



Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) receives up to half of Colorado Lottery proceeds each year and invests that funding in Colorado's trails, parks, wildlife, open spaces, and rivers and in protecting our outdoor heritage. 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 receives half of GOCO's funding each year for state parks and wildlife programs.

El informe anual está en español a [goco.org/es](http://goco.org/es).



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Monte Vista Wetlands Trail. Photo by Christi Bode.

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We should never forget that the lands and waters of our beautiful state are the homeland of many tribes. They include Apache Nation, Arapaho Nation, Cheyenne Nation, Pueblo Tribes, Shoshone Tribe, and Ute Nation. We respect and honor their longstanding relationships with this land.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

[GOCO.ORG](http://GOCO.ORG)

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### I'm delighted to present this year-in-review as GOCO's new executive director.



I've had the privilege of supporting GOCO and championing its growth for more than half of our 29-year history. GOCO, its partners, and our shared priorities are of critical importance to Colorado. Together, we are a powerful asset to our exceptional state's outdoors and the identity we've created around it. I am honored to help shepherd our collective work moving forward.

Fiscal year 2021 presented GOCO with new opportunities to show up for Colorado as a trusted funding partner. As the pandemic limited our activities, Coloradans found relief in outdoor recreation in record numbers. At GOCO, we celebrated this increased activity. It also emphasized a need for progress toward our collective goal of balancing conservation and care of the land with broad recreation access and diverse outdoor experiences.

We're privileged in Colorado to have an incredible network of individuals, organizations, and agencies dedicated to creating safe and accessible parks, advancing equity in the outdoors, and meeting demand for public open space. They work to protect land for wildlife, food production, clean water, and scenic views we all enjoy. And they care for our state's natural and recreational resources, helping to ensure people recreate responsibly. The pandemic stressed this network at a time when it was being called on to deliver in unprecedented ways.

To support them, GOCO invested \$50.9 million in 131 projects

across 49 of Colorado's 64 counties. At the heart of it all were significant investments in the people, organizations, and partnerships rising to today's unique challenges. GOCO funds helped employ and safely deploy 278 young people to tackle conservation service corps projects, invested in 40 staff members at 19 local government and nonprofit organizations, fueled 12 community-based coalitions and their missions to overcome barriers to the outdoors, accelerated the work of seven regional partnerships in their efforts to balance recreation and conservation priorities, and helped four young people prepare for future careers in the outdoors with fellowships. And this just scratches the surface.

Last year may have tested our network in new ways, but together we accomplished a lot in service of our home state. And Colorado, as we all know, is well worth it.

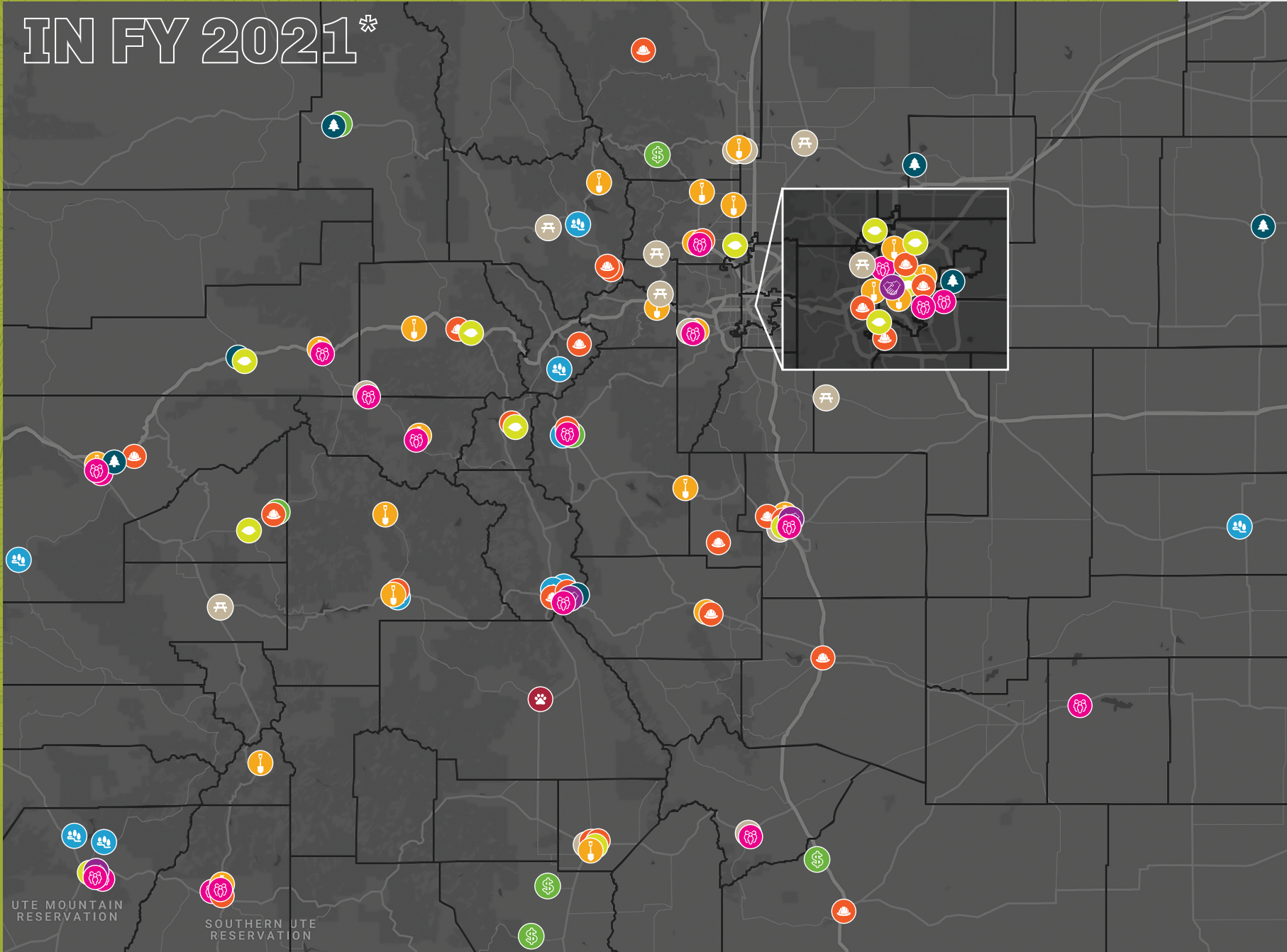
Thank you for your passion, partnership, and pride in our great outdoors. See you out there.

