

COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

Great Outdoors Colorado Annual Report



FISCAL YEAR 2012-13 ANNUAL REPORT





COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

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November 6, 2013

Lise Aangeenbrug, Executive Director
Great Outdoors Colorado
1600 Broadway, Suite 1650
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Lise,

I'm pleased to submit the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Annual Report to the Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust (GOCO). This report contains the activities and accomplishments achieved during the fiscal year 2012-13 and a financial summary of these programs. These accomplishments reflect the commitment of the GOCO Board and CPW to continue to enhance outdoor recreation, natural resource education, and preserving habitat and wildlife for the citizens of Colorado.

The annual report is organized by purpose and centered around the basic objectives for GOCO investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife, as outlined in Article XXVII of the state Constitution:

- Develop wildlife watching opportunities;
- Implement educational programs about wildlife and wildlife environment;
- Provide appropriate programs for maintaining Colorado's diverse wildlife heritage;
- Protect crucial wildlife habitats through the acquisition of lands, leases or easements and restore critical areas;
- 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;

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

Sincerely,

Steven M. Yamashita
Acting Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor • Mike King, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources
Steven M. Yamashita, Acting Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Parks and Wildlife Commission: Robert W. Bray • Chris Castilian • Jeanne Horne
Bill Kane, Vice-Chair • Gaspar Perricone • James Pribyl • John Singletary, Chair
Mark Smith, Secretary • James Vigil • Dean Wingfield • Michelle Zimmerman
Ex Officio Members: Mike King and John Salazar

Executive Summary

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is pleased to provide this annual report to Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). This report contains financial and narrative information about CPW's accomplishments between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013 (state fiscal year 2012-13) with GOCO Parks and Wildlife purpose funds.

Section I of Article XXVII of the Colorado Constitution delineates eight basic objectives for GOCO investments in outdoor recreation and wildlife programs:

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.

Wildlife:

- Develop wildlife watching opportunities.
- Implement educational programs about wildlife and wildlife environment.
- Provide appropriate programs for maintaining Colorado's diverse wildlife heritage.
- Provide crucial wildlife habitats through the acquisition of lands, leases or easements and restore critical areas.

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

Parks Purpose

CPW utilizes GOCO Parks Purpose funding to support a wide variety of programs, park management activities, and capital projects throughout the state. CPW makes every effort to use GOCO funding in a way that enhances results in "on the ground" enhancements – tangible impacts that enhance the visitor experience and result in safer, more sustainable parks and facilities. In FY 2012-13, CPW parks welcomed more than 11.5 million visitors and GOCO funding contributed to programs and improvements that enhance and promote outdoor recreation, at every state park.

During FY 2012-13, particular Parks purpose highlights include:

- **Opening of Staunton State Park** – Staunton State Park opened to the public May 18, 2013. Staunton provides more than 3,800 acres of diverse Colorado landscape. GOCO funds supported the development of Staunton's infrastructure including roads, parking lots, water, wastewater, trails and facilities. Staunton has been developed to reflect recreation, conservation and educational opportunities for the citizens of Colorado. The opening of the park has drawn great attention and has been featured in various publications include the Colorado Outdoor Magazine-May/June 2013 issue and an article from Colorado Springs Gazette – included in this report.
- **Volunteer Program** – For this reporting period, over 4,900 volunteers contributed more than 205,900 volunteer hours—the equivalent of 99 full-time employees with a value of over \$4.4 million. In the process, these volunteers helped State Parks in a variety of key areas including serving as campground hosts, providing interpretive programs, trail construction, weed control, wildlife and vegetation surveys, and even fundraising. This effort was 100% funded through parks purpose GOCO funds.

