STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Department of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 866-3311
Fax: (303) 866-2115
dnr.state.co.us

February 1, 2013

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
Executive Director

TO: Senator Gail Schwartz, Chair
          Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy Committee

FR: Mike King, Executive Director

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, through gifts, grants and donations, 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, four grants were awarded using remaining resources from the Youth in Natural Resources program. As of this date, no additional funds have been acquired to administer the grant program.

The Department of Natural Resources and its divisions are dedicated to engaging, educating and employing young people who reflect our state's diverse communities. Partnering with sister agencies, higher education, non-profits and others, we are working to enhance our ability to provide opportunities to explore, learn about, and accomplish mission-driven work and outcomes.

To this end, we have adopted three specific goals:

1) **Interns** - Develop and fully implement an agency-wide internship program, with an initial goal of placing a minimum of 10 interns within DNR each fiscal year for FY 14 through FY 16.

2) **Youth Corps** – Increase funding for youth corps projects by 10% each year for the next 3 years.

3) **Partnerships** - Create opportunities for internal and external collaboration and partnerships: Develop resource lists (current activities/opportunities, internal expertise, potential external partners)

We will strive to meet these goals and will continue to work on strategies to fund the grant program.

Board of Land Commissioners ● Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety ● Colorado Geological Survey
Oil & Gas Conservation Commission ● Colorado State Parks ● Division of Forestry
Water Conservation Board ● Division of Water Resources ● Division of Wildlife