**Jackie Miller**  
Executive Director



# PROJECTS FUNDED

## IN FY 2021\*



### GOCO PROJECTS

## Key

- |   |                           |   |                                |
|---|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
|  | Youth Corps               |  | Capacity                       |
|  | Outdoor Recreation        |  | Stewardship                    |
|  | Wildlife                  |  | Park/Outdoor Rec Development   |
|  | Generation Wild Coalition |  | Conservation Transaction Costs |
|  | GOCO Fellow               |  | Restoration                    |



GOCO also funded several regional and statewide projects through both our Resilient Communities Program and our relationship with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, which receives half of our funding. Those projects are not indicated on this map. For a complete list of Resilient Communities grants, see pages 25-26.

To learn more about our investments in CPW, visit [GOCO.org/CPW](https://goco.org/CPW).

\*GOCO's FY 2021 ran from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Photo by Bergreen Photography.

# FY 2021 SNAPSHOT



131

PROJECTS FUNDED

49

COUNTIES INVESTED IN



29

PARKS & OUTDOOR  
RECREATION AREAS  
CREATED AND  
IMPROVED



4,896

ACRES CONSERVED

11,283

ACRES OF HABITAT RESTORED



25 TRAILHEADS

created and improved



278 YOUNG PEOPLE

employed through youth corps



40 STAFF POSITIONS

supported at 19 organizations

## A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

# OUTDOOR TRENDS

**The outdoor recreation industry delivers an economic contribution of \$62 billion** to Colorado each year and accounts for more than 500,000 jobs in the state.

Source: Colorado Parks and Wildlife Fact Sheet (2019)

**Colorado land managers reported an estimated 40% increase in visitation in the 12 months from March 2020 to March 2021** with increases in parking issues, trail impacts, damage to vegetation, and pet waste.

Source: Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, 2021 Colorado Land Management Survey

**92% of Coloradans participate in outdoor activities each year.** The most popular outdoor activities include walking, hiking/backpacking, picnicking, and tent camping. In addition, Colorado attracts more than 84 million U.S. visitors and 1 million international visitors each year, many of whom come for outdoor activities and sightseeing.

Source: Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2019)

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

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

**The COVID-19 pandemic drew an unprecedented amount of people to the outdoors. 60% of new users intend to continue these outdoor activities.**

Research shows that people are more likely to get outside and continue doing so when they have access to close-to-home activities with low barriers to entry.

Source: Outdoor Industry Association, 2021 Special Report: The New Outdoor Participant (COVID and Beyond)

SINCE 1992, GOCO'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE:



5,529

projects funded in all 64 counties across the state

1.3 billion

dollars in Lottery proceeds invested back into Colorado



977 MILES OF TRAIL

built or reconstructed

1,077 MILES

of river protected

1,771 CREATED AND IMPROVED

parks and outdoor recreation areas

1,256,793 ACRES CONSERVED

in urban and rural areas

66,200 ACRES ADDED to the State Parks system

10,078 YOUNG PEOPLE employed through Colorado Youth Corps Association

# RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

## GOCO launched its Resilient Communities Program (RCP) in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was an unprecedented year for our partners—and for all Coloradans—that created new challenges for conservation, recreation, and stewardship across our state.

To support this hard-working network, more than \$15 million in GOCO funding was invested in immediate needs and opportunities that emerged during this unique point in time, all within the context of GOCO's five program values: resource conservation, outdoor stewardship, community vitality, equitable access, and youth connections.

The program was anchored in four themes identified by our partners as the most urgent and critical for GOCO's investment: capacity and operations support, stewardship, community vitality, and urgent and emergent land acquisitions. Highlights of its impressive outcomes are featured here and on the next two pages of the report.



### CAPACITY & OPERATIONS SUPPORT

When it comes down to it, it's people who make outdoor projects possible. Supporting our partners' core capacity and operations meant much-needed work could be accomplished. GOCO funding supported 40 staff members at 19 local government and nonprofit organizations across the state.



RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

# STEWARDSHIP



Resilient Communities Youth at Denver's Prairie Park.  
Photos by Bergreen Photography.

**If you were in Colorado through the pandemic, you might have seen first-hand how heavily trafficked our outdoor spaces were.**

The increased impacts to trails and open spaces compounded with already backlogged maintenance created new levels of needed stewardship. RCP grants helped deploy 23 crews, varying in size from 3 to 21 members each, to take care of our outdoor recreation and natural resource infrastructure in Colorado. Their work included maintenance along and improvements to 192 miles of trail.

The City and County of Denver partnered with several community organizations including Teens Inc., Groundwork Denver, Lincoln Hills Cares, and Mile High Youth Corps to develop a new youth-centered stewardship network called "The Resilient Communities Youth Program." This program assists Denver Parks and Recreation with public park projects, including planting new pollinator beds, removing noxious weeds, erosion control, native seeding, trash removal, ecological surveys, environmental education, public outreach, and more.



# COMMUNITY VITALITY

Recreation opportunities give Coloradans physical and mental health boosts, so during a pandemic in which activities were limited and stressors ran high, RCP supported improvements to 25 trailheads and 21 parks, outdoor classrooms, and other recreation spaces to make them more inviting. Improvements to outdoor areas give surrounding communities a leg up and Coloradans even more to look forward to when they head outside.

## Prospect Lake Beach House in Colorado Springs

The City of Colorado Springs is using its \$316,100 RCP grant to complete work on the Prospect Lake Beach House in Memorial Park, a project previously funded by GOCO through Generation Wild of the Pikes Peak Region. The beach house renovation work updated a 90-year-old building into a fresh, close-to-home space for nature connection and fun while also offering culturally relevant programming for the community. With the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically decreasing and shifting available resources, the city was unable to cover added construction costs that would complete necessary components of the beach house. With the infusion of funding, our partners completed the beach house, reviving its role as a recreation hub and offering new nature programming and environmental education.

## LAND ACQUISITIONS

Sometimes conservation can't wait. A land acquisition opportunity arises for our local government and nonprofit land trust partners, and they must act. Through the RCP program, GOCO provided \$3,016,750 in funding for land acquisitions that were urgent or came to the fore as a result of the pandemic. Partners used their grants to acquire 608 acres of land that will provide new outdoor access for residents and visitors. In addition, our partners at Keep It Colorado re-granted \$269,900 of GOCO funding to support partners in its Transaction Costs Assistance Program (TCAP). Seven TCAP projects helped permanently protect more than 3,800 acres of land across Colorado.

