

42 great
state parks!



Great Outdoors Colorado

annual report

Fiscal Year
2009-2010



State of Colorado
John Hickenlooper, *Governor*

Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Mike King, *Executive Director*

Colorado State Parks
Dean Winstanley, *Director*



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January 31, 2011

Ms. Peggy Montano, Chair
Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust
1600 Broadway, Suite 1650
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Ms. Montano,

I'm pleased to submit Colorado State Parks' Annual Report to the Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust. This report contains financial information and narrative about the great work State Parks accomplished with GOCO funding in fiscal year 2009-2010.

Our annual report is organized around the four basic objectives for GOCO investments through the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, as outlined in Article XXVII of the state Constitution:

- Establish and improve state parks and recreation areas throughout Colorado.
- Develop appropriate public information and environmental education resources on Colorado's natural resources at state parks, recreation areas, and other locations throughout the state.
- Acquire, construct and maintain trails and river greenways.
- Provide water for recreational purposes through the acquisition of water rights or through agreements with holders of water rights.

Despite the many financial challenges of the last year, State Parks was able to accomplish a lot in FY 09-10, as the attached report shows. Now more than ever GOCO funding is vital to our ability to continue to meet the state's growing demand for quality outdoor recreation opportunities.

Colorado State Parks looks forward to working in partnership with you and the GOCO Board in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Dean Winstanley
Director, Colorado State Parks

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Introduction

Colorado State Parks is pleased to provide this annual report to Great Outdoors Colorado. This report contains financial and narrative information about the work our agency achieved between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010 (state fiscal year 09-10) with GOCO Parks-purpose funding.

Section I of Article XXVII of the Colorado Constitution delineates four basic objectives for GOCO investments through the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation:

- Establish and improve state parks and recreation areas throughout the State of Colorado.
- Develop appropriate public information and environmental education resources on Colorado's natural resources at state parks, recreation areas, and other locations throughout the state.
- Acquire, construct and maintain trails and river greenways.
- Provide water for recreational purposes through the acquisition of water rights or through agreements with holders of water rights, all in accord with applicable state water law.

This annual report is organized accordingly, with GOCO grants grouped into categories based on these four constitutional objectives.

Highlights

Colorado State Parks uses GOCO funding to support a wide variety of programs, park management activities, and capital projects throughout the state. Our agency makes every effort to use GOCO funding in a way that results in “on the ground” enhancements – tangible impacts that enhance the visitor experience and result in safer, more sustainable parks and facilities. In FY 09-10, GOCO funding contributed to programs and improvements at every park in the system – all 42 parks that are open to the public and 2 parks not yet open. State Parks welcomed more than 12 million visitors in FY 09-10, and GOCO funding contributed in some way to the visitor experience for the vast majority of these outdoor enthusiasts.

Our agency is proud of everything we’ve accomplished with GOCO funding. Some particular highlights from FY 09-10 include:

St Vrain Legacy Water Purchase – After years of effort and negotiations, in May, 2010 State Parks entered into an agreement with the City of Longmont whereby the City will provide State Parks with 191 acre-feet of water annually for the ponds at St Vrain State Park. The \$1.5 million cost of this water was funded through a \$2.0 million GOCO Legacy grant approved in December, 2007. The acquisition of water is critical to maintaining water levels in the ponds and to fulfilling the recreational potential of this park. Additional water will be acquired in FY 10-11 using the remaining Legacy funds.

Staunton Master Plan – In January, 2010, the Parks Board approved the Staunton State Park Master Plan, the development of which was funded through a \$700,000 GOCO Grant. The core property for Staunton State Park had been bequeathed to State Parks in 1986. Over the years additional surrounding and inholding acreage was acquired, funded primarily through GOCO, to yield an assemblage of sufficient size for what is expected to be one of the signature parks in the State Park system. Previous attempts to develop a master plan had been stymied by the numerous challenges involved. With this funding from GOCO State Parks was able to assemble the right expertise and conduct a comprehensive planning effort which involved considerable public input and outreach. This planning process took almost three years. The result was the highly acclaimed master plan, which lays out a number of stand-alone phases to guide the future development of the park. State Parks is now in the process of implementing Phase I of the master plan.

In October 2010, Colorado State Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects selected the Staunton Master Plan to receive the prestigious Merit Award based on the high level of professionalism, the planning approach, the decision-making process, and the implementation of the Staunton Master Plan.

Volunteer Program - In the wake of continued budget challenges volunteer contributions to Colorado State Parks remain as important as ever. Volunteers play a critical role in supporting parks by performing important administrative tasks, educating visitors, conserving natural resources, serving as leaders of volunteers, and even helping to leverage donation support through Friends groups. The promotion, cultivation, and management of volunteerism made possible with GOCO funds helps Colorado State Parks address critical needs now and in the future, as well as providing for the next generation of park visitors. In FY 09-10, nearly 5,000 volunteers contributed more than 198,000 volunteer hours—the equivalent of 95 full-time employees with a value of over \$4 million. In the process, these volunteers helped State Parks in a variety of important areas including serving as campground hosts, providing interpretive programs, trail construction, weed control, wildlife and vegetation surveys, and even fundraising.

Buffer Acquisition at Lory State Park - McClure Property – In December, 2009 State Parks acquired the 99-acre McClure property adjacent to Lory State Park for \$395,000. This property was one of the top 5 buffer/ inholding acquisition priorities for Colorado State Parks statewide. Acquisition of this property was critical to maintain access to the Lory State Park backcountry for forestry/fuels management work, emergency access and public access. A gravel road crosses the property and continues into the park backcountry. The former owners had given verbal approval for use of this access road (for Parks' administrative/emergency purposes only) for a number of years but without a legal easement. The property was put on the market in 2008, and this access was in danger of being lost. Using GOCO funding, State Parks was able to acquire the property and preserve this critical access to the park. The property also provides an important open space buffer between the park and the Soldier Canyon Estates subdivision to the north. The property varies between 6,000 – 7,000 feet in elevation, and consists of rolling

to steep foothills with heavy ponderosa pine forest interspersed with more open areas and rock outcroppings.

Youth Outreach Programs and Connecting Kids to the Outdoors – Colorado’s state parks are uniquely positioned to introduce Colorado’s youth to the outdoors, encourage more physical activity, and educate them about wildlife and outdoor issues to foster environmental stewardship. Many parks already collaborate with various school districts in their surrounding region to meet these objectives. Roxborough and Ridgway are examples of two parks that provide school programs, made possible with GOCO funds, geared toward the current state education curriculum requirements. These are experiential environmental education programs that utilize the parks’ wonderful outdoor venues. In addition, many parks work closely with Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups to help them meet badge requirements.

Colorado State Parks also partners regularly with the Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA), which honored Colorado State Parks with their 2009 Partner of the Year award, and Colorado Youth Corps, which is a statewide coalition of youth conservation corps that employs and trains youth and young adults on land, water, and energy conservation projects. Last year, Colorado Youth Corps members, comprised of 16- to 24- year-olds, completed 51 project weeks at 27 state park locations. The project accomplishments of the 27 crew leaders and 134 crew members included: 9.63 miles of trail corridor cleared, 43 acres and 6 miles of weeds removed, 12.73 miles of trail constructed / maintained, 28 rock walls installed, 56 water diversion structures installed / improved, and 49 trees removed. Funding for these youth crews was provided by GOCO.

Maintaining the State Park System – Over the past 15 years, GOCO funds have been used to acquire, expand, develop and enhance the state park system, which now stands at 44 parks. Of these, 42 are open to the public, one is under development, and one will be developed in the future. Demand for recreational opportunities at the state parks continues to grow, and in FY 09-10 State Parks set a new record high for visitation, with over 12 million park visits. Running the parks on a day-to-day basis is a very labor and capital-intensive undertaking. GOCO funds are critical to operating and maintaining these parks after they have been acquired and developed. Without these GOCO funds, it would not be possible provide these tremendous opportunities – for outdoor recreation, learning, and simply enjoying nature - to the public.

Report Format

Each project and program area included in this annual report consists of three sections.

A **Summary Table** lists all the GOCO logs associated with a project or program area that were available at some point during FY 09-10. (Each log also has an associated Grant Budget Line (GBL) code, included to make this document useful to Parks staff as well as GOCO.) For each log, information is included about the grant amount, expenditures made during FY 09-10, cumulative expenditures to date, and the unexpended balance of the log.

Example: Land Acquisitions Summary Table

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
07174	8CLA	Land Resource Acquisitions	340,000.00	315,258.96	337,717.00	2,283.00
09171	10L3	Land Acquisitions	340,000.00	154,045.93	154,045.93	185,954.07
		TOTALS	680,000.00	469,304.89	491,762.93	188,237.07

The **Background and Objectives** section lists the goals of a specific project or program area. In the case of projects, this section contains specific outcomes, such as the construction of a building or development of a trail. In the case of programs (and specific positions within those programs), these goals may contain some specific outcomes but may also be more general in nature.

The **Accomplishments in FY 09-10** section highlights specific work that was done and accomplishments made in FY 09-10.

I. Establish and Improve State Parks

Establish and Improve State Parks

Land Acquisitions

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
07174	8CLA	Land Resource Acquisitions	340,000.00	315,258.96	337,717.00	2,283.00
09171	10L3	Land Acquisitions	340,000.00	154,045.93	154,045.93	185,954.07
		TOTALS	680,000.00	469,304.89	491,762.93	188,237.07

Background and Objectives

The Colorado State Parks Real Estate Program is staffed with 1.0 FTE, assisted with periodic seasonal worker (SWP) support. This position's primary responsibility is negotiation with property owners or their agents for the acquisition, exchange, lease, or limited use of lands and interests in real property for public recreation purposes. The position is responsible for obtaining and reviewing appraisals, title commitments, surveying, inspections, and other items/services involved in purchasing and acquiring recreation lands. This requires extensive travel, given the remote location of many of State Parks' existing lands and acquisitions.

Beyond acquisition, the Real Estate Program manages State Parks' existing portfolio of lands, including administration of the annual PILT program, annual inventory of properties held in title, and ongoing management of the State Parks Land Trust Portfolio (held in trust by the State Land Board).

Prior to FY 09-10, the Real Estate Program staff and associated operating costs were partially funded through GOCO grants. Beginning in FY 09-10, GOCO grant funds are limited to actual acquisition costs, as well as direct costs associated with those acquisitions.

GOCO funding has been vital to the acquisition of State Parks' overall land base. Annual investment funding generally enables the purchase of land additions to existing parks. These purchases typically include adjacent and adjoining lands as well as buildings. In-holdings and adjoining lands at state parks, like Golden Gate Canyon, Barr Lake, Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, Lake Pueblo, Steamboat Lake and others, need to be purchased to preserve the integrity of the park, improve public access, address visitor safety or trespass issues and enhance the management of the land base for these areas. Other issues that need to be addressed include boundary disputes and right-of-way problems.

