, particularly the youth themselves.

In FY 2018*, we awarded more than \$14 million in funding to help them bring their visions to life, advancing innovative work to drive equitable access to the outdoors.

THIS YEAR

43,000 KIDS IMPACTED

\$14.125 MILLION AWARDED

\$4.125 MILLION IN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE COLORADO HEALTH FOUNDATION, THE BOETTCHER FOUNDATION, AND DAVITA

983 JOBS CREATED

15 COALITIONS WITH 233 PROGRAM PARTNERS WORKING TOGETHER TO GET MORE KIDS OUTSIDE



*GOCO's FY 2018 ran from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. This annual report summarizes those funding decisions.

Pictured: A boy from the San Luis Valley coalition enjoys a day at Valleybound Summer Camp at Orient Land Trust. PHOTO BY STACY CANDELARIA, COURTESY OF CONEJOS CLEAN WATER.

GOCO created Generation Wild to reconnect kids with nature and encourage them to experience the incredible adventures waiting right outside their front door.

In 2018, we started seeing results.

Not only did GOCO invest \$14.1 million in grants in 15 Generation Wild coalitions, in 2018 we also completed the first full year of a statewide marketing campaign to get kids outside.

One highlight of the effort: 55% of moms surveyed said Generation Wild encouraged them to get their kids outside more often.

Our work is just getting started. As we lift up the work of our coalitions, we also spread the Generation Wild message broadscale with new tips and inspiration for parents, grandparents, and others in the lives of Colorado children.

Because kids grow better outside.

Visit GenerationWild.com to learn more and download the list of 100 Things To Do Before You're 12.



Pictured: Children play in the Generation Wild fort at the Denver Flagship REI store.
PHOTO COURTESY OF SUKLE ADVERTISING AND DESIGN.

THIS YEAR

\$1 MILLION AWARDED

138 ACRES OF HABITAT RESTORED, FIXING ISSUES LIKE EROSION, POOR WATER QUALITY, AND RISK OF FLOODING

39 MILES OF STREAMS AND OTHER WATERWAYS RESTORED

75 ACRES OF TREES THINNED TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK

3,600 NEW PLANTS AND TREES ADDED TO PARKS AND OTHER AREAS

2,035 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER LABOR

226 YOUNG ADULTS EMPLOYED

Taking Care of Colorado

Natural beauty doesn't always mean untouched. Colorado's trails, wildlife habitat, and waterways often need a little human intervention to ensure our state isn't loved to death.

Building trails, removing invasive weeds, and thinning trees from overcrowded forests to reduce severity of wildfires are all part of taking care of the outdoor places we enjoy.

GOCO funds these projects through our habitat restoration and Youth Corps programs. We also supported the Statewide Stewardship Initiative, a project by the Colorado Outdoor Stewardship Coalition that's advancing common stewardship best practices and creating a unified approach to measuring stewardship project success.

Local Parks

GOCO funding helps Colorado communities build the parks, trails, and other recreation amenities that get people outside.

Whether a small town wants to upgrade its fishing pond or a city aims to bring nature into its neighborhoods, GOCO grants help make it happen.

Across the years, we've funded playgrounds, athletic fields, bike parks, splash pads where kids cool their heels on hot summer days, and a world-class ice park – a true winter haven.

Each project brings an array of benefits for the community.

THIS YEAR

\$4.9 MILLION AWARDED

16 RURAL COMMUNITIES RECEIVED FUNDING

3 RIVER PARK PROJECTS FUNDED

3 FISHING AREAS TO BE UPDATED

136 ACRES OF NEW PARKLAND TO BE ACQUIRED

6 BALLFIELDS TO BE IMPROVED

6 TRAIL PROJECTS FUNDED

5 MASTER PLANNING PROJECTS IN THE WORKS

1 RODEO ARENA TO BE UPDATED

THIS YEAR

\$5.1 MILLION AWARDED

33,578 ACRES PROTECTED

\$9.8 MILLION IN LAND VALUE DONATED BY
LANDOWNERS

13 LAND CONSERVATION PROJECTS FUNDED

2 PILOT PROJECTS TO ADDRESS THE FUTURE
OF LAND TRUST FUNDRAISING IN COLORADO

140 MILES OF RIVER PROTECTED

8 WORKING RANCHES KEPT IN AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION

4 NEW AREAS FOR PUBLIC RECREATION

8,000 ACRES OF SCENIC VIEWS

Open Space

As Colorado continues to grow, it's important to balance the need for development with permanently conserving space and protecting our water resources.

