

STATE OF COLORADO

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COLORADO



DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
Executive Director

February 1, 2012

TO: Jerry Sonnenberg, Chair
House Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resources Committee

FR: Mike King, Executive Director *M.K.*

RE: Annual Report – Colorado Kids Outdoors Grant Program

The Colorado Kids Outdoors (CKO) Grant Program was established in 2010 by House Bill 1131. The program is designed to fund opportunities for Colorado youth to participate in outdoor activities in the state, including but not limited to programs that emphasize the environment and experiential, field-based learning.

In November 2010, the first group of grants was distributed following review of 41 grant applications. Grants were issued for the following:

- Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (\$48,000): RMBO will direct its funds toward several programs, including hiring college and high school students to assist with summer bird camps and other activities, helping young teens participate in "On the Wing," a camp to increase understanding and interest in natural resource issues and careers, and introducing at least 40 summer campers, age 4 to 12, to Colorado's outdoors through day camps.
- The Greenway Foundation (\$43,000): The Greenway Foundation, in collaboration with Groundwork Denver, will employ diverse youth in a variety of outdoor restoration work, in parks, open spaces and along the South Plate River. The young people will come together for leadership training, environmental education and conservation work in Rocky Mountain National Park.
- Trails 2000 (\$25,000): Trails 2000 will direct its funds to its Trail Kids program, to employ youth, provide supplies and bring more kids into the outdoors to build and maintain trails in the Durango area. Program goals include engaging low-income pre-teens in supervised trail-building service and learning.
- Yampatika (\$13,600): Yampatika, an environmental education organization, will provide stipends to youth participating as interns in Yampatika's summer camp program and to an intern who will provide outdoor education at the local Boys and Girls Club. The internships will create learning opportunities for youth interested in pursuing a career in environmental or outdoor education.

The remaining balance of the Youth in Natural Resources Fund was used for the inaugural distribution of grants. Work is underway to develop the CKO fund from which future grants will be made.