- **Youth Outreach Programs and Connecting Kids to the Outdoors** - Using GOCO funds, CPW continued its ongoing partnership with the Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA), 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. Participants include both in-school and out-of-school youth ages 16-26. Colorado Youth Corps members worked over 12,600 hours completing 32 project weeks at 18 state park locations. The project accomplishments of the 157 corps members included: 10.5 miles of trail corridor cleared, 5.5 miles of trail constructed, 2.7 miles of trail maintained, 30 acres of trees removed, and 33 acres of weeds removed.
- **Stewardship of Colorado's Parks and Wildlife's Lands** – After 10 years of baseline resource information data gathering, biologists are now monitoring changes in State Park resources while also inventorying resources never documented. Significant findings of rare species, paleontological, and archeological resources have occurred. The volunteer raptor monitoring citizen science program expanded from thirteen to sixteen parks with a 21% increase in volunteer participation. Partnering with Colorado State Forest Service and Colorado Youth Corps has provided for the removal of pine beetle killed trees posing safety issues. Several priority forest management projects occurred on seven state parks. One new Colorado Natural Area was designated, and 69 areas were monitored, utilizing 150 volunteers and partnerships with US Fish and Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management, Universities, and other entities.

Wildlife Purpose

CPW utilizes GOCO Wildlife Purpose funding to support a wide variety of programs, management activities, and capital projects throughout the state. This partnership of funds continue to provide the citizens of Colorado with tangible impacts that protect wildlife and conserve and enhance habitat, protect native species, provide for wetlands conservation and a variety of educational experiences throughout the year.

Highlights of work accomplished in FY 2012-13, for Wildlife purpose funds include:

- Protection of more than 26,000 acres of wildlife habitat through 6 conservation easements and 1 fee title acquisition. The wildlife habitat includes shortgrass prairie habitat, habitat for Greater and Gunnison Sage Grouse, big game migration corridors and habitat, angling, and habitat for species of concern.
- Launched the “Get Outdoors Colorado” website; www.getoutdoorscolorado.org in March 2013. This informational and interactive website offers and promotes outdoor activities. “Get Outdoors Colorado” partners work together to foster and facilitate educational experiences and to encourage participants of all skill levels, abilities, and backgrounds to interact with the outdoors in a way that encourages healthy, active outdoor lifestyles; conservation, awareness and respect; natural resource stewardship and recreation participation.
- Nearly 750 volunteers worked on 239 CPW projects in FY 2012-13, providing 51,000 hours of work, or the workload of approximately 24.5 FTE. Volunteers donated time and energy worth more than \$1.1 million to the CPW’s wildlife programs.
- Improved wildlife habitat on more than 54,000 acres of private lands in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Report Format

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

A **Summary Table**, that lists all the GOCO logs associated with grant programs that were active during FY 2012-13, the grant amount, expenditures made during the year, cumulative expenditures to date, the remaining balance of the grant and the expiration date of the grant.

The **Overall Program Costs** will contain the total cost of the program for the reporting year. This will include all funds that were expended in support of the program goals.

The **Program Description and Objectives** section provides a break out of expenditures for the program, example below, and brief summary regarding the overall purpose of a program area. This information may include historical composition and long term plans to provide the reader with perspective of the program.

Example: Program Expenditures

GOCO Log #	Project Name	Grant Amount	Prior Year Expenses	FY 13 Expenses	Grant Balance

The **Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13** will list highlights and/or accomplishments achieved within the reporting year.

**Great Outdoors Colorado Annual Report
Colorado Parks & Wildlife Purpose Funding
Fiscal Year 2012-13**

Table of Contents

Parks Purpose

Establish and Improve State Parks

Land Acquisitions	1
Park Capital Improvements	3
Capital Development Program.....	6
Resource Management.....	7
Vegetation Management	11
Forest Management.....	14
State Park Operations.....	16

Public Information and Environmental Education

Public Information Program	22
Environmental Education Program.....	25
Volunteer Program.....	27
Youth Program.....	29

Trails and River Greenways

State Trails Program	30
Trail Grants	32
Trails in State Parks	36

Water for Recreational Purposes

Water Program.....	38
Water Acquisitions and Leases.....	38

Management of GOCO Investments

GOCO Funding Management.....	40
------------------------------	----

Wildlife Purpose

Habitat Protection

Acquire High Priority Habitat.....	42
Enhance Habitat on Lands and Waters	45
Wetlands Conservation	47
GIS Habitat Information	48

Species Protection

Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery	51
Native Species Protection	55
Propagation of Aquatic Species At Risk.....	65