GOCO funds projects that sustain local agriculture and economies, give outdoor recreationists a place to play (or simply to enjoy the view), protect wildlife habitat, safeguard the state's water supply, and improve conservation best practices to help make sure we keep Colorado great.

School Yard Initiative

A local school's playground can often be the closest place for kids and their families to get outside. But in Colorado, many schools have decades-old playgrounds and campuses with uninspiring vacant lots.

With the help of GOCO grants, students are leading the charge to redesign the outdoor spaces at their schools to create inspiring places to play and learn.

GOCO-funded elementary schools are also eligible to participate in Colorado Parks and Wildlife's School and Outdoor Learning Environments (SOLE) program, which provides teacher training, family nature nights, and other outdoor education opportunities.

THIS YEAR

\$823,773 AWARDED

63% AVERAGE FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH RATE AT FUNDED SCHOOLS

ON AVERAGE, FUNDED SCHOOLS HAD PLAYGROUNDS THAT WERE 4 DECADES OLD

8 PLAYGROUNDS FUNDED

4,059 STUDENTS IMPACTED

THIS YEAR

\$16.6 MILLION INVESTED

1 HISTORICAL BUILDING SAVED

9.3 MILES OF WINTER TRAILS TO BE
MAINTAINED WITH STEAMBOAT LAKE STATE
PARK'S NEW GROOMER

\$1.3 MILLION INVESTED IN TRAILS PROJECTS
ACROSS THE STATE

\$25,000 INVESTED TO COVER COSTS OF FRESH
AIR FRIDAY, A FREE DAY IN STATE PARKS THE
DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING

13 STATE PARK OPERATING BUDGETS
SUPPORTED

8 CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AT
STATE PARKS FUNDED

State Parks

Half of GOCO's funding supports Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), including our state's 41 state parks.

GOCO funding goes beyond state park boundaries though, helping CPW carry out its work to support the outdoor recreation needs of Coloradans in every corner of the state. Statewide programs help build trails, reduce wildfire risk, remove invasive weeds, and more.

GOCO funds also support CPW's volunteer and internship programs.

Wildlife

GOCO invests half of its funding in Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) each year with \$15.1 million invested in wildlife projects during FY 2018.

That funding supports efforts to preserve and improve wildlife habitat and to help protect the hundreds of diverse species that call our state home.



A CPW volunteer teaches a girl how to shoot a compound bow at the first-ever Outdoor Adventure Expo, hosted by CPW at Cherry Creek State Park.

PHOTO BY MIKE DELLIVENERI, COURTESY OF CPW.



THIS YEAR

\$15.1 MILLION INVESTED

10,000 ACRES OF WILDLIFE HABITAT PROTECTED

140 VOLUNTEERS WHO PARTICIPATE IN RIVER WATCH EVERY YEAR, A PROGRAM TO MEASURE THE HEALTH OF COLORADO'S RIVERS

3 DAM MAINTENANCE PROJECTS FUNDED

32 SPECIES OF WILDLIFE MANAGED

4 WILDLIFE STUDIES FUNDED TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW TO MANAGE HUMAN CONFLICT

2 FISHING PONDS TO BE BUILT

Pictured: A burrowing owl baby at Lake Pueblo State Park. PHOTO BY RON DRUMMOND, COURTESY OF CPW.

Finances

GOCO funds are distributed through competitive grant programs for local governments and land trusts and an annual investment proposal from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW).

CPW submits an investment proposal to the GOCO Board each year detailing how GOCO funds will be disbursed across the agency's facilities and programs. For more information on how GOCO funding impacts CPW, visit GOCO.org/CPW.

The majority of GOCO funding is distributed on a reimbursement basis, meaning grantees must submit final budgets and documentation of their expenditures before receiving funds. All of our grant opportunities require matching funds.

FY 2018 ran from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. GOCO received \$66.2 million from the Colorado Lottery, making this year the eleventh year in a row we have met our Constitutionally-mandated cap. This cap is adjusted each year for inflation; for FY 2019 it is set at \$68.4 million.