## Lake San Cristobal Island in Hinsdale County

A \$1.3 million RCP grant helped The Trust for Public Land acquire the 10.3-acre peninsula property on Lake San Cristobal just south of Lake City. The local community will help create a project plan, to be implemented by the property's owner-manager Hinsdale County, making the area available for fishing, boating, camping, ice skating, and more.

Photos courtesy of M4 Ranch Group.



# TAKING CARE OF COLORADO

**Coloradans share the responsibility of ensuring that our state's trails, wildlife habitat, open spaces, and waterways endure for generations to come.**

Building trails, removing invasive weeds, and thinning trees from over-crowded forests to reduce wildfire risk are all part of taking care of the outdoor spaces we enjoy and that our state's wildlife rely on.

Through our partnership with Colorado Youth Corps Association, GOCO supported such efforts, investing \$990,800 in youth corps programs that employed hundreds of young adults on needed stewardship projects across the state. Plus, in FY 2021, through a second annual round of RESTORE

**BADGER CREEK WATERSHED**  
Pictured above: Buffy Lenth, Central Colorado Conservancy's watershed restoration specialist, and Mark Beardsley of EcoMetrics check a groundwater monitoring well along an untreated segment of Badger Creek in Park County. RESTORE funds are helping with design and implementation of wetland restoration efforts that will benefit trout spawning.

Colorado grants, we invested \$1 million in 11 projects that focus on restoring Colorado's rivers, streams, wetlands, and critical wildlife habitat. These collaborative, large-scale projects will help ensure our natural resources are protected and cared for into the future.

## RESTORE COLORADO

Lance Wheeler, owner of Rafter W Ranch in Simla, takes part in the National Audubon Society's conservation ranching program. RESTORE Colorado funds are helping to restore and improve the management of private ranches in critical grassland habitat and create habitat management plans. The project, which will result in the strategic management of 30,000 acres of grassland habitat, includes plans to improve habitat for



Photo by Aaron Maier, courtesy of Audubon Rockies.

the lesser prairie chicken, eastern black rail, lark bunting, and thick-billed longspur.



Photo by Bergreen Photography.

## CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS & RESTORE COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

**\$1,990,800 awarded** for 27 conservation service corps projects and 10 RESTORE Colorado projects

**11,283 acres of habitat restored** across wetlands, grasslands, sagebrush, and forestland

**\$8.7 million** in matching contributions leveraged for RESTORE work

**21 miles of instream habitat restored** and 39 miles of stream opened

**278 young adults employed** and 20,596 direct labor hours committed to youth corps stewardship

**25.2 acres of trees** thinned and cut to reduce wildfire risk

**12.4 miles of trail** constructed and cleared

**86.4 acres** of invasive weeds pulled

**5,205 feet of fencing removed or improved** along big game winter range and migration routes



# GENERATION WILD PROGRAM

In FY 2021 the GOCO board committed \$17.4 million to 12 Generation Wild communities across Colorado, representing re-investments in coalitions that have been building and growing for the last six years.

Generation Wild launched in 2015 to help community-based groups break down barriers to the outdoors through new places to play, outdoor programs and activities, and employment opportunities in the outdoors.

The coalitions, which work to identify unique local barriers to the outdoors and devise solutions

to address them, consist of diverse groups of partners, including local governments, schools, health-based organizations, and youth-serving nonprofits, which work together to achieve shared goals. Today, they are elevating youth voices; delivering accessible, culturally relevant programming; and promoting equitable access to the outdoors for youth and their families.

Here's a snapshot of just four of the thousands of inspired programs and projects Generation Wild partners have brought to their communities from the City of Lafayette to Montezuma County.

## YOUTH PROGRAM

### Catamount Outdoor School in the Pikes Peak Region

Generation Wild of the Pikes Peak region has provided hands-on outdoor education to youth at two Title-1 schools in southeast Colorado Springs. Coalition member Catamount Institute's Catamount Outdoor Schools program provides weekly outdoor education classes for students K-5. The students explore nature on their school grounds, visit neighborhood parks nearby, and take field trips to Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Catamount Institute partners with additional coalition members to broaden the activities offered at the schools.

A first- and second-grade teacher summed it up:

**"THESE LESSONS AND EXPERIENCES ARE INVALUABLE TO OUR STUDENTS."**



Photo by moxie82inc.



Photo courtesy of Cal-Wood.

## FAMILY PROGRAM

### Cal-Wood Family Camps for Lafayette Families

Cal-Wood offers bilingual weekend family camps year-round to Nature Kids/Jóvenes de la Naturaleza (NKJN) Lafayette families near Jamestown. Families spend time connecting with nature and each other while hiking, fishing, telling campfire stories, and just spending time outside. As families participate in camping opportunities that stretch their sense of adventure, they become more independent and gain confidence to venture outdoors without the support of a program. Families share that these camps support a sense of wellbeing, community belonging, social cohesion, and increased access to nature.

**"En los campamentos, nos cuidamos uno a otro como una familia grande. Los niños aprenden mucho sobre los árboles y animales. ¡Yo aprendí mucho también! Ahora, mis hijos quieren salir afuera todos los fines de semana."**

**"At camp, we take care of each other like one big family. The kids learn a lot about trees and animals. I learned a lot, too! Now our kids want to go outside every weekend."**

— Family Camp Participant



Photo courtesy of SCC.

## PATHWAYS

### SCC's High School Conservation Program in Montezuma County

Southwest Conservation Corps' (SCC) High School Conservation Program utilizes a holistic model to provide youth from the Four Corners Region with paid job opportunities in the conservation field. While completing projects such as trail construction and maintenance, small-scale agriculture, habitat restoration, and fencing projects, youth are exposed to career pathways through hands-on experience. Led by two crew leaders and supported by a mental health consultant, SCC's youth program fosters personal growth, team building, leadership skills, and resiliency that members retain long after completing their service projects.

Through Generation Wild and the Montezuma Inspire Coalition (MIC), SCC has been able to double the size of the program. Since 2018, 200 youth from the region have contributed over 26,000 hours of project work in paid crew or internship positions. In 2021 alone, close to \$100,000 in wages were paid to local youth, and through MIC, SCC provided 16 weeks of work at no cost to project partners in Montezuma County this year, fostering new relationships in the community.