Colorado State Parks also uses GOCO funds to acquire (or purchase conservation easements on) lands that are not directly adjacent to or within a state park, in order to fulfill other aspects of

State Parks' mission. These acquisitions and/or easements could include parcels that comprise designated or new Natural Areas or trail corridor connections.

Accomplishments in FY 09-10

In December, 2009 State Parks acquired the 99-acre McClure property adjacent to Lory State Park for \$395,000. This property was one of the top 5 buffer/ inholding acquisition priorities for Colorado State Parks statewide. Acquisition of this property was critical to maintain access to the Lory State Park backcountry for forestry/fuels management work, emergency access and public access. A gravel road crosses the property and continues into the park backcountry. The former owners had given verbal approval for use of this access road (for Parks' administrative/emergency purposes only) for a number of years but without a legal easement. The property was put on the market in 2008, and this access was in danger of being lost. The property also provides an important open space buffer between the park and the Soldier Canyon Estates subdivision to the north. The property varies between 6,000 – 7,000 feet in elevation, and consists of rolling to steep foothills with heavy ponderosa pine forest interspersed with more open areas and rock outcroppings.

In March, 2010, State Parks acquired the so-called Kelly Property at the Arkansas Headwaters State Park for about \$35,000. This 1.2 acre property is located along the Arkansas River south of the town of Buena Vista. It provides access to a key stretch of river that was closed to the public prior to State Parks' purchase. In particular, State Parks could not access the river for rescue purposes and boaters could not portage around a low head dam on that section of river. The property was purchased to improve boating safety.

Establish and Improve State Parks

Army Corps Cost Share

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
06188	7CAD	Army Corp Chatfield G06	325,000.00	0.00	325,000.00	0.00
06188	7CAK	Army Corp Cherry Creek G06	316,413.00	0.00	316,412.27	0.73
07182	8CAD	Army Corp Cost Share-Chatfield	500,000.00	148,355.16	408,940.57	91,059.43
07182	8CAK	Army Corp Cost Share-Cherry Creek	500,000.00	500,000.00	500,000.00	0.00
10202	10RI	HPCH ACCS Phase 4 Road Imp	72,500.00	53,928.64	53,928.64	18,571.36
10205	10AA	HPCH ACCS Phase 2 Trail Proj	200,000.00	479.39	479.39	199,520.61
10206	10CG	HPCC ACCS Camper Svs Bldg	725,000.00	10,718.15	10,718.15	714,281.85
10207	10CS	HPCC ACCS Cottonwood CG Imp	385,000.00	0.00	0.00	385,000.00
10208	10RD	SETR ACCS Rec Imp & Dev	636,000.00	2,623.56	2,623.56	633,376.44
TOTALS			3,659,913.00	716,104.90	1,618,102.58	2,041,810.42

Footnote (a) – The funding for Log number 06188 has been deauthorized and the grant does not have an open balance.

Background and Objectives

In early 2003 Colorado State Parks and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed agreements in establishing a landmark 50/50 monetary partnership for recreation improvements and developments at three state parks located on Army Corps property: Chatfield, Cherry Creek and Trinidad State Parks. This partnership allows for a combined total of up to \$38 million dollars in proposed improvements at all three parks. Colorado State Parks' share of the partnership will come primarily from GOCO and Lottery funding, with a small amount of HUTF funding.

Chatfield, Cherry Creek, and Trinidad combined host over three million state park visitors each year. The cost share partnership ensures that each park will continue to provide a high level of quality recreation management and safety, as well as resource protection, to the public. The three parks contained many aging and under-designed recreation facilities that were not intended to accommodate the tremendous number of visitors presently seen. While State Parks had invested millions in meeting its commitment to maintain these properties, many of the facilities were 25 to 30 years old and were unable to adequately support the growing number of visitors to the parks. The cost share partnership is a proactive approach designed to implement a vision for the future.

Accomplishments in FY 09-10

Chatfield

- Completed the relocation of the downstream transformer.
- Completed design work on the Deer Creek entrance station renovation.
- Completed asphalt replacement at the boat ramp.
- Completed the swim beach sewer lift station

Cherry Creek

- Completed the Cottonwood Trail improvements near the Belleview/Peoria road realignment. The project included removal of 900 linear feet of abandoned asphalt road, construction of 30,240 square feet of trails, vault restroom facility, 334 square yard trailhead parking lot, self service informational sign and 990 linear feet of fence. The main components were:
 - Provide a connection to the newly enhanced Cottonwood Creek corridor, realignment of the creek channel including wetland construction to help improve the water quality within Cherry Creek Basin;
 - Clearly define major trail corridors and remove non-supported social trails;
 - Remove abandoned section of road;
 - Construct a new Trailhead along the parks perimeter road to provide easy access to the Cottonwood Creek Trail network; and
 - Provide visitor amenities including parking, restroom (vault toilet), and way finding at the trailhead.
- Substantially completed the development of the Cottonwood Loop campsite addition. The main components included:
 - Cottonwood Grove Campground Utility Improvements
 - Employee Campground Spur Construction
 - Coyote Loop Campsite ConstructionWork slated for completion in FY 10-11 includes:
 - Cottonwood Grove Campground Wash House Demolition
 - Cottonwood Grove Campground Loop Road Improvements
 - Tree Plantings in multiple campground loops

Establish and Improve State Parks

Lone Mesa State Park Master Plan

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
07173	8CLM	Lone Mesa Planning	250,000.00	59,202.89	162,060.75	87,939.25
		TOTALS	250,000.00	59,202.89	162,060.75	87,939.25

Background and Objectives

Lone Mesa State Park lies about 20 miles north of the town of Dolores and encompasses 11,702 acres of incredibly scenic land, ranging in elevation from near 7,000 feet to just over 9,000 feet. Lone Mesa State Park's purchase in 1999 was the result of the Division's "Crown Jewel" initiative, and the 11,700-acre property demonstrates the high natural resource values pursued as part of that search. The GOCO-funded purchase of the three private ranches comprising the park resulted in State Land Board and DPOR fee title ownership of the largest Parks-owned state park in the system.

The park is closed to general public access while development and management planning is in progress. However, a Special Use Permit program allows limited public hunting during the big game seasons, as the park includes fantastic elk, deer and bear habitat. Along with administration of the public hunting program, management of Lone Mesa includes monitoring of a livestock grazing lease and other Special Use Permits, involvement in volunteer and other service partnerships, and operation of a visitor center in Dolores. Fire fuels mitigation planning, wetlands monitoring, and other resource work has been completed on the site.

Before the park can be developed for broader public use, a master plan must be developed. Before a master plan can be developed, a "stewardship plan" is prepared. This work includes a thorough site inventory, including GIS and assessment of soils, hydrology, and other factors influencing ultimate development of recreation facilities on the property. This GOCO funding is earmarked for stewardship planning. Based on the stewardship plan, at some future time the master plan and master development plan will be completed, with the ultimate goal being the development and opening of the park for public use.

Accomplishments in FY 09-10

The stewardship planning effort for Lone Mesa began in FY 08-09 and will continue through FY 10-11. This grant was originally slated to expire on June 30, 2010 but was extended through

June 30, 2011 by the GOCO Board at State Parks' request. In FY 09-10, the following work was undertaken:

- Reconnaissance of archeological resources on the park, and archeological resource mapping;
- Raptor survey
- Vegetative community mapping and condition assessment, noxious weed mapping and grazing monitoring and rare plant mapping was completed. Because this park has four exceedingly rare plant species, this work is incredibly important for the future planning of park development.

Establish and Improve State Parks

Revenue Enhancements

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
07183	8CGG	Rev Enhancement-Golden Gate	250,000.00	24,707.00	196,120.98	53,879.02
07183	8CNJ	Rev Enhancement-Navajo	430,000.00	0.00	24,326.00	405,674.00
		TOTALS	680,000.00	24,707.00	220,446.98	459,553.02

Background and Objectives

Golden Gate Cabins: This funding and matching Lottery funds were allocated for remodeling of the Harmsen Ranch houses and barns and the Green Ranch. These facilities are available for full-service rental to State Park visitors.

The original Harmsen Ranch house was built at the turn of the 20th century and has had several building additions over the life of the structure. Among the appurtenant structures is a historic barn.

Navajo Marina: Since Navajo became a state park in the 1960s State Parks has operated a marina at the park through a private concessionaire. When the last concession contract ended in 2001, the concessionaire was the only bidder for a new contract, but that contractor and the State could not come to terms. Utilizing GOCO funding, in addition to other funding sources, State Parks undertook the development of new marina facilities. The first phase of development has been named the Two Rivers Marina and was opened to the public in 2005.

State Parks had expressed interest in developing additional amenities at the marina to further enhance the visitor experience. Proposed development includes a maintenance shop for the park's rental boats, dry storage facilities, additional boating slips and mooring balls, and construction of a marina store offering gas and other amenities. However, due to uncertainties over the economics of further investments, this project is undergoing further evaluation.

Accomplishments in FY 09-10

Golden Gate Cabins: At the Harmsen Ranch, remodeling of the house was completed in 2008. Infrastructure work included a new well, new water treatment facilities, improvements to the septic system, new water service to the house, new electrical service to the house and barn, and drainage improvements. The ranch house's kitchen, bathrooms and bedrooms were completely remodeled, including the installation of new gas heating stoves, conversion of a tool

shed into a bedroom, remodel of the sunroom, structural improvements, and new flooring. Upgraded electrical wiring was installed in the house and barn. The entrance road to the house was paved. In FY 09-10 the remodeling and restoration work on this barn was completed.

Navajo: Implementation of the next phase of this project is on hold pending further evaluation of the potential return from further capital investments.

Establish and Improve State Parks

St. Vrain State Park Legacy Water Acquisition

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
08735	C028	St. Vrain Legacy Water Acq	2,000,000.00	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	500,000.00
		TOTALS	2,000,000.00	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	500,000.00

Background and Objectives

Located about five miles due east of Longmont right along the I-25 corridor, St. Vrain State Park is an ideal natural site for a variety of outdoor recreation activities. Over the next few years State Parks plans to make major capital investments at St. Vrain to provide recreation experiences in an area undergoing rapid population growth.

In 2004 Colorado State Parks commissioned a local design firm to prepare a master plan outlining development of the infrastructure and amenities necessary to make St. Vrain State Park a true outdoor recreation destination. The St. Vrain State Park Master Plan contains detailed recommendations on improving every aspect of the park, including recreation opportunities, habitat protection, access, circulation, and sustainability.

Critical to the future of the park and the implementation of the master plan is the acquisition of water to ensure that the ponds, which form one of the primary natural resources on the park, can be kept full. The quantity of water needed and the cost to acquire the water are both significant. In December, 2007 the GOCO Board awarded a Legacy grant to State Parks for the purpose of acquiring water for St Vrain State Park. Since that time State Parks has invested considerable time and effort pursuing a number of different options for obtaining this water.