In FY 2018 GOCO awarded \$76.2 million across 12 grant programs.

For our complete FY 2018 financial statements, visit GOCO.org/finance.

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

REVENUES	FY 2017-2018	AMOUNT TO DATE
Lottery Proceeds	\$66,250,998	\$1,165,680,011
Interest & Other Income	\$3,180,097	\$42,183,130
Total Revenues	\$69,431,095	\$1,207,863,141

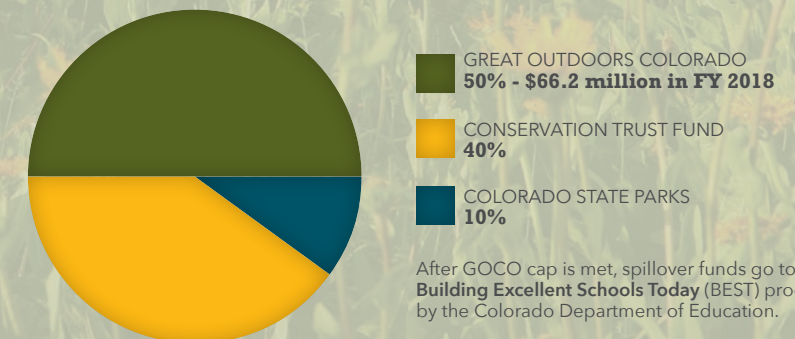
EXPENDITURES | GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO EXPENDITURES INCLUDE PAYMENTS TO GRANTEES AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES INCLUDE OPERATING COSTS AND BOARD EXPENSES.

EXPENDITURES	FY 2017-2018	AMOUNT TO DATE
Grant Expenditures	\$66,377,373	\$1,079,313,576
Administrative Expenses	\$4,492,842	\$45,082,239
Total Expenditures	\$70,870,215	\$1,124,395,815

BUDGET | FISCAL YEAR 2019 ESTIMATED BUDGET

Lottery Proceeds	\$67,124,547	Grant Expenditures	\$68,000,000
Interest & Other Income	\$1,000,000	Administrative Expenses	\$5,175,924
Total Revenues	\$68,124,547*	Total Expenditures	\$73,175,924*

Lottery Proceeds Distribution



Mission

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](https://goco.org/amendment).

The Constitution requires GOCO to allocate funds in a manner that is substantially equal over time to achieve outcomes across four areas:

**OUTDOOR
RECREATION**

**LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS**

WILDLIFE

OPEN SPACE

Governance

GOCO is governed by a 17-member board, whose members serve two four-year terms. Board members are appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Colorado State Senate. The GOCO Board must have two members of different political parties from each of the state's seven congressional districts and also includes representatives from Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources. Learn more at [GOCO.org/board](https://goco.org/board).

Members by Congressional District

- 1: Katherine Cattanach (R), Hollie Velasquez Horvath (D), both Denver
- 2: Jenn Dice (U), Boulder; Tony S. Lewis (D), Longmont
- 3: Tom Burke (R), Grand Junction; Julie Thibodeau (D), Durango
- 4: Chana Reed (R), Lamar; Jody Rogers (U), Yuma
- 5: Warren Dean (D), Dave Palenchar (R), both Colorado Springs
- 6: Jason Brinkley (R, chair), Linda Strand (D), both Aurora
- 7: Jacy Rock (U), Karma Giulianelli (D), both Golden

State Agency Representatives

Natural Resources: Bob Randall
Parks and Wildlife Commission: John V. Howard, Jr. and Michelle Zimmerman

GOCO UPDATES

GOCO welcomed two new board members: Warren Dean and Julie Thibodeau. A new Parks and Wildlife Commission representative was also named to the board; Carrie Besnette Hauser replaced Michelle Zimmerman. In September, Jacy Rock replaced Jason Brinkley as board chair.

In spring 2018, the state legislature and Gov. John Hickenlooper reauthorized the Colorado Lottery, GOCO's sole funding source, for another 25 years.

GOCO also restructured its staff in July 2018, welcoming three new staff members and organizing staff to better serve grant applicants and recipients. Learn more at [GOCO.org/staff](https://goco.org/staff).