One corps member noted, "I learned that if I work hard and continue to persevere through challenges, I can accomplish a lot and go to bed knowing I did something with my day."





# Generation Wild Communications

## BARRIER-BREAKING PLACES

### Get Outdoors Leadville!'s Community Gear Library

With the stunning mountain backdrop you find in Lake County, Colorado, you might expect that everyone has easy access to outdoor activities. But they don't. Not having the appropriate gear for outdoor adventure is just one barrier that the Leadville-area Generation Wild coalition Get Outdoors Leadville! identified. With the addition of the Community Gear Library on the local Colorado Mountain College campus, they began knocking down hurdles. A two-story facility packed with tents and sleeping bags, bikes, helmets, skis, snowshoes, jackets, boots, and more is part of a national model for equitable access to and greater diversity in outdoor recreation.

**"When I look at the gear library I think about my early experiences in the outdoors and I know what kind of impact those experiences can have. Those barriers continue for low-income families and immigrant families and families of color. The gear library is totally addressing some of those barriers."**

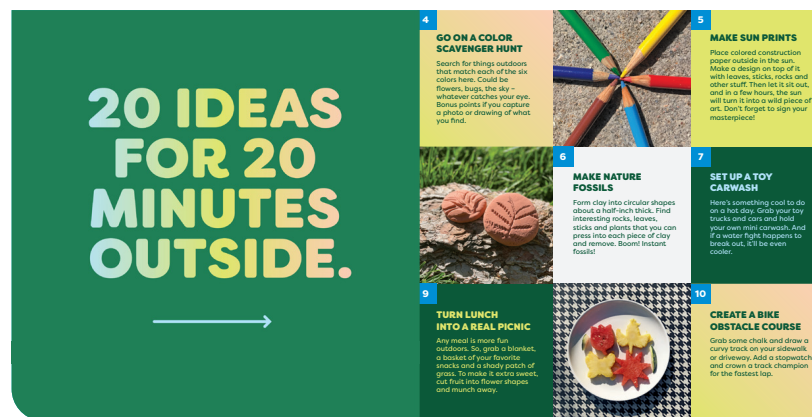
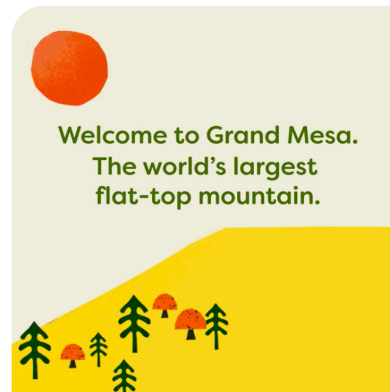
— Vanessa Saldivar, GOL! Executive Director, as quoted in *Colorado Sun*

In 2021, Colorado children and families were knee-deep in pandemic life. We needed OUT. The Generation Wild communications campaign captured the feeling of many parents whose children would benefit from the physical and mental release that only getting outside can provide.

MONSTERS debuted on television, on billboards, and across digital and social channels, reminding parents—with a hit of humor—that their kids would benefit from just 20 minutes of outdoor play. "Just 20 minutes turns your kid into a kid again" was a playful way of emphasizing the restorative benefits of time spent outside. Our partners at Children's Hospital Colorado were on board, and helped us message out the many stress-relieving, mood-boosting, focus-enhancing, and sleep-improving benefits. Dr. Jenna Glover, a clinical child psychologist and director of psychology training at the hospital, generously lent her expertise.

To make 20 minutes outside an easier task for busy parents, grandparents, and other caregivers in the lives of children, we crafted the "20 Ideas for 20 Minutes Outside" list, a sibling resource to the wildly popular "100 Things to Do Before You're 12" list that's been a signature offering of the five-year campaign. Statewide libraries, Boys and Girls Clubs, park and recreation centers, state parks, and many other Generation Wild partners helped to distribute printed copies of the new list across Colorado.

A positive outcome of the pandemic was that many Coloradans headed outdoors. It was a safe space. A place to breathe mask-free and openly see one another's smiles. A destination to find adventure, or even just a sense of peace and calm, that provided physical and mental release. Here's to all helping the next generation feel more like themselves with a little outside time.



NEW PROGRAM FOR 2021

# FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

New in 2021, the GOCO Fellowship Program invested \$560,455 in four fellows for two years at three of GOCO's partner organizations: The Trust for Public Land, Montezuma Land Conservancy, and Colorado Open Lands.

The program provides opportunities for young people from diverse and nontraditional backgrounds to begin careers in the outdoors. In these positions, they gain experience in the

fields of conservation, outdoor recreation, and stewardship while exploring leadership development and growing their professional skill sets.

GOCO and its partners aim to reduce barriers to careers in the outdoors and positively introduce young people to the enriching, exciting lines of work we and our partners are privileged to enjoy. We hope GOCO fellows carry a passion for Colorado's great outdoors with them and thrive as community leaders.

**GOCO FELLOWS KICKED OFF THEIR FELLOWSHIPS AT THE COLORADO OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL IN LEADVILLE. THE THREE-DAY BASECAMP EXPERIENCE PROVIDED NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES AND TEAM CHALLENGES WITH HIGH AND LOW ROPES COURSES, ORIENTEERING PRACTICE, AND A CHANCE TO CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER AND NATURE.**



## Meet the Fellows



**"I am truly eager to learn a lot more about the outdoors, so I can bring that back to my community and empower and encourage people to explore the outdoors."**

Jeresneyka Rose  
CORE Fellow, The Trust for Public Land  
Serving Colorado Springs



**"Montezuma County is built on the land of the Ute people, and I want to learn how to find justice for the land, the people whose ancestors have long called it home, and the people who live there now."**

Emily Spahn  
Communications and Outreach Fellow,  
Montezuma Land Conservancy  
Serving Montezuma County



**"As soon as I was exposed to the outdoors, it changed my life. I cared more for my local parks and outdoor spaces. I learned we can enjoy our spaces here locally and use them to eventually branch out."**

Chris Urias  
CORE Fellow, The Trust for Public Land  
Serving Denver and beyond



**"I am over the moon! I have the opportunity to witness and participate in the preservation of land for our future generations. Natural space has meant so much to me throughout my life, and I am thankful to know it will also be there for our youth."**

Kelsey King  
Conservation Fellow, Colorado Open Lands  
Serving Salida

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

# WILDLIFE & STATE PARKS

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) receives half of GOCO's annual funding for outdoor recreation and wildlife projects. In FY 2021, CPW received a total of \$30.8 million in GOCO funding to support Colorado's 42 state parks, hundreds of state wildlife areas, and abundant wildlife and habitat.