Accomplishments in FY 09-10

After years of effort and negotiations, in May, 2010 State Parks entered into an agreement with the City of Longmont whereby the City will provide State Parks with 191 acre-feet of water annually for the ponds at St Vrain State Park. This will provide most of the water needed for the park. The cost of the 191 acre-feet was \$1.5 million.

In FY 09-10 State Parks also continued negotiations with various parties to secure additional water for the park, using the remaining \$500,000 in the Legacy grant. These water purchases will be completed in FY 10-11.

Establish and Improve State Parks

Staunton State Park Master Plan

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
07172	8CST	Staunton Planning	690,827.00	83,486.58	627,112.50	63,714.50
		TOTALS	690,827.00	83,486.58	627,112.50	63,714.50

Background and Objectives

Staunton State Park lies approximately 40 miles southwest of downtown Denver. Encompassing about 3,700 acres, the park is situated within both Park and Jefferson Counties and is surrounded by the Pike National Forest to the north and northwest. Staunton is not yet open to the public and represents a rare opportunity for our agency to develop an entirely new state park from the ground up.

In 1986, Frances Hornbrook Staunton donated 1,680 acres (including her parents' original homestead) to Colorado State Parks, establishing the original land base for the park. Additional purchases in 1998 added the Elk Falls Section (1,042 acres) and the Davis Ranch Section (860 acres). The acquisition of the 80-acre Chase parcel in 2006 opened up a key transportation corridor through the park and will greatly enhance the development potential.

Staunton State Park contains many spectacular natural features, including rugged rock outcroppings, lush grassy meadows, rolling hillsides forested with conifers and aspens and a dramatic waterfall. Numerous streams (including Elk Creek, Black Mountain Creek, Jones Creek and Mason Creek) wind through the park and have significant riparian areas, adding to the natural beauty of Staunton.

In February 2007 Colorado State Parks embarked on a comprehensive master planning effort for Staunton State Park. State Parks selected Landworks Design, Inc as the park's lead master planning firm, which was supported by a team of consultants with diversified expertise in master planning, design development, financial planning, construction documentation, and construction observation services. In partnership with Colorado State Parks Development Staff, Landworks Design, Inc helped lead the Staunton State Park Planning Team (Planning Team), which comprised Colorado State Park field, planning, and natural resource staff and various subconsultants. The Planning Team met regularly throughout the master planning effort and provided frequent updates to the Parks Board at important junctures in the planning process to ensure that a thorough, well-conceived plan would be developed. The Planning Team also held nine public open house meetings throughout the process in Conifer, Bailey and Golden to solicit

public feedback on the master plan. In addition, a master plan advisory group (MPAC), comprised of 15 local, regional and statewide stakeholders supplemented the information provided by the public and helped explore and develop master plan alternatives.

Based on public input and other information obtained during the planning process, the Staunton State Park Planning Team proposed a plan that balanced physical site characteristics and overall site carrying capacity with the Colorado State Parks mission and careful financial planning. The proposed Master Plan is broken into distinct phases over time that coincide with key steps and funding needed to develop the park over time incorporating partnerships, build-out goals and other considerations. The plan features a variety of hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails, about 100 campsites, and potentially 10 to 20 'sleeper cabins' and yurts depending on partner funding and/or other philanthropic contributions at full buildout. The park's unique geography provides for a variety of other outdoor opportunities including rock climbing, wildlife watching, camping, and scenic viewing. At maximum buildout, the development "footprint" at the park would amount to seven-tenths of one percent, or about 29.5 acres. This figure includes all roads, trails, buildings, parking, visitors services buildings, and campsites.

Accomplishments in FY 09-10

In January, 2010, the Parks Board approved the Staunton State Park Master Plan, the development of which was funded through this GOCO Grant. With this funding State Parks was able to assemble the right expertise and conduct a comprehensive planning effort which involved tremendous public input and outreach. This planning process took almost three years. The result was the highly acclaimed master plan, which involves a number of stand-alone phases to guide the future development of the park. State Parks is now in the process of implementing Phase I of the master plan.

In October 2010, Colorado State Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects selected the Staunton Master Plan to receive the prestigious Merit Award based on the high level of professionalism, the planning approach, the decision-making process, and the implementation of the Staunton Master Plan.

Establish and Improve State Parks

New Park Development

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
10196	0196	HPVR Master Plan Implementation	2,880,000.00	96,997.80	96,997.80	2,783,002.20
10197	0197	HPST Davis Dams Renovations	1,350,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,350,000.00
10198	0198	HPST Elk Falls Renovation	500,000.00	24,602.50	24,602.50	475,397.50
TOTALS			4,730,000.00	121,600.30	121,600.30	4,608,399.70

Background and Objectives

There were three capital projects making up this program in FY 09-10: Implementation of the St Vrain Master Plan, renovation of the Davis Ponds at Staunton State Park, and renovation of the Elk Falls dam at Staunton State Park.

Located about five miles due east of Longmont right along the I-25 corridor, St. Vrain State Park is an ideal natural site for a variety of outdoor recreation activities. Over the next few years State Parks plans to make major capital investments at St. Vrain to provide recreation experiences in an area undergoing rapid population growth.

In 2004 Colorado State Parks commissioned a local design firm to prepare a master plan outlining development of the infrastructure and amenities necessary to make St. Vrain State Park a true outdoor recreation destination. The St. Vrain State Park Master Plan contains detailed recommendations on improving every aspect of the park, including recreation opportunities, habitat protection, access, circulation, and sustainability. The Master Plan, which will be implemented with these GOCO funds, includes:

St Vrain Master Plan	
<i>Project Component</i>	<i>Cost Estimate</i>
Pave Entrance Road	\$ 1,000,000
Pave South CG Road	\$ 20,000
South CG Flush Toilet	\$ 206,000
Blue Heron Day Use	\$ 223,000
BH Res. Improvements	\$ 928,411
Entrance Station	\$ 502,589
Total	\$ 2,880,000

During FY 09-10, detailed design work commenced on these projects. This design work will continue into FY 10-11, when construction on the first components will begin.

Staunton State Park lies approximately 40 miles southwest of downtown Denver. Encompassing about 3,700 acres, the park is situated within both Park and Jefferson Counties and is surrounded by Pike National Forest to the north and northwest. Staunton is not yet open to the public and represents a rare opportunity for our agency to develop an entirely new state park from the ground up. Staunton State Park contains many spectacular natural features, including rugged rock outcroppings, lush grassy meadows, rolling hillsides forested with conifers and aspens and a dramatic waterfall.

Numerous streams (including Elk Creek, Black Mountain Creek, Jones Creek and Mason Creek) wind through the park and have significant riparian areas, adding to the natural beauty of Staunton.

The three Davis dams, located on Black Mountain Creek, were constructed in 1935 and are not in good condition. The earthen dams (referred to as Davis #1, Davis #2, and Davis #3) were inspected by the Office of the State Engineer in 2005 and determined to be Conditionally Satisfactory, with several improvements required in order to achieve a fully Satisfactory approval rating. The dams lack adequate upstream slope erosion protection, the outlet works are in disrepair and are leaking, the spillways are not adequately sized or protected against erosion, and the dams have seepage issues. The current Hazard Status of the dams is Low Hazard/Minor, but the Office of the State Engineer is in the process of reevaluating this status.

Subsequent to 2005, State Parks commissioned an engineering study of the dams, resulting in several possible alternatives for bringing the dams to Satisfactory condition. The alternative initially selected by State Parks project engineers included the following components:

- Rehabilitate the three dams, installing a clay cutoff trench at the upstream toe of each dam and a 24-inch clay blanket on the upstream face of each dam.
- Create a 125-foot wide emergency spillway at the upper reservoir (Davis #1) that discharges into an off-line channel around the Davis #2 and Davis #3 dams and rejoins Black Mountain Creek below the dams.
- Reconstruct the outlet works for each dam with new control gates and service spillways to control the water level in the individual reservoirs.
- Remove an existing diversion embankment upstream of the Davis #1 dam.
- Construct a sediment pond to capture sediment washed down the stream.

Subsequent engineering analysis conducted in FY 09-10 has led to the conclusion that a more cost-effective approach will be to replace the three ponds with two slightly larger ponds. This analysis determined that the soils in the area were not adequate for the proposed spillway. It was proposed in the conceptual design that a 125 foot wide spillway would be constructed on the upper portion of the spillway channel and would neck down to 20 foot wide in the lower portion of the spillway channel. However, after the soils testing was completed it was determined the spillway would need to be constructed 125 feet wide for the entire length of

the spillway channel and it would have to be riprap for the entire width and length of the spillway. This was a significant cost increase that was not anticipated in the Alternative Study. After further investigations it was determined it would be more economical to combine two of the three ponds and construct concrete spillways over the dams. Engineering, design and feasibility studies will continue into FY 10-11.

The Elk Creek dam spillway and outlet works at Staunton State Park are in need of repair. A preliminary examination by the State Engineers Office indicates several problems with the dam infrastructure. The current outlet structure is not fully functional and will need to be replaced. The spillway is undersized for the drainage basin and needs to be repaired. There are voids in the concrete below the spillway that need to be filled to prevent further erosion from occurring. Repairs need to be made to the vertical concrete wall on the side of the spillway. The crest of the dam needs to be leveled and low spots filled in. The bank of the dam itself contains two metal culverts that must be removed and backfilled. The State Engineers Office must approve the renovation plans before any work on the dam or outlet structures is undertaken.

In FY 09-10 State Parks contracted with water engineering professionals to develop a final renovation scenario for the Elk Creek dam. Specific tasks include a comprehensive topographic survey of the dam and its immediate vicinity, geotechnical investigation of the dam itself, a hydrological study of the creek and retaining pond, alternative analysis of specific repairs that must take place, a technical/engineering design of the repairs, and finally construction of the improvement. Based on this work, State Parks is considering four alternatives to renovating the Elk Falls dam: (1) constructing a roller-compacted concrete dam and spillway; (2) constructing a labyrinth weir spillway; (3) constructing a smaller, non-jurisdictional dam; and (4) breaching the dam and restoring the creek to approximate its original condition. Evaluation of these alternatives will continue into FY 10-11, when a decision will be made and plans will be submitted to the State Engineer.