Within this investment, \$10.2 million went to state parks for capital construction projects, including \$2 million for continued development at Fishers Peak State Park. CPW's State Trails Program received \$1.8 million to advance 10 trail projects statewide. Funding also supported wildfire mitigation and restoration work to protect landscapes and native species.

Over \$9 million was committed to conserving, protecting, and restoring Colorado's native species and natural habitats.

GOCO investments in CPW also support youth programming as CPW is uniquely positioned to introduce Colorado's youth to the outdoors; expose them to potential natural resource careers; encourage more physical activity; and build awareness around outdoor recreation, wildlife management, and natural resource protection issues, helping to meet the long-term vision of creating future stewards of the land and wildlife.

Sweetwater Lake.  
Photo by Todd Winslow Pierce.

## SWEETWATER LAKE

### A Key Conservation Project

In 2021, Sweetwater Lake, a 488-acre oasis above the Colorado River in Garfield County, became public land that will eventually serve as the newest addition to Colorado's State Park system. Conservation of this property protects the local watershed and important wildlife habitat, including habitat for elk and deer and fishing grounds for bald eagle and osprey. Improved facilities, including a new boat ramp, will be available to the public in the summer of 2022. Future recreational opportunities will become more readily available as the master planning process is completed.

The Conservation Fund and Eagle Valley Land Trust made the epic conservation project possible, and the White River National Forest partnered with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to make the area Colorado's newest state park. GOCO was proud to provide a \$6.25 million loan to secure the initial property acquisition for this rare opportunity.



**\$30.8  
MILLION INVESTED**

to support ongoing efforts in conservation, recreation, and wildlife management

**MORE THAN \$10 MILLION**  
invested in state park construction projects



**41 STATE PARKS**  
supported with water management plans

**DIRECTOR'S INNOVATION FUND**  
\$150K invested to support unique projects statewide



**\$3.2 MILLION COMMITTED**  
to environmental education and youth programs

**\$5 MILLION INVESTED**  
in protecting and restoring native wildlife species

**WILDLIFE SMALL CAPITAL**  
\$2 million invested

## COLORADO OUTDOOR REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS INITIATIVE

# COLLABORATION

In FY 2021, GOCO invested \$640,000 in the Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative via its Resilient Communities Program and investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW).

This funding is supporting new and existing coalitions that are collaborating with CPW, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Colorado Outdoor Partnership (CO-OP) to ensure Colorado's land, water, and wildlife thrive while providing sustainable and equitable access to quality outdoor recreation experiences.

Our state has room to grow in offering outdoor access and recreation opportunities to more Coloradans. And at the same time, we face challenges of increasing use of the outdoors, wildlife habitat fragmentation and degradation, and climate change. Together, these partners will help Colorado plan for sustainable management of our land, water, and wildlife balanced with offering life-enriching outdoor recreation for the people of Colorado. In addition to fostering thoughtful regional planning to inform a future Statewide Conservation and Recreation Plan, the initiative aims to identify funding gaps and potential funding sources to maintain our outdoors.

The first round of the Regional Partnerships Initiative awarded funding to the coalitions featured here.



### Envision Recreation in Balance Partnership (ERiB)

A partnership implementing the Chaffee County Outdoor Recreation Management Plan with goals to protect the community's natural resources, maintain exceptional outdoor experiences, and sustain the economic benefits of tourism.



### Metro Denver Nature Alliance (Metro DNA)

A partnership serving the seven-county metro Denver region developing an evidence-based, equity-centered Regional Vision for People and Nature—a landscape-scale conservation vision for the Denver region that will enable regional prioritization of investments in ecological conservation and green infrastructure.



### NoCoPLACES 2050

Eight county, state, and federal public land agencies from north-central Colorado collaborating to address the challenges the mountains and foothills in that region are facing from high visitation. Systemic change in land management is sought through core values of stewardship, conservation, sustainability, and equity.



### Ouray Recreation & Conservation Alliance (ORCA)

A coalition of regional partners collaborating to dramatically expand land, water, and wildlife conservation while advancing the shared goals of outdoor recreation, natural resource management, priority setting, and planning for the surrounding areas.



### Routt Recreation and Conservation Roundtable (RRCR)

A diverse, representative community forum aimed at balancing conservation and recreation in Routt County and reducing conflict. The Roundtable is developing a Conservation and Recreation Plan, provides non-binding recommendations to land managers engaged in recreational planning processes and policy decisions, and helps implement on-the-ground destination management initiatives.



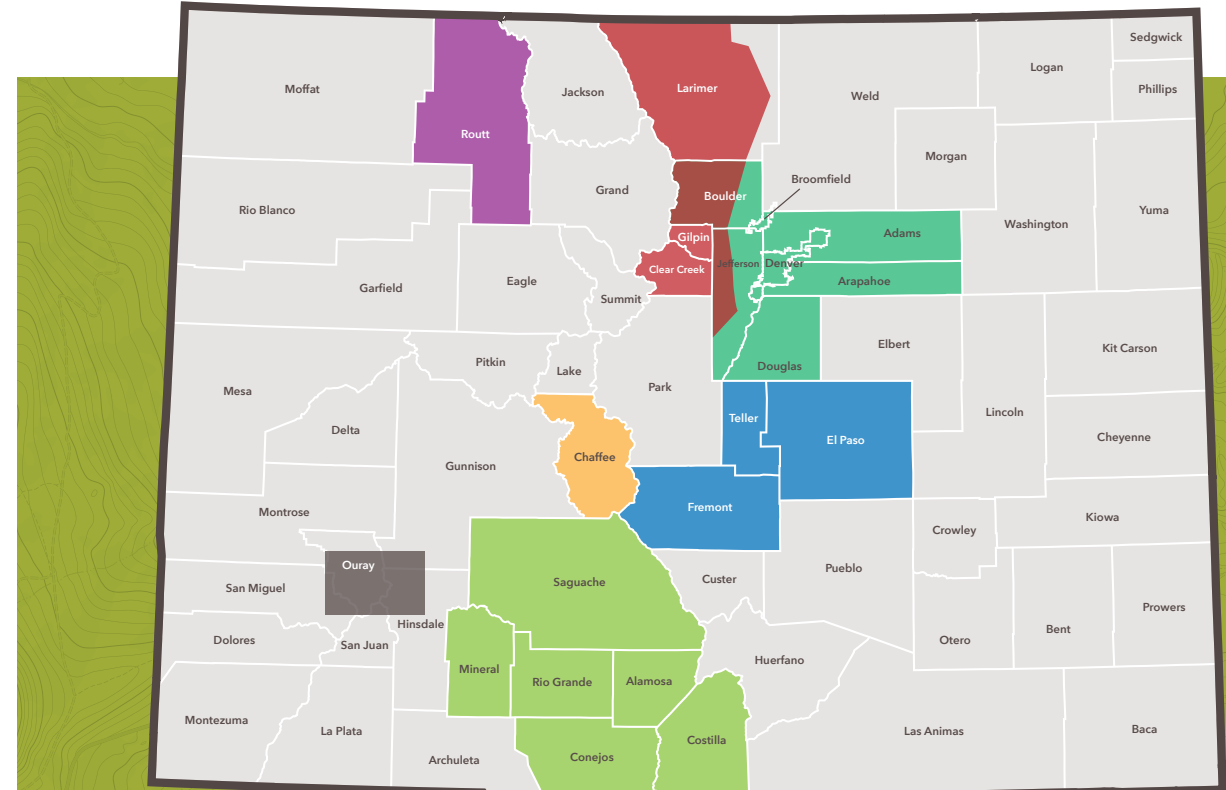
### Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance (PPORA)