Establish and Improve State Parks

Park Infrastructure Improvements

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
10199	0199	10199 Energy Retrofits	1,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000,000.00
10200	0200	Dam Maintenance	168,000.00	22.20	22.20	167,977.80
10201	0201	Hecla Junction Site Repair	477,500.00	2,999.88	2,999.88	474,500.12
10203	0203	HPNS Spillway Road Replacement	400,000.00	69,353.79	69,353.79	330,646.21
10204	0204	SEMU Road Overlay	250,000.00	0.00	0.00	250,000.00
10209	0209	HPCH New HQ Office & Shop	2,480,000.00	54,408.25	54,408.25	2,425,591.75
10210	0210	HPNS Marina Bay Restoration	600,000.00	0.00	0.00	600,000.00
10211	0211	Asset Inv & Cond Assessment	300,000.00	2,970.00	2,970.00	297,030.00
10212	0212	Road Inv & Evaluation	225,000.00	0.00	0.00	225,000.00
10213	0213	Project Signing	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00
		TOTALS	5,915,500.00	129,754.12	129,754.12	5,785,745.88

Background and Objectives

The parks system is nearly 50 years old and requires continuous maintenance, restoration, and improvement of facilities and infrastructure. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation is statutorily charged with promoting outdoor recreation in Colorado. To meet this charge, recreational facilities must be well maintained. Further, in order to provide recreational opportunities to a growing number of visitors, new and diverse features need to be added to our state park system. Furthermore, State Parks is dependent on revenue from visitors for operational funds. Maintaining and improving basic park facilities is an important part of sustaining a solid base of visitation and generating enough cash revenues to cover a majority of the operating costs of the state park system.

In FY 09-10, GOCO funded 10 new capital projects. During FY 09-10, State Parks began design, feasibility, and engineering analyses on all these projects. Construction on these is anticipated to begin in FY 10-11. Highlights include:

In April 2007 Governor Ritter signed the Greening of State Government Executive Orders (D011 07 and D012 07). These orders charge state departments, agencies and offices to take a position of leadership in the new energy economy. State government will reduce energy consumption, increase the use of renewable energy sources, increase the energy efficiency and decrease the environmental impact of the state vehicle fleet, implement environmental purchasing standards and reduce waste and increase recycling.

The Greening Government goals Colorado state government seeks to achieve by June 30, 2012 are:

- 20% reduction in energy use
- 20% reduction in paper use
- 10% reduction in water consumption
- 25% volumetric reduction in state vehicle petroleum consumption

Each state department and campus is charged with creating a sustainability management system to track and report their greening government performance.

Colorado State Parks has approximately 1000 facilities located in 44 parks, plus a few administration facilities that are located outside of the parks. While many of these facilities are very primitive in nature (e.g. vault toilets), State Parks has an enormous opportunity to realize significant energy savings in the long term.

State Parks contracted with a professional energy efficiency engineering firm to conduct a Technical Energy Audit (TEA) that identified the potential to save 10-15% on energy costs through a variety of retrofits. This audit was performed by EMC Engineers and included a detailed evaluation of park buildings in 32 of 42 Parks – including but not limited to: utility meters, lighting systems, heating and cooling systems, Domestic Hot Water (DHW) systems, control systems, water and sewer systems, building envelopes, water treatment lagoons, irrigation systems, boat-washing and inspection stations, camping hookups, etc. In addition, the TEA involved the collection and data entry of utility bills for electrical, natural gas, or propane services in the Parks for all months back to July 2005. This audit was the first step in the development of an Energy Services Performance Contract (ESPC), under the guidelines of the Colorado Governor's Energy Office (GEO), which EMC Engineers proposed to Colorado State Parks and will eventually lead to the installation of the projects recommended in their report.

The goal of the TEA was to evaluate energy usage, utility bill costs, and water savings measures to reduce energy consumption and energy costs for the state parks system. The TEA evaluates 30 possible energy-saving measures. In FY 2010, Colorado State Parks set aside a future budget of about \$1,000,000 per year for the next two years to help address energy efficiency projects, particularly projects that result in the greatest reduction of utility bills. In December, 2009 the consultants delivered their final report. State Parks plans to deploy the \$1,000,000 GOCO grant beginning in FY 10-11 to implement the recommendations that appear to be the most cost-effective.

The recommended retrofits would have a 10-year payback or less on the infrastructure improvement. A contract is underway to implement these strategies in FY 2011.

EMC Engineers recommended lighting retrofits and water conservation projects as the highest priority projects for maximum savings in the 28 parks that have the highest utility bills. These parks account for 95.3% of all the utility costs in the park system, including water/sewer costs. The main focus of the TEA is to reduce utility bills and free up additional dollars for other park

operating needs. An important distinction in this report is that the Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) recommended do not impact the energy used by RV pads (hookups), which account for as much as 50% of the electrical energy cost of some parks (but are also in high demand by park visitors throughout the months of April to October).

If all of the highest priority lighting retrofits and water conservation projects are implemented at the 28 parks having the greatest utility cost saving potential, proposed project payback is 9.8 years with a Return on Investment (ROI) of 10%, amounting to an estimated \$185,121 in utility bill savings per year. This is approximately a 14% utility cost savings and a 14.2% reduction in energy usage for 28 Parks and approximately a 13.3% utility savings for the entire park system. While further energy savings measures could be implemented, the payback time for these exceeded 10 years and were deleted from the scope of work. Colorado State Parks is currently negotiating the contract to implement the top priority projects, with completion of retrofits at the 28 priority parks estimated in the spring of 2012.

Once the projects are implemented, the annual electricity savings will be 517,167 kWh. The projects will also save 26,067 therms of natural gas. Not only will these reductions in energy use save money, they will also result in annual greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions. Reducing the parks' energy use will keep 1,144,925 pounds of greenhouse gases (CO₂ equivalents) from entering the atmosphere and affecting global climate change.

In FY 09-10, State Parks embarked on a comprehensive evaluation of every building, road and infrastructure asset within the agency. The Asset Inventory for Colorado State Parks is the first component of an overall Capital Asset Management Program. The objective of overall program is to guide a wide range of decision making and management of all constructed assets. The specific objective of the Asset Inventory is to develop facility and infrastructure evaluation criteria and a methodology to survey and assess the physical condition of the constructed assets within Colorado State Parks. The evaluation criteria will not only establish benchmarks for the assessment of the conditions and needs of park infrastructure but will also serve as the basis for quantifying the costs to maintain the assets and serve as a tool to help predict and recommended capital improvements. Key goals of the development of the criteria are to minimize future maintenance obligations and establish renovation and construction guidelines that will provide uniformity and therefore improve the cost-effectiveness for future construction and maintenance of projects within State Parks.

Survey teams have been deployed to collect data on park facilities and infrastructure that is eventually entered into a database that can be displayed on a map so specific assets can be located easily (see inset). Other reports and links to external data will be included within this web-enabled interface and will be available to Park staff or management wherever a connection to the internet is available.

The Asset Inventory will become a valuable tool to understand and better maintain State Park infrastructure. The current design should allow it to be easy to use, be compatible with Risk Management data, and grow with State Parks needs.

Establish and Improve State Parks

Capital Project Management

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
09172	10AD	Capital Project Management	603,000.00	603,000.00	603,000.00	0.00
		TOTALS	603,000.00	603,000.00	603,000.00	0.00

Background and Objectives

Colorado State Parks' Capital Development Program is responsible for construction and development projects around the state, ranging in size from small landscaping projects to the planning and development of new state parks. The program works closely with park managers, regional staff, and contractors to ensure that State Parks' many construction and development projects are completed in a timely, cost-effective, and safe manner. Program staff plan, design, engineer, budget, contract, supervise, and inspect the design and construction of facilities and all other park infrastructure. Program staff must also manage the complicated procurement process, including advertising and soliciting bids, evaluating contractor qualifications, and managing bid awards. Additionally, program staff oversee the design and implementation of the asset inventory system, energy efficiency feasibility analyses, administrative office space planning and management, and numerous other aspects of managing State Parks' capital facilities.

GOCO has historically funded a number of full-time positions at State Parks which directly expend and/or manage GOCO funding, including Capital Project Engineers. Project Engineers manage construction and other development projects around the state.

This GOCO funding covers costs for approximately half of State Parks' capital development program staff and operations, which includes ten engineer, landscape architect, administrative support and management positions. The capital program has recently been centralized, and all capital development staff and capital projects are overseen by a single Capital Program Manager. Over the past half century, Parks has grown significantly, now managing over 220,000 acres of parklands and a significant capital infrastructure, estimated at about 1,000 facilities and structures throughout 44 parks. In addition to the growth in Parks' capital infrastructure, the capital budget has grown over the years as well, to over \$20 million in FY 09-10. A centrally managed Capital Development Program will significantly enhance the quality of information available to the agency, the Parks Board, GOCO and other decision makers. It will help ensure

that Colorado State Parks manages public dollars that are entrusted to us in a transparent, responsible and cost-effective way.

Accomplishments in FY 09-10

In FY 09-10 capital project managers were involved in overseeing work on over 180 active capital projects in various stages of completion, with a value of over \$40 million.

In 2010, State Parks embarked on a comprehensive evaluation of every building, road and infrastructure asset within the agency. The Asset Inventory for Colorado State Parks is the first component of an overall Capital Asset Management Program. The objective of overall program is to guide a wide range of decision making and management of all constructed assets. The specific objective of the Asset Inventory is to develop facility and infrastructure evaluation criteria and a methodology to survey and assess the physical condition of the constructed assets within Colorado State Parks. The evaluation criteria will not only establish benchmarks for the assessment of the conditions and needs of park infrastructure but will also serve as the basis for quantifying the costs to maintain the assets and serve as a tool to help predict and recommended capital improvements. Key goals of the development of the criteria are to minimize future maintenance obligations and establish renovation and construction guidelines that will provide uniformity and therefore improve the cost-effectiveness for future construction and maintenance of projects within State Parks.

In FY 09-10, the Asset Inventory process was designed, and survey teams initiated the data collection, on a trial basis, on park facilities and infrastructure. In FY 10-11 this will be expanded and the information entered into a database that can be displayed on a map so specific assets can be located easily. Other reports and links to external data will be included within this web-enabled interface and will be available to Park staff or management wherever a connection to the internet is available.

The Asset Inventory will become a valuable tool to understand and better maintain State Park infrastructure. The current design should allow it to be easy to use, be compatible with Risk Management data, and grow with State Parks needs.

In FY 09-10, State Parks completed a comprehensive Technical Energy Audit (TEA) that identified the potential to save 10-15% on energy costs through a variety of retrofits. This audit was performed by EMC Engineers and included a detailed evaluation of park buildings in 32 of 42 Parks – including but not limited to: utility meters, lighting systems, heating and cooling systems, Domestic Hot Water (DHW) systems, control systems, water and sewer systems, building envelopes, water treatment lagoons, irrigation systems, boat-washing and inspection stations, camping hookups, etc.

In addition, the TEA involved the collection and data entry of utility bills for electrical, natural gas, or propane services in the Parks for all months back to July 2005. This audit is the first step in the development of an Energy Services Performance Contract (ESPC), under the guidelines of the Colorado Governor's Energy Office (GEO), which EMC Engineers is proposing to Colorado State Parks and will eventually lead to the installation of the projects recommended in their report.