An alliance of outdoor businesses, nonprofits, land managers, government entities, and individuals—with a shared recognition of the value of their region's natural and recreational assets to the community—on a mission to strengthen the outdoor recreation industry through leadership and collaboration.



### San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!)

A coalition working within all San Luis Valley counties to enhance outdoor recreational experiences and equitable access to the outdoors, improve wellness, and protect the environment.



FY 2021

# GRANT AWARDS

Conservation Service Corps	GRANTEE PARTNER	AWARD AMOUNT
Alamosa Trails Stewardship Project	City of Alamosa	\$27,150.00
Arkansas River Trail, Invasive Plant & Tree Removal Project	City of Pueblo	\$41,800.00
Back to the Basics - Passive Recreation and Wildlife Enhancements	City of Boulder	\$18,800.00
Brush Creek Valley Ranch & Open Space Western Trail Connection Project	Eagle County	\$17,960.00
Cripple Creek Parks & Trails Restoration and Development Project	City of Cripple Creek	\$26,940.00
Durango Area Trails Alliance Stewardship Collaboration	City of Durango	\$35,920.00
Elkhorn Creek Forest Health	Larimer County	\$62,700.00
Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation in Wheat Ridge	City of Wheat Ridge	\$41,800.00
Fire and Noxious Weed Mitigation Bell Park	City and County of Denver	\$62,700.00
Garden of the Gods & Rock Ledge Ranch – Noxious Weed Treatment Program	City of Colorado Springs	\$20,900.00
Hazard Tree and Forest Fuel Mitigation Project in Eastern Grand County	Town of Winter Park	\$41,800.00
Intemann Trail Sustainability Project 2021	City of Manitou Springs	\$25,050.00
John Griffin Regional Park Fire Mitigation Project	Canon City Area Metro Rec and Park District	\$41,800.00
Methodist Front Wildland Urban Interface Forest and Watershed Health Restoration	City of Salida	\$20,900.00
Methodist Front Wildland Urban Interface Forest and Watershed Health Restoration	Town of Poncha Springs	\$20,900.00
North Mt. Elbert Maintenance	Lake County	\$53,880.00
Paonia River Park Expansion Project	Delta County	\$55,350.00
Prairie Stream Restoration on SPLT	Southern Plains Land Trust	\$31,350.00
Purgatoire River Trails, Trees & Wildlife Project	City of Trinidad	\$40,330.00
Resource Protection at Sacramento Creek Ranch	Mountain Area Land Trust	\$28,410.00
Riverbend Park Riparian Restoration	Town of Palisade	\$20,900.00
Russian Olive Tree Removal	Foothills Park and Recreation District	\$31,350.00
Settler's Creek Hazardous Fuels Reduction	Summit County	\$20,900.00
Spring Creek Forest Fuels Reduction Project	Huerfano County	\$31,350.00
Standley Lake Loop Trail Segment Construction	City of Westminster	\$50,100.00
West Gunnison Park & Open Space Trail	City of Gunnison	\$17,960.00
Wildfire Partners: Youth Corps Helping Seniors Adapt to Wildfire Risk	Boulder County	\$41,800.00
2020 CYCA Administration Fee	Colorado Youth Corps Association	\$60,000.00
<b>PROGRAM INVESTMENT</b>		<b>\$990,800</b>

Director's Innovation Fund	GRANTEE PARTNER	AWARD AMOUNT
AHRA Rec Ranger Program	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	\$23,818.25
Cherry Creek State Park Showers	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	\$17,318.00
Jackson Lake Campsite Beautification	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	\$23,818.26
JMR – Colorado River State Park Corn Lake ADA Fishing Pier	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	\$16,912.00
Rifle Gap Dark Skies	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	\$20,739.00
Saguache Bear Dumpster Enclosures	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	\$11,746.50
Stalker Lake Access Improvement	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	\$23,355.00
Yampa River State Park Community Ice Rink	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	\$12,342.99
<b>PROGRAM INVESTMENT</b>		<b>\$150,050</b>

Generation Wild	GRANTEE PARTNER	AWARD AMOUNT
<i>Note: The Generation Wild program dollars below indicate funding commitments by the board. Exact awards are TBD.</i>		
Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement	Eagle County	\$310,000.00
Garfield County Outdoors	Colorado State University	\$1,006,772.00
Generation Wild Northeast Metro Coalition	City of Commerce City	\$1,991,889.00
Generation Wild of the Pikes Peak Region	City of Colorado Springs	\$1,000,000.00
Get Outdoors Leadville! (GOLI)	Lake County	\$1,500,000.00
Montezuma Inspire Coalition	Montezuma Land Conservancy	\$2,250,000.00
My Outdoor Colorado	City and County of Denver	\$3,000,000.00
Nature Kids/Jóvenes de la Naturaleza	City of Lafayette	\$1,000,000.00
SLV Generation Wild	City of Alamosa	\$1,934,500.00
Sheridan Inspire	City of Sheridan	\$1,500,000.00
The Nature Connection	Delta County	\$1,000,000.00
Westy POWER-PODER	City of Westminster	\$993,228.00
<b>PROGRAM INVESTMENT</b>		<b>\$17,486,389</b>