The goal of the TEA was to evaluate energy usage, utility bill costs, and water savings measures to reduce energy consumption and energy costs for the state parks system. The TEA evaluates 30 possible energy-saving measures. In FY 09-10, the GOCO Board approved capital grants for State Parks to implement the most cost-effective of these energy saving investments.

Establish and Improve State Parks

Resource Management Program

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
07178	8NRH	Natural Resource Projects-HP	90,000.00	7,000.00	89,902.64	97.36
07178	8NRR	Natural Resource Projects-RM	90,000.00	2,967.01	71,337.67	18,662.33
07178	8NRS	Natural Resource Projects-SE	90,000.00	0.00	88,162.06	1,837.94
07180	8NRP	Natural Resource Projects	222,995.00	3,709.68	222,995.00	0.00
07181	8CFM	Fuel Mitigation	300,000.00	239,038.62	299,600.28	399.72
09173	10NR	Resource Management Program	421,000.00	332,349.65	332,349.65	88,650.35
09173	10F3	Forest Management	300,000.00	5,631.94	5,631.94	294,368.06
09324	9324	Resource Management Projects	200,000.00	21,463.52	102,816.37	97,183.63
09325	9325	Wildfire Prevention	260,000.00	40,192.40	40,192.40	219,807.60
		TOTALS	1,973,995.00	652,352.82	1,252,988.01	721,006.99

Background and Objectives

The Colorado State Parks Resource Management Program exists to protect, preserve and enhance the natural, scenic, scientific, and outdoor recreation values of Colorado's public recreation areas. The program provides leadership and assistance to agency staff on a variety of resource issues, and is responsible for five major program areas:

- Resource stewardship plans for each state park
- GIS production and management
- Threatened and endangered species reviews
- Natural Areas Program coordination
- Forest management

Resource stewardship plans developed by this program contain information about water, geology, soils, vegetation, wildlife, internal and surrounding land use and property ownership. On-the-ground surveys are conducted to map and document the condition of the vegetation, rare plants, weeds, aquatic nuisance species and selected wildlife habitat, then comprehensive Stewardship Plans are produced to guide park staff on goals and details of protection of significant resources. Program staff have also developed management prescriptions which focus on weed management, park-specific re-vegetation, guidance on dealing with specific resource issues (wildlife/trash interactions, rattlesnakes, large predators, cottonwood/willow maintenance, etc.), as well as monitoring methods, based on each park's regional context and special resources such as rare species or natural communities. Volunteer monitoring is also an important aspect of this program with a particular focus on raptor monitoring.

GIS production and management for planning and maintenance is an ongoing activity of this program. GIS data is collected with GPS or compiled from other sources (engineering drawings, for example) and maintained for every park to create a variety of maps, including trail maps. The data is used for information requests, planning (avoiding sensitive plants, animal habitat or cultural resources when creating a new trail), and construction activities. Also boundary and parcel information is tracked in GIS, including data on which parcels are purchased with which funding source, how many acres and where we have easements. Utilities and maintenance information is tracked and includes data such as noxious weed locations and water, sewer and electric line locations. All park field offices have GIS data installed and have at least one staff member trained in its use.

Threatened and endangered species reviews conducted by the Resource Management Program are a vital step in State Parks' capital development process. Program staff review development project descriptions, review GIS information on habitat and species occurrence in the region of the project, visit the site of the project to conduct habitat evaluations, and consult with regional biologists and park staff in order to produce a recommendation regarding a given project's compliance with state and federal regulations.

The **Natural Areas Program** has 114 designated or registered natural areas encompassing 265,000 acres which protect elements of statewide significance and importance. These areas can be owned by federal, state, or private entities; the program's role is to ensure proper stewardship of these rare and special areas through cooperative agreements. Areas are eligible for designation based on a variety of factors, but in general the aim is to incorporate the best representative examples of rare plants, rare animals, native ecosystems, unique geology and unique paleontology. Protection of these areas requires vigilant monitoring, accomplished with a cadre of over 100 volunteers. Volunteers monitor these areas with regular photo monitoring and fill out detailed technical tracking forms, and perform regular technical plant counts. Staff visits 15-30 designated or registered sites a year, as well as several new sites to be surveyed and evaluated for inclusion into the Program.

Forest management is an ongoing State Parks' program that actively responds to the trends and conditions of Colorado's forests. Investing in these fuel treatments helps reduce the risk of fire to homeowners living within the vicinity of many state parks. This program allows Colorado State Parks to continue an effort to protect our invaluable parklands from the kind of catastrophic fires experienced across the state in 2002.

Accomplishments in FY 09-10

Resource Stewardship Planning

In FY 09-10 park inventory efforts revealed and documented resources never before found on our park lands. These findings were then coordinated with state parks planning.

- Archeological, Paleontological and Bird and other Wildlife surveys – Since all state parks were inventoried over the last 10 years, this new round of surveys is focused on

resources that have never been documented at parks. Archeological resources were thoroughly surveyed at Lone Mesa and Roxborough. A partnership was established with the University of Colorado (Denver) for paleontological fossil surveys, and much more detailed breeding bird information is being gathered at each park and the volunteer raptor monitoring program is being expanded to more parks. Rare species surveys have been conducted at several parks including Preble's mice, rare pocket gopher, swift fox, and the unusual all female whiptail lizard. All of this information is helping to protect and interpret these resources at our parks.

- Research, Analysis and Planning to protect parks - photo documentation and ground surveys were conducted at Cherry Creek and Chatfield State Parks to help support the dog area planning effort, a large amount of research papers were collected and analyzed to help guide future decisions on trail uses and dog policies, inventory and planning was conducted at Eldorado, Stagecoach and Steamboat for noxious weeds and at Pueblo for prairie dog management.

Natural Areas

- As of the end of FY 09-10, State Parks was cooperatively monitoring approximately 265,000 acres in 114 registered or designated natural areas.
- At Geneva Basin Iron Fen, a broad partnership of land management agencies and conservation organizations restored about 1 mile of roads where illegal OHV use was impacting a rare wetland. Working with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, Clear Creek County and the Pike National Forest, State Parks coordinated the largest road closure restoration project in our history.
- In partnership with the Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG), State Park's Rare Plant Monitoring Stewards covered the state with an army of citizen scientists to keep track of our rarest species. DBG administers this program so State Parks is able to tap much-needed rare plant expertise while minimizing our costs.
- In Fiscal Year 09-10, State Parks utilized Species Conservation Trust Funding to bring in over \$200,000 of match funding for rare plant conservation and research projects. Working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM and other partners, State Park's dollars have magnified the effectiveness of rare plant conservation in Colorado.
- Working with the BLM, State Parks staff and volunteers involved in monitoring and protecting rare plants in the Piceance Basin of northwest Colorado received a Landscape Stewardship Award from the Public Lands Foundation. State Parks and our volunteers were one of only six recipients of this recognition in the nation!

Forest Management

State Parks responded to changing conditions in the state and successfully coordinated with partners to obtain funding and get the forest managed in key areas to keep parks open and safe.

- CSFS partnership for Pine Beetle response – State Parks worked very closely with the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) and was able to address rapidly changing

conditions at Steamboat, Pearl, and State Forest State Parks by removing a considerable number of dead and diseased trees while minimizing the time campgrounds were closed. Also there has been proactive work at Golden Gate to stay ahead of the pine beetle there.

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant – Last year over \$2 million dollars in FEMA match funding was obtained to proactively protect key Front Range watersheds through 20 major forestry projects that treated over 2,400 acres on 7 parks.
- Youth Corps Partnership – State Parks partnered with the Colorado Youth Corps who applied for American Recovery and Reinvestment (ARRA) money to treat forests on and around the four state parks heavily affected by mountain pine beetle. The Youth Corps cumulatively performed over 25 weeks of work and made major progress particularly at State Forest and Golden Gate State Parks.

Establish and Improve State Parks

Vegetation Management

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
09174	10V3	Vegetation Management	400,000.00	227,771.87	227,771.87	172,228.13
09452	9452	Vegetation Management	513,000.00	112,520.27	351,754.84	161,245.16
		TOTALS	913,000.00	340,292.14	579,526.71	333,473.29

Background and Objectives

Great Outdoors Colorado investments for mechanical and other vegetative management efforts are the most important funding for on-the-ground resource protection at the state parks. This funding helps State Parks maintain the momentum we have built to sustain native ecosystems by containing noxious weed infestations at many of our parks statewide. By continuing to seek out the most innovative, effective and comprehensive means available, we have been able to initiate proactive efforts to better manage the natural habitats at our parks.

GOCO funding is allocated to regions and parks to complete a wide variety of urgent vegetation management tasks. Primary efforts include identification of non-native plant areas through mapping and other means; development of integrated weed management plans; selective application of herbicides; bio-controls and weed agents; and restoration with native grasses, shrubs and trees best suited for habitat improvements. Hazardous tree removal has become especially important in recent years, especially in parks faced with new forest pest invasions including the pine beetle.

A large portion of State Parks' vegetation management efforts are cooperative, with local county weed control coordinators, county land use officials, the Colorado State Forest Service, and adjoining landowners playing an important role.

Accomplishments in FY 09-10

High Plains Region

- Barr Lake State Park hired contractors to spray for noxious weed control; at this park the primary species of concern are Canada thistle, musk thistle and white top. The contractor also compiled a weed report which will help to plan for targeted weed sprays.
- Boyd Lake State Park contracted with Larimer County for noxious weed spraying throughout the park and conducted in-house weed control.

- Castlewood Canyon State Park hired contractors to spray for noxious weed control; at this park the primary species of concern are knapweed, thistles, toadflax, mullein and leafy spurge.
- Chatfield State Park hired contractors for weed spraying for diffuse knapweed and thistles. Park staff also contracted spraying for beetle/borer infestation in pine trees in campground. Park staff also purchased herbicides and fertilizers for staff application.
- Cherry Creek State Park hired contractors and used park staff to spray for noxious weed control; at this park the primary species of concern are knapweed, tamarisk, toadflax, and spurge.
- Golden Gate Canyon State Park hired contractors to spray for noxious weed control.
- North Sterling State Park purchased herbicides for noxious weed control throughout the park including park trails and high use pads in campgrounds and picnic areas.
- Roxborough State Park hired contractors to spray for noxious weed control.

Rocky Mountain Region

- Noxious weed spraying and turf management projects were conducted at James M. Robb-Colorado River, Crawford, Harvey Gap, Mancos, Navajo, Paonia, Pearl Lake, Rifle Falls, Rifle Gap, Sylvan, Sweitzer, Vega, and Yampa River State Parks.

Southeast Region

- Noxious weed spraying and turf management projects were conducted at Arkansas River, Bonny, Cheyenne Mountain, Eleven Mile, John Martin, Mueller, Spinney and Trinidad State Parks.

Establish and Improve State Parks

Park Operations

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
09175	10CM	Cheyenne Mtn Operations	343,000.00	343,000.00	343,000.00	0.00
09176	10CF	Crawford Operations	73,000.00	73,000.00	73,000.00	0.00
09177	10GG	Golden Gate Operations	103,000.00	103,000.00	103,000.00	0.00
09178	10JM	John Martin Operations	64,000.00	64,000.00	64,000.00	0.00
09179	10LA	Lathrop Operations	73,000.00	73,000.00	73,000.00	0.00
09180	10LM	Lone Mesa Operations	44,000.00	44,000.00	44,000.00	0.00
09181	10RL	Rifle Complex Operations	28,000.00	28,000.00	28,000.00	0.00
09182	10VR	St. Vrain Operations	175,000.00	175,000.00	175,000.00	0.00
09183	10SF	State Forest Operations	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00
09184	10ST	Staunton Operations	60,000.00	46,175.43	46,175.43	13,824.57
09185	10SV	Sylvan Operations	110,000.00	110,000.00	110,000.00	0.00
09186	10YA	Yampa Operations	115,000.00	115,000.00	115,000.00	0.00
09311	9311	Lone Mesa Operations	43,725.00	4,832.57	43,724.89	0.11
09313	9313	Staunton Operations	42,002.00	10,551.99	42,001.35	0.65
09315	9315	Yampa Operations	114,628.00	8,189.33	114,627.60	0.40
		TOTALS	1,418,355.00	1,227,749.32	1,404,529.27	13,825.73

Footnote (a) – The funding for Log numbers 09311, 09313, and 09315 have been deauthorized and the grant does not have an open balance.

Background and Objectives

Great Outdoors Colorado has provided significant funding to almost every state park in the system to help develop facilities and recreation amenities, acquire land, or both. Several state parks that have been improved through GOCO capital investments receive annual operations support from GOCO. This support varies from park to park but system-wide covers basic operating expenses and a limited number of full-time staff. Typical park operating expenses supported with GOCO funding include:

- Seasonal and/or contract worker support
- Minor repair and maintenance costs
- Utilities costs
- Other administrative and operating costs directly related to normal agency and park business practices

Accomplishments in FY 09-10

In FY 09-10 GOCO funding supported day-to-day park operations at Cheyenne Mountain, Crawford, Golden Gate, John Martin, Lathrop, Lone Mesa, Rifle Complex, St Vrain, State Forest, Staunton, Sylvan, and Yampa River State Parks.

II. Public Information and Environmental Education

Public Information and Environmental Education

Public Information Program

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
09187	10MK	Public Info Program	210,000.00	210,000.00	210,000.00	0.00
09431	9431	Public Info Prog Operations	86,449.00	13,905.61	86,448.05	0.95
		TOTALS	296,449.00	223,905.61	296,448.05	0.95

Footnote (a) – The funding for Log number 09431 has been deauthorized and the grant does not have an open balance.

Background and Objectives

Article XXVII of the Constitution states that Parks-purpose GOCO funding will be used to “Develop appropriate public information and environmental education resources on Colorado’s natural resources at state parks, recreation areas, and other locations throughout the state.” Colorado State Parks’ Public Information Program manages the Division’s external communications, agency brand, outreach, publications, and marketing. The program analyzes State Parks’ position in the marketplace and implements short-, medium-, and long-range efforts to improve the Division’s position. The program analyzes and anticipates tourism trends and their effect on State Parks’ marketing efforts and visitation.

Specific objectives that the Public Information Program strives to achieve in a given fiscal year include:

- Implement marketing efforts for the agency, including recommending strategies and programs to leadership. Develop marketing campaigns utilizing a variety of media, including print ads, radio, and web content. Draft, develop, and produce individual advertisements for use in local, statewide, and national print media.
- Produce Division communications including presentations, reports, brochures, promotional materials and campaign/event specific information.
- Assist with disseminating information to media representatives via news releases and maintaining current media outlet information and contacts.
- Establish one-on-one professional contacts with tourism-related representatives and other marketing partners. Coordinate marketing partnerships with media outlets, tourism offices, and trade shows. Represent the agency at special events and trade shows statewide.
- Manage the agency website, including coordination with contractors specializing in website development. Prepare, review, update, and revise all information appearing on the website.

Accomplishments in FY 09-10

- One of central goals in the 2010 Strategic Plan is to strengthen outreach and partnerships. One of the primary means of accomplishing this is through the Colorado State Parks website. This past year, Colorado State Parks reached a significant milestone with the addition of a dedicated, permanent web programmer/analyst. Previously the State Parks website had been managed by a series of contractors, interns and temporary staff. Security access issues, turnover, website field trainings, website consistency and quality have all greatly improved during this year.
- A major project in the section was transitioning from a website content platform that was no longer supported by Microsoft to a new one that is supported by the state's Office of Information Technology and Microsoft. The website infrastructure is comprised of several different software programs, some of which are more outdated than others. Considerable resources were spent testing and assimilating all the components into one operating framework. Upon successful migration of systems, approximately 100 employees were trained on the use of the new web platform and associated training materials were created.
- The popularity of Parks e-newsletter grew substantially in 2010, with the number of opt-in subscribers more than doubling to just under 20,000. Not only is this an extremely cost effective way to communicate with visitors and potential customers, but the database will allow us to use customer data to serve them better. Reminders about when their annual passes expire, e-newsletters that are relevant to their indicated interests and geographically targeted communications can be devised.

Public Information and Environmental Education

Environmental Education Program

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
09188	10EE	Environmental Edu Program	290,000.00	264,809.18	264,809.18	25,190.82
09433	9433	Environmental Education	299,997.00	51,671.39	299,996.16	0.84
		TOTALS	589,997.00	316,480.57	564,805.34	25,191.66

Footnote (a) – The funding for Log number 09433 has been deauthorized and the grant does not have an open balance.

Background and Objectives

State parks make ideal outdoor classrooms for reconnecting visitors to and educating school groups about nature's wonders. By providing outstanding learning opportunities for visitors of all ages, it is hoped that people will walk away with a desire to engage in outdoor experiences on their own along with a stronger bond with, understanding of, and sense of stewardship towards the ecosystems in which we all live. With the assistance of GOCO funding, Colorado State Parks has provided qualified interpreters offering educational programs and other services in our parks throughout Colorado since the mid-1990s.

GOCO funding for the Environmental Education program supports temporary workers (on a seasonal basis) at almost every park in the system. These staffers, under guidance from the statewide Volunteer Program and regional and park staff, manage and host a wide variety of services for park visitors. These include:

- Daily contacts with park visitors to provide assistance, information and educational programs
- Development of self-directed interpretation hikes and experiences
- Campfire educational programs held at night
- Classroom programs conducted for kids of all ages
- Staffing information stations in park visitor centers
- Coordination and resources for volunteer naturalists providing programs for visitors

Temporary environmental education staffers also perform many other duties including preparing discovery packs and trail brochures; developing non-personal interpretive signs and exhibits; assembling Jr. Ranger materials and packets; and writing weekly newspaper columns, park newsletters, plant identification booklets, web page updates, and hunter information packets and maps.

Accomplishments in FY 09-10

- Colorado State Parks' Interpretation and Environmental Education (I&EE) coordinators reached nearly 90,000 park visitors through programs and demonstrations in 2009. These staff members also educate visitors on unique park features, wildlife, and other environmental issues while making direct contact on trails, in campgrounds, at visitor centers and entrance stations.
- I&EE coordinators also spent over 4,100 hours working on self-directed interpretation including scavenger hunt preparation, compiling materials for Jr. Ranger Discovery packs, creating self-guided nature trail brochures, coordinating the development of visitor center exhibits and displays, and maintaining bird feeders, aquariums and other live animal exhibits.
- The Colorado State Parks' reporting database indicates that nearly 765,000 of State Parks' 12 million visitors (about 6%) were reached through personal interpretation and/or environmental education programs provided by all staff and volunteers across the state (as well as informal contacts made by staff on trails, visitor centers, etc).

Public Information and Environmental Education

Volunteer Program

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
09189	10VP	Volunteer Program	306,000.00	273,682.63	273,682.63	32,317.37
09306	9306	Volunteer Program Operating	49,731.00	7,738.04	49,730.28	0.72
		TOTALS	355,731.00	281,420.67	323,412.91	32,318.09

Footnote (a) – The funding for Log number 09306 has been deauthorized and the grant does not have an open balance.

Background and Objectives

The statewide Volunteer Program's mission is to support the achievement of quality outdoor recreation experiences and resource stewardship for present and future generations. The program provides an organized, efficient, well-guided and cost-effective approach to managing a wide range of volunteer efforts in Colorado State Parks. Cooperation and partnership between the public and private sector are enhanced and promoted through volunteer engagement. The promotion and cultivation of volunteerism plays a major role in helping State Parks meet its financial needs now and in the future, as well as providing for the next generation of park visitors.

The Volunteer Program is currently staffed by a Program Manager and one regional Volunteer Resource Provider. Both FTE positions make major contributions to the overall management and operation of the program; in general, the Volunteer Program Manager provides oversight, supervision and guidance for all elements of the statewide Volunteer Program; the Volunteer Resource Provider provides training, coordination, and assistance to parks staff (including temporary interpreters/volunteer coordinators) in administering their volunteer, interpretive and educational programs.

The Volunteer Program has proved to be a significant success and has demonstrated rapid growth.

Specific objectives of the Volunteer Program include:

- Actively participate in and advise region staff about all aspects of volunteer recruiting, orientating, training, supervising, evaluating, and rewarding/recognizing the performance of volunteers, for the purposes of gaining and retaining a diversity of volunteers to meet the needs of Colorado State Parks. Represent the Volunteer Program to the community, and promote the program and its benefits to the general public, service groups, clubs, and other agencies.

- Actively participate in identifying, creating, and modifying processes to quantify and tabulate volunteer contributions to the agency, and apply these processes for reporting purposes.
- Plan, design, implement, and evaluate trainings for agency staff in areas of Volunteer Program planning and implementation, volunteer management and interpretation/environmental education.
- Coordinate and promote youth outreach and interpretive/environmental education activities statewide. Includes partnering with various local, state and federal agencies and non-profits to further these efforts.

Specific program areas supported by this funding include:

- **Volunteer Database:** This valuable tracking tool allows Volunteer Program and other agency staff to maintain accurate and comprehensive records about volunteer activity in and around state parks. It also serves as a recruiting and advertising tool by allowing volunteers to sign up for volunteer events via the Internet. The database also assists with liability issues by tracking insurance coverage needs.
- **Training:** Ongoing training for staff and volunteers is vital to maintaining and improving our agency's ability to attract and retain volunteers.
- **Statewide Incentives:** Studies have shown that incentives are perhaps the single best way to attract and retain volunteers and ensure that they return to state parks for multiple volunteer projects.
- **VOC and WRV Projects:** Colorado State Parks is proud to partner with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and Wildland Restoration Volunteers to complete trail development and redevelopment, wetlands rehabilitation, habitat restoration, and other projects in state parks.