GOCO Fellowship Program	GRANTEE PARTNER	AWARD AMOUNT
Colorado Open Lands Fellow	Colorado Open Lands	\$127,740.00
Montezuma Land Conservancy Fellow	Montezuma Land Conservancy	\$132,715.00
The Trust for Public Land CORE Fellows	The Trust for Public Land	\$300,000.00
<b>PROGRAM INVESTMENT</b>		<b>\$560,455</b>

More grant awards continued on following pages

Resilient Communities Program	GRANTEE PARTNER	AWARD AMOUNT
Addressing Stewardship and Conservation Needs in Park County	Mountain Area Land Trust	\$129,061.46
Alma Town Park and Buckskin Gulch Land Acquisitions	Town of Alma	\$320,000.00
Black Bear Hole, 2nd Avenue Trailhead Access and LMJ Improvements Proposal	Town of Lyons	\$282,003.00
Building Community Resilience through Expanded Capacity	Colorado West Land Trust	\$133,700.00
Caring for Community Lands	Aspen Valley Land Trust	\$72,500.00
Casey Jones Park Campground Expansion	Elizabeth Park and Recreation District	\$150,000.00
Collaborative Conservation for Private Lands in the Arkansas Headwaters Region	Central Colorado Conservancy	\$116,822.20
Colorado CORE (Community Outreach with Resident Experts): Youth Voices	The Trust for Public Land	\$400,000.00
Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative	Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)	\$320,000.00
Colorado's Private Lands Conservation Plan	Keep It Colorado	\$175,000.00
Community Trails Support Local Workforce, Economies, Health, and Wellness	San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO)	\$250,532.00
Connecting Communities to Conserved Lands	Aspen Valley Land Trust	\$399,665.00
Conservation Stimulus, Rural Community Support, and Organizational Resiliency	Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust	\$150,000.00
COVID-19 Relief for Conservation Service Corps CUSP Field Crew	Colorado Youth Corps Association	\$48,000.00
Dakota Ridge Urgent and Emergent Land Acquisition	Coalition for the Upper South Platte	\$136,168.20
Dedicated Transboundary Pile Burn Crew for Addressing The Pandemic Fuels	City of Loveland	\$850,000.00
Durango Open Space and Trails Program Support	Larimer County	\$751,681.08
Enhanced Land Conservation, Stewardship, and Conservation Connections	City of Durango	\$140,605.00
Evergreen Lake Community Response	La Plata Open Space Conservancy	\$86,200.00
Expanded Capacity for Prairie Restoration	Evergreen Park and Recreation District	\$258,000.00
Floyd Hill Open Space Stewardship Modifications	Southern Plains Land Trust	\$50,000.00
Fremont County Campground and Trail Critical Stewardship Project	Clear Creek County	\$343,933.00
From Static Transactions to Dynamic Engagement	City of Canon City	\$129,255.00
Get Outdoors East Greeley – Inspiring Access to Neighborhood Nature	Montezuma Land Conservancy	\$72,377.00
Gilpin County Community Center Campus	City of Greeley	\$300,000.00
Glacier Farm – Putting Conserved Lands and People to Work for Community	Gilpin County	\$109,724.00
Healing Lands and Reconnecting People	Crested Butte Land Trust	\$127,292.88
Himebaugh Creek Property Acquisition	Montezuma Land Conservancy	\$222,314.51
Lake San Cristobal Island	Town of Hot Sulphur Springs	\$208,750.00
Lincoln Hills Cares Pathways	The Trust for Public Land	\$1,305,000.00
Longmont Emerging Land Stewardship Needs	City and County of Denver	\$60,837.48
Lower Church Lake Restoration	City of Longmont	\$219,585.53
Marble Millsite Alternative Entrance and Expansion	City of Westminster	\$122,132.00
Merging in Response to the Pandemic	Town of Marble	\$333,000.00
Monitoring From Afar	Colorado West Land Trust	\$55,300.00
	Keep It Colorado	\$155,000.00

Resilient Communities Program (cont)	GRANTEE PARTNER	AWARD AMOUNT
Naturescape Play and Outdoor Education Project	Montrose County	\$199,220.00
Nederland Shoreline Trails and Stewardship Project	Town of Nederland	\$181,029.75
Non-Motorized Trail Crew to Address Resource Degradation and Operational Support	Mesa County	\$190,000.00
Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance Strike Team	Colorado Mountain Bike Association	\$158,686.46
Outdoor Stewardship Needs in the City of Boulder	City of Boulder	\$134,735.00
Oxbow Natural Area Trail and Trailhead Capacity and Restoration	City of Loveland	\$330,332.00
Parking & Trailhead Enhancements for COVID Compliance & Capacity	Grand County	\$250,000.00
Partnering for Community Conservation	Colorado Open Lands	\$230,000.00
Prospect Lake Beach House Renovation	City of Colorado Springs	\$316,100.00
Prospect Park and Panorama Park Social-Distancing Amenities	City of Wheat Ridge	\$162,970.00
Public Lands Stewardship and Visitor Education	San Juan County	\$260,200.00
Resiliency Through Community Connections and Stewardship for the High Line Canal	High Line Canal Conservancy	\$296,778.00
Resilient Communities Youth Program	City and County of Denver	\$456,646.23
Revitalize the Rio – Phase I	City of Alamosa	\$33,900.00
Sky View Campground at Carter Lake	Larimer County	\$475,334.22
Southern Colorado Community Resiliency Project	Palmer Land Conservancy	\$303,700.00
Stewardship of Public Parks and Open Spaces in Colorado Springs	City of Colorado Springs	\$340,000.00
TeamWorks-State Park Collaborative	Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)	\$81,163.00
The Cuchara Mountain Park Resiliency Project	Huerfano County	\$219,602.00
The Glenwood Springs Equitable Access & Emergency Parks Maintenance Project	City of Glenwood Springs	\$102,375.00
The Gunnison County STOR Resilient Community Program	Gunnison County	\$450,000.00
Trail Conservation Crew	Eagle County	\$166,211.00
Troublesome Fire Trails Recovery	Grand Lake Metropolitan Recreation District	\$36,000.00
Virginia Canyon Mountain Park Trails	City of Idaho Springs	\$100,000.00
Volunteer Stewardship on Pitkin County Open Space and Trails	Pitkin County	\$90,825.00
<b>Keep It Colorado's Transaction Cost Assistance Program (TCAP)</b>		
<i>Note: The seven projects below were funded by GOCO's Resilient Communities Program and sub-granted by our partners at Keep It Colorado.</i>		
Cheley I	Estes Valley Land Trust	\$50,000.00
Fox Creek	Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust	\$25,000.00
La Jara Cañon	Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust	\$25,000.00
Mt. Harris	Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust	\$20,000.00
Ranch in Park County	Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust	\$50,000.00
Ranch in the North Fork of the Gunnison River	Colorado West Land Trust	\$50,000.00
Sporleder Ranch	Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust	\$49,900.00
Round 2 Allocation for TCAP	Keep It Colorado	\$230,100.00
<b>PROGRAM INVESTMENT</b>		<b>\$15,050,247</b>