Accomplishments in FY 09-10

In the wake of continued budget challenges volunteer contributions to Colorado State Parks remain as important as ever. Volunteers play a critical role in supporting parks by performing important administrative tasks, educating visitors, conserving natural resources, serving as leaders of volunteers, and even helping to leverage donation support through Friends groups. The promotion and cultivation of volunteerism helps Colorado State Parks address critical needs now and in the future, as well as providing for the next generation of park visitors.

- Last year, nearly 5,000 volunteers contributed more than 198,000 volunteer hours—the equivalent of 95 full-time employees and a cost savings to the agency of over \$4 million based on the Independent Sector Rate. In the process, these volunteers helped the Division in a variety of important areas including serving as campground hosts, providing interpretive programs, trail construction, weed control, wildlife and vegetation surveys, and even fundraising.

- Partnerships between the public and private sector are critical for a successful volunteer program and play a large role in park operations and functions including:
- Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) projects were completed at Cherry Creek (3) and Stagecoach (1) state parks and totaled nearly 2,000 volunteer hours. Nearly 160 adults and 59 youth participated.
- GOCO-funded temporary Volunteer Coordinators at 32 state park locations contributed nearly 1,700 hours on indirect volunteer involvement to market volunteer programs, recruit and track volunteers and spent over 3,400 hours on direct volunteer contact to train, reward & recognize, schedule and supervise volunteers.
- Local, State and National events were celebrated through volunteer partners across the state – Colorado Cares Day, National Public Lands Day, National Trails Day, Lakes Appreciation Day and several local partners.
- The Friends of Colorado State Parks organization was formed to serve as sustainable support and service provider for existing park Friends groups.
- Statewide programs engaged volunteers in expanded roles including aquatic nuisance species control, beetle/fuel mitigation, raptor & rare plant monitors, and public safety (boat safety and education).

Public Information and Environmental Education

Youth Programs

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
09190	10YP	Youth Programs	215,000.00	10,530.00	10,530.00	204,470.00
		TOTALS	215,000.00	10,530.00	10,530.00	204,470.00

Background and Objectives

Colorado State Parks is a strong proponent of providing outdoor education programs and opportunities for all ages. It is especially critical to capture the attention of Colorado's youth, who are our future land stewards. For several years Colorado State Parks has allocated GOCO funding to youth corps around the state under the guidance of the Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA). These corps engage Colorado's youth in meaningful outdoor work and help them build a sense of natural resource stewardship. The program targets both in-school and out-of-school youth ages 16-25. Part of the program's overall success can be attributed to State Parks' partnership with the CYCA, who provides overall program coordination and project management.

The agency utilizes youth corps crews at state parks for a variety of resource management and trail projects. In the past, projects have included trail re-routes and new trail development; fuel mitigation and other forest management work; vegetation management activities including tamarisk removal; fence removal, repair and construction; and shoreline cleanup projects. This program support thus serves a dual role of improving conditions within the state parks while providing funding for CYCA and individual youth corps statewide.

Accomplishments in FY 09-10

- Our state parks are uniquely positioned to address the need to introduce Colorado's youth to the outdoors, encourage more physical activity, and educate them about wildlife and outdoor issues to foster environmental stewardship. Many parks already collaborate with various school districts in their surrounding region to meet these objectives. Roxborough and Ridgway are examples of two parks that provide school programs geared toward the current state education curriculum requirements. These are experiential environmental education programs that utilize the parks' wonderful outdoor venues. In addition, many parks work closely with Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups to help them meet badge requirements.

- Colorado State Parks also partners regularly with the Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA), which honored Colorado State Parks with their 2009 Partner of the Year award, and Colorado Youth Corps, which is a statewide coalition of youth conservation corps that employs and trains youth and young adults on land, water, and energy conservation projects. Last year, Colorado Youth Corps members, comprised of 16- to 24- year-olds, completed 51 project weeks at 27 state park locations. The project accomplishments of the 27 crew leaders and 134 crew members included: 9.63 miles of trail corridor cleared, 43 acres and 6 miles of weeds removed, 12.73 miles of trail constructed / maintained, 28 rock walls installed, 56 water diversion structures installed / improved, and 49 trees removed.
- Cheyenne Mountain and Mueller State Parks continued partnerships to hold annual No Child Left Inside events to rally community support around the effort to reconnect kids to the outdoors.
- James M. Robb-Colorado River and Cheyenne Mountain State Parks hosted two of several Lt. Governor Healthy Kids Outdoors Forums resulting in a report aimed at getting Colorado youth to spend more time outdoors.
- Volunteer Program staff provide ongoing direction and support for the Colorado Kids Outdoors Coalition, a collaboration involving various nonprofit and local, state and federal organizations to help drive the effort to engage kids in outdoor activities.
- The statewide Marketing and Volunteer Programs partnered to create family activity backpacks filled with tools and activities for exploring and investigating the great outdoors. The backpacks were distributed to 25 state park locations.

III. Trails and River Greenways

Trails and River Greenways

State Trails Program

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
07199	8CTS	Trails- Mapping Project	67,000.00	0.00	17,000.00	50,000.00
07214	8TRQ	Trails-Training Future Leaders	19,700.00	19,689.95	19,689.95	10.05
09191	10TP	State Trails Program	239,000.00	10,096.58	10,096.58	228,903.42
09434	9434	State Trails Prog Gt Admin	124,185.00	3,988.04	124,184.30	0.70
		TOTALS	449,885.00	33,774.57	170,970.83	278,914.17

Footnote (a) – The funding for Log number 09434 has been deauthorized and the grant does not have an open balance.

Background and Objectives

The Colorado State Trails Program was established through the authority of the Recreational Trails System Act of 1971. The program's primary goal is to continue to provide funds for recreational trails throughout the state. Trail use continues to be by far the most popular outdoor recreation activity statewide.

A variety of project sponsors are eligible to receive Trails Program capital funding, including towns, cities, counties, school districts, non-profit groups, and state and federal land-management agencies. Project sponsors are matched to appropriate funding sources to ensure compliance with federal, state, and GOCO eligibility requirements. Grants are awarded for trail planning, maintenance, construction, special projects, and trail equipment.

The State Trails Program provides technical assistance to communities, other agencies, land managers, and organizations devoted to trails, conservation, and open space. It includes help with planning, coordination with other agencies, trail volunteers, organization building, funding and other resources, land development regulations, and trail maintenance and management. The program acts as a clearinghouse for trails information in Colorado and as such must stay apprised of trail development projects and processes across the country.

The program also sponsors workshops and conferences to bring trails advocates, community planners, and agency representatives together to learn new techniques and discuss trails issues. Assistance in planning, publicity, and programs is also provided for regional workshops and statewide conferences.

Specific annual objectives of the Trails Program include:

- Develop strategies, systems, processes, guidelines, and trail standards for the statewide Trails Program. Provide professional input and interpret statutes, policies, and regulations for the Colorado State Trails Committee. This statutorily mandated committee recommends statewide trails policy and trail grant funding priorities to the State Parks Board for approval.
- Administer approximately 260 open grants annually; develop, implement, and maintain an inspection process for all completed grants.
- Develop and manage the State Trails Program budgets, accounts, and contracts. Develop program budgets to accommodate operations, administration, FTE, salaries, environmental reviews, personal services contracts, and grant payments associated with the Trails, OHV, Snowmobile, and Youth Corps programs.
- Revise internal grant accounting policies and procedures to comply with changing federal, GOCO, and Lottery grant guidelines. Develop and implement internal control procedures to assure compliance.
- Identify State Trails staff training needs, such as trail design, maintenance and construction, trail accessibility, and purchasing/procurement, and establish training programs to meet those needs.
- Verify compliance of trail projects with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Accomplishments in FY 09-10

In FY 09-10, GOCO funding supported the Trails Program's Manager Position and a portion of the program's grant administrator, including operations costs, to help meet the program objectives outlined above. In addition to these FTE costs, GOCO funding provides operational support for the Trails Program's four Regional Trail Coordinators. (Regional Trail Coordinator salaries are supported with federal grants and are not funded by GOCO.) Due to vacancies in the Trails Program, only two Regional Trail Coordinators received operational support for the program.

In FY 09-10, in addition to personal services support, specific accomplishments include:

- Administration of approximately 230 open grants.
- Oversight and management of the 2009 capital grant award cycle, providing funding for trail planning and development projects statewide.
- Coordination of the functions of reporting, funding, audits, inspections, meetings, and projects.
- Completed updates to the Colorado State Trails Program application manual.
- Work with grant review subcommittees to coordinate the grant review process.
- Provide public information regarding the State Trails Program and trails in general.
- Verification of compliance of trail projects with the National Environmental Policy Act.
- Attendance of the Trails Program Manager and two State Trails Committee Members to the National Trails Symposium held in Arkansas.

The salaries for four Trail Coordinator positions are federally funded. Some operating costs are provided by Great Outdoors Colorado. In FY 09-10 GOCO funds helped support:

- Fixed and variable vehicle costs to travel over 50,000 miles to assist with project work, training, meetings, and trail patrol.
- Travel costs to perform many user contacts, patrol 2,000 miles of trail, conduct multiple training sessions on a variety of trail-related topics, work on 70 trail development projects, assist with 10 special events, inspect 130 grant projects and work with Youth Corp groups statewide.

This GOCO funding also supported an ongoing special project managed by the State Trails Program. The Statewide Mapping Project is a continuous project to try and map all non-motorized trails in Colorado. These trails would then be available to the general public to use on a system similar to MapQuest. Colorado State University was brought in to help map and develop a interface to view trails in Colorado.

Two phases of this project have been completed. Phase I identified the need and basic concepts, provided general performance criteria, determined applicability and benefits, and compared platforms and systems, nationwide. During this phase, a Project Advisory Review Group was formed to gather input and inform the process. This focus group consisted of lay persons, trail user group representatives, members of the State Trails Committee and of CORPP, federal, State and local agency trail managers, mapping and trails information vendors and experts, computer and internet experts, trail user equipment vendors, and recreation and tourism business representatives.

Colorado State University developed a prototype during Phase II. Larimer County was the pilot area based on diverse types of trail use, varied surfaces, and public land owned and managed by many jurisdictions. Additionally, many local volunteer organizations were available to collect data. Phase II also streamlined the data collection, identified priorities for trail attributes, finalized a volunteer, data collection process, researched basic web inventory delivery concepts, and identified potential costs to build the system.

Trails and River Greenways

Trail Grants

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
07215	8TRU	Trails-Grand View Valley VCP	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00
07217	8TRE	Trails-Col Birding	18,100.00	16,745.00	16,745.00	1,355.00
07218	8TRB	Trails-Boulder Comprehensv Map	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00
07219	8TRK	Trails-Conservatin Mgmt Train	10,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
07220	8TRD	Trails-Democrat Bross Planning	19,890.00	19,890.00	19,890.00	0.00
07221	8TRH	Trails-Fruita Urban Interface	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00
07223	8TRP	Trails-Poudre/Platte River Plan	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00
07224	8TRG	Trails-Gunnison Sno-Trackers	65,000.00	65,000.00	65,000.00	0.00
07225	8TRV	Trails-Volunteer Pro's	4,500.00	4,473.10	4,473.10	26.90
07227	8TRC	Trails-RFOV 2007 Projects	15,000.00	11,535.22	11,535.22	3,464.78
07228	8TRM	Trails-Main Massive Preservatn	150,000.00	47,459.93	150,000.00	0.00
07230	8TRF	Trails-Windom Peak Phase II	104,700.00	0.00	0.00	104,700.00
07232	8TRW	Trails-Heil / Lyons Project	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00
09192	10TA	Reg 14er Trail Mtce	68,046.00	0.00	0.00	68,046.00
09192	10TB	Haiyaha Loop Trail	41,064.00	0.00	0.00	41,064.00
09192	10TC	Animas River Tr Ext	43,600.00	0.00	0.00	43,600.00
09192	10TD	Steam Springs Urb Trail	37,285.00	0.00	0.00	37,285.00
09192	10TE	WRV 2010 Pt for Stew	37,750.00	0.00	0.00	37,750.00
09192	10TF	Hanging Lk Reconstr	36,600.00	0.00	0.00	36,600.00
09192	10TG	Bianca Peak & Ell Pt	36,000.00	0.00	0.00	36,000.00
09192	10TH	Moose Dr/Agate Crk Trl	35,000.00	0.00	0.00	35,000.00
09192	10TJ	Mid Flume Tr Realign	20,060.00	0.00	0.00	20,060.00
09192	10TK	2010 Stewardship Prog	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00
09192	10TM	Vols & YC on the Cdnst	6,304.00	0.00	0.00	6,304.00
09192	10TN	Study for Lead-Salida	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00
09192	10TQ	RFOV Cap Bldg Project	28,291.00	0.00	0.00	28,291.00
09192	10TR	NE Lakewood Tr Cons Pro	45,000.00	0.00	0.00	45,000.00
09454	9454	South Canyon Trail Phase II	63,550.00	0.00	0.00	63,550.00
09455	9455	Vallecito Reservoir	76,000.00	21,598.50	21,598.50	54,401.50
09456	9456	Fraser to Granby Trail	54,180.00	0.00	0.00	54,180.00
09457	9457	Reynolds Park to South Platte	63,321.00	0.00	0.00	63,321.00
09458	9458	Turk's Trail	23,636.00	0.00	0.00	23,636.00
09459	9459	Mountain Parks Sign Initiative	22,035.00	0.00	0.00	22,035.00
09460	9460	Catamount Ranch	17,550.00	6,151.88	6,151.88	11,398.12
09461	9461	Ouray Perimeter Trail	42,485.00	0.00	0.00	42,485.00
09462	9462	Public Access Group of Ouray	22,000.00	0.00	0.00	22,000.00
09463	9463	Trning Co's Nxt Gen Cons Wrkrs	37,395.00	2,228.74	2,228.74	35,166.26
09464	9464	Silt - Davis Point Planning	24,500.00	0.00	0.00	24,500.00
09465	9465	Grand County Comp Trail Plan	45,000.00	0.00	0.00	45,000.00
09466	9466	Ridgeway Trail System Planning	8,347.00	0.00	0.00	8,347.00
		TOTALS	1,469,189.00	242,082.37	344,622.44	1,124,566.56

Footnote (b) – GOCO log number 09455 FY10 Expenditures includes \$17,220 of expenses incurred by State Parks but not paid by GOCO in FY10 pending additional information required by GOCO.

Background and Objectives

The Colorado State Trails Program was established through the authority of the Recreational Trails System Act of 1971. The program's primary goal is to continue to provide funds for recreational trails throughout the state. Trail use continues to be by far the most popular outdoor recreation activity statewide.

GOCO capital funds are awarded by the Trails Program each year to individual grants selected by the State Trails Committee. This program has one grant cycle annually, with the recreation trails grant applications due November 1st.

A variety of project sponsors are eligible to receive Trails Program capital funding, including towns, cities, counties, school districts, non-profit groups, and state and federal land-management agencies. Project sponsors are matched to appropriate funding sources to ensure compliance with federal, state, and GOCO eligibility requirements. Grants are awarded for maintenance, construction, special projects, and trail planning.

After grant applications are received, each grant is assigned to a set of reviewers including statewide trail users, experts, local, federal, state and non-profit trail volunteers, the State Trails Committee, the Non-Motorized State Trails Coordinator, and staff.

In FY 09-10, the State Trails Program was able to fund 18 out of 38 grants, or about one-half of the applications submitted. Great Outdoors Colorado funding is matched with local, state, federal and donation dollars for recreation trails projects.

Accomplishments in FY 09-10

Fourteen grant awards received GOCO funding. Grants awarded include a number of trail maintenance grants and planning grants. Also, several grants went towards construction, maintenance, and signage for trails and approaches to Colorado's 14,000 ft peaks. Most of the grants contained a youth component, and several will utilize substantial volunteers in assisting with trail maintenance and construction.

Many grant recipients do not submit invoices to State Parks until their projects near completion. Grants in the above charts that appear to have no expenditures to date do not necessarily indicate projects for which no work has taken place; indeed, most if not all GOCO-funded trail projects are well underway and proceeding according to schedule.

Trails and River Greenways

Colorado Front Range Trail

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
08720	9FTB	CFRT E-470 To Brighton	425,000.00	0.00	0.00	425,000.00
08721	9FTC	CFRT Power Trail	350,000.00	0.00	0.00	350,000.00
08722	9FTD	CFRT East Plum Creek Phase 3	230,627.00	230,627.00	230,627.00	0.00
		TOTALS	1,005,627.00	230,627.00	230,627.00	775,000.00

Background and Objectives

The goal of the Colorado Front Range Trail (CFRT) project is to create an 876-mile trail along the Front Range, from the Wyoming border to the New Mexico Border, connecting communities, points of interest, local and state parks and diverse landscapes along the way. Colorado's Front Range constitutes approximately 80% of the State's population and is consistently one of the fastest growing areas of the nation.

Colorado State Parks convened stakeholders in December of 2005 and formed the Colorado Front Range Development Council to assist with the implementation phase of this project. Colorado State Parks collaborated with over 500 partners— including the 13 counties and 35 managing agencies through which the trail passes—representing local communities, state, and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, recreation retailers, and the tourism community to gather input for the CFRT Plan.

In December 2007, State Parks was awarded \$1.0 million in Legacy funding, which the agency then granted to three projects in June 2008.

Accomplishments in FY 09-10

East Plum Creek Phase 3: The Town of Castle Rock completed the construction of 2 miles of East Plum Creek Trail.

IV. Water for Recreational Purposes

Water for Recreational Purposes

Water Program Operations and Acquisitions

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
09193	10WR	Water Program Operations	150,000.00	148,207.90	148,207.90	1,792.10
07176	8CWA	Water Resource Acquisitions	100,000.00	15,000.00	36,743.00	63,257.00
09194	10W3	Water Acquisitions	300,000.00	27,000.00	27,000.00	273,000.00
		TOTALS	550,000.00	190,207.90	211,950.90	338,049.10

Background and Objectives

The State Parks Water Program provides technical, legal, and water policy expertise necessary to protect and expand the Division's interests in all aspects of water resource management. The program consists of 1.0 FTE assisted with significant contract personnel and legal assistance from the Attorney General's office. The program is responsible for managing the Division's various water resources including water rights, reservoir operations, and groundwater assets. Management of the program includes establishing budget priorities, supervising the Division's water court actions, management of groundwater and well permitting, assessing water markets for individual parks in the system, and coordinating with federal, state, and local user groups to maximize the state's water supplies for recreational benefits.

GOCO funds enable the Division to secure water supplies for a variety of parks that experience inadequate water levels for recreational activities. This is accomplished in a number of ways including water purchases and leases, innovative cooperative water management plans with larger water providers, and leasing water storage space in reservoirs. Without these funds, water-based activities such as boating, fishing, swimming, and wildlife viewing are detrimentally impacted resulting in lower public visitation to the park system. Degradation of water quality and surrounding natural resources are also negative outcomes resulting from insufficient water supplies.

Please note that water acquisition projects often involve an extended timeframe and are subject to any number of unpredictable delays. State Parks makes every effort to expend these funds in a timely fashion, but due to some factors beyond the control of the agency we are not always able to fully expend grants prior to expiration.

Accomplishments in FY 09-10

- State Parks negotiated the purchase of 191 acre-feet of water to replace evaporation loss in ponds at St Vrain State Park. This water is critical to the recreation at the park.
- State Parks leased over 1500 acre-feet of water to maintain the permanent recreational pool at John Martin Reservoir. This provides boating and other recreation opportunities and helps sustain and enhance the fishery at the lake.
- State Parks maintained 990 acre-feet of storage space in Twin Lakes Reservoir to store water leased from various entities such as Pueblo Board of Water Works and the City of Salida for later use at the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area. This park includes some of the best whitewater rafting opportunities in the country, and adequate water supply is crucial to meeting visitor demand.

V. Management of GOCO Investments

Management of GOCO Investments

GOCO Funding Management

GOCO Log Number	GBL	Project	Adjusted Grant Amount	FY10 Expenditures	Total Expenditures Through FY10	Unexpended Balance
09195	10FI	GOCO Funding Management	162,000.00	81,369.91	81,369.91	80,630.09
09322	9322	Accounting	76,452.00	17,491.10	76,451.47	0.53
		TOTALS	238,452.00	98,861.01	157,821.38	80,630.62

Footnote (a) – The funding for Log number 09322 has been deauthorized and the grant does not have an open balance.

Background and Objectives

GOCO has historically funded full-time positions at State Parks which directly expend and/or manage GOCO funding. GOCO funds make up almost 20% of the total sources of funding for State Parks. This grant supports a variety of finance-related activities associated with the use of these funds, including accounting, grants management, billing, procurement, budgeting, and liaison with GOCO staff and the GOCO board. Grants management activities include preparing the annual investment proposal, preparing annual and other periodic accomplishment reports, managing requests for grant extensions and grant deauthorizations, and resolving day-to-day issues that arise with respect to GOCO grants.

Accomplishments in FY 09-10

- In FY 09-10 State Parks managed approximately 150 open GOCO grants totaling over \$30 million.
- A new MOU was executed between GOCO and State Parks in the spring of 2010.
- State Parks turnaround time to submit monthly billing statements declined from several months in FY 08-09 to approximately 60 days.