FY 2021

# GRANT AWARDS CONTINUED

RESTORE Colorado	GRANTEE PARTNER	AWARD AMOUNT
<i>Note: GOCO's investment in the collaboratively funded program was \$1,000,000, including a \$100,000 administration fee granted to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The partnering funders' total investment was \$3.16 million.</i>		
Improving Habitat and Reducing Wildfire Risk by Treating Railroad Bridge Forestland	National Forest Foundation	\$454,024.00
Increasing Strategic Ranch Enrollment in the Audubon Conservation Ranching Program	National Audubon Society	\$317,686.00
Removing Invasive Tamarisk to Restore Riparian Habitat and Instream flow	Conservation Legacy	\$260,008.00
Restore Riparian Habitat and Connectivity on the Colorado River around the Windy Gap Reservoir	Trout Unlimited	\$255,695.00
Restoring Riparian and Upland Habitat in the Little Dolores River Watershed	Colorado West Land Trust	\$381,036.00
Restoring Riparian and Upland Habitat in the Tomichi Creek Watershed	Trout Unlimited	\$299,661.00
Restoring Riparian and Upland Habitat on Swan River to Improve Connectivity for Cutthroat Trout	Summit County	\$300,000.00
Restoring Riparian and Wetland Habitat to Benefit Trout Spawning in Badger Creek	Central Colorado Conservancy	\$390,101.00
Restoring Riparian and Wetland Hydrology and Species Habitat in the South Platte Headwaters	Colorado Open Lands	\$131,795.00
Restoring Sagebrush Shrubland for Sage-Grouse and Big Game Habitat in Dolores and San Miguel	Montezuma Land Conservancy	\$277,679.00
<b>PROGRAM INVESTMENT</b>		<b>\$1,000,000</b>

GOCO Loan	<i>Note: GOCO loaned money to the project to support its successful transfer from private ownership to federal ownership via The Conservation Fund.</i>	
Sweetwater Lake	The Conservation Fund	\$6,250,000

FY 2021

# FINANCES

FY 2021 ran from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. GOCO received \$71.7 million from the Colorado Lottery, making this the twentieth year in a row the Lottery has met GOCO's constitutionally mandated cap. The cap is adjusted each year for inflation; for FY 2022 it is set at \$73.1 million. In FY 2021 GOCO awarded \$50.9 million in funding across its programs. We are preparing to grant larger awards in upcoming years to support Centennial Program projects.

GOCO funds are distributed through competitive grant programs for local governments, land trusts, and collaborating entities and through 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](http://GOCO.org/CPW).

Most GOCO grant funding is distributed on a reimbursement basis, which means grantees must submit final budgets and documentation of their expenditures before receiving funds. For our complete FY 2021 financial statements, visit [GOCO.org/finance](http://GOCO.org/finance).

## Revenues

FY 2021	
Lottery Proceeds	\$71,718,841
Interest & Other Income	(\$892,636)
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$70,826,205</b>
AMOUNT TO DATE	
Lottery Proceeds	\$1,376,258,062
Interest & Other Income	\$51,721,006
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$1,427,979,068</b>

## Expenditures

FY 2021	
Grant Expenditures	\$67,361,617
Administrative Expenditures	\$4,910,482
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$72,272,099</b>
AMOUNT TO DATE	
Grant Expenditures	\$1,285,587,580
Administrative Expenditures	\$60,266,798
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$1,345,854,378</b>

## Budget

FISCAL YEAR 2022 ESTIMATED BUDGET	
Lottery Proceeds	\$71,163,020
Interest & Other Income	\$950,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$72,113,020</b>
Grant Expenditures	\$60,000,000
Administrative Expenditures	\$5,614,292
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$65,614,292</b>



# MISSION & GOVERNANCE

## 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 it created a board of trustees to govern distribution. Read the amendment 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:



Photo by Christí Bode.

## GOVERNANCE

GOCO is governed by a 17-member board whose members may serve for two four-year terms. Board members are appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Colorado State Senate. The GOCO board has two members of different political parties from each of the state's seven congressional districts and 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 Leticia Martinez (U); Rick Palacio (D), both Denver
- 2 Turk Montepare (U), Breckenridge; Mo Siegel (D), Boulder
- 3 David Cockrell (U), Pueblo; Craig Hughes (D), Edwards
- 4 Pamela Denahy (R), La Junta; Brenda May (U), Lamar
- 5 Mina Liebert (U); Tony Rosendo (D), both Colorado Springs
- 6 Patty Imhoff (D); Tom Lee (R), both Greenwood Village
- 7 Carrie Curtiss (D), Golden; Jahi Simbai (U), Wheat Ridge

### State Agency Representatives

Natural Resources: Dan Gibbs  
Parks and Wildlife Commission: Carrie Besnette Hauser, Charles Garcia

## Staff Updates

In June 2021, the GOCO board launched a program portfolio that put the vision set in our 2020 Strategic Plan into action. The new programs reflect a values-based approach to grantmaking and support community-centered work. They also elevate a key value: providing equitable access to the outdoors. To support progress in this area, we created an internal equity team. Its charter guides us and holds us accountable to integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion into our work across policies and practices, grant programs, staff training, communication, partnerships, and internal culture. To learn more, visit [GOCO.org/equity](https://goco.org/equity).

GOCO also launched a regional staffing model with six program officers who live across Colorado and work with partners in and around their own communities to develop projects and secure funding. Jackie Miller, who has been with GOCO for 16 years and helped establish the new plan, stepped into the executive director role. Our team looks forward to enhancing support of our partners and investing in impactful projects to benefit the state today and for future generations.