Wildlife Education

Youth Education	71
River Stewardship.....	72

Wildlife Viewing

Wildlife Viewing	74
Wildlife Viewing – Capital.....	79

Parks Purpose

Establish and Improve State Parks

Land Acquisitions

GOCO			Prior Year	FY 2013		
Log	Project Name	Grant Amount	Reimb	Reimb	Grant Balance	Expiration
10171	LAND ACQUISITIONS	\$ 350,000	\$ 207,292	\$ 13,946	\$ 128,762	06/30/13
11171	LAND AQUISITIONS	\$ 350,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 350,000	06/30/14
12171	LAND AQUISITIONS	\$ 350,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 350,000	06/30/15
Totals		\$ 1,050,000	\$ 207,292	\$ 13,946	\$ 828,762	

Program Description and Objectives

GOCO funding has been a cornerstone in the acquisition of CPW's overall land base. GOCO funding awarded under this grant has enabled the purchase of land to create new state parks or to add to existing state parks.

In-holdings within and adjoining lands next to state parks need to be purchased to preserve the integrity of the park, improve public access and recreational opportunities, protect critical wildlife habitat and migration corridors, address visitor safety or trespass issues, and enhance the management of the park. In some cases, the acquisition of land also helps to resolve boundary disputes and right-of-way problems. These acquisitions are largely opportunistic.

CPW may use GOCO funds to acquire fee title or conservation easements on lands that are not directly adjacent to or within a state park, in order to fulfill other aspects of CPW's mission. These acquisitions and/or easements may include parcels that comprise designated or new Natural Areas or trail corridor connections. CPW program objectives align with the GOCO strategic plan, as stated below.

Great Outdoors Colorado 2010 Strategic Plan:

- Make strategic investments in the protection of priority landscapes via fee title purchase and acquisition of conservation easements.
- Make investments through the CPW for the protection of buffers to or in-holdings within existing state parks or to acquire new parks.
- Continue to make priority investments in the preservation of rivers and riparian corridors.
- Support State Parks in developing a strategic approach to upgrading and renovating aging state park facilities

Accomplishments in FY 2012-13

In FY 12-13, CPW renewed two annual leases on State Land Board (SLB) owned properties. The lease at Trinidad Lake State Park in Las Animas County is utilized for hunting and hiking on 100-acres of the Reilly Canyon parcel. The lease at Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) in Chaffee County, called the Tiger Lily parcel, provides a 400 acre portage trail for boaters to avoid a dangerous white water rapid on the Arkansas River. CPW performed due diligence activities related to two pending real estate transactions involving the acquisition of fee title. The parcels, both of which are located in Chaffee County and lie adjacent to the Arkansas River, will be added to the AHRA: the 3-acre Ruby Mountain Ranch parcel and the 42-acre Arkansas River Placer parcel. The parcels will be managed by CPW to allow improved river access for anglers and boaters. Finally, CPW spent GOCO funds for a survey of a portion of Lake Pueblo State Park in Pueblo County in order to establish the boundaries of a right-of-way easement that CPW

is acquiring from a private landowner. The easement will allow CPW staff to cross one of the larger private in-holdings within the park in order to access more remote areas within Lake Pueblo State Park.

Park Capital Improvements

10207 HPCC CTTNWD CG	\$ 162,500	\$ 103,327	\$ 59,173	\$ -	09/30/12
10196 HPVR MASTER PLAN	\$ 2,880,000	\$ 2,383,654	\$ 119,327	\$ 377,019	06/30/14
10200 DAM MAINTENANCE	\$ 107,124	\$ 107,124	\$ -	\$ -	09/30/12
10204 SEMU ROAD OVERLAY	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ 226,209	\$ 23,791	06/30/14
10210 HPNS MARINABAY	\$ 600,000	\$ -	\$ 572,395	\$ 27,605	06/30/13
10211 ASSETINV&CONDASSMT	\$ 139,995	\$ 127,539	\$ 12,456	\$ -	09/30/12
10212 ROAD INV&EVALUATN	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	09/30/12
10214 HPST PHASE I DEVELOPMT	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 1,087,601	\$ 3,480,046	\$ 432,353	06/30/13
10215 ENERGY EFFICNCY RETROFIT	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	06/30/13
10216 HPSF CG IMPR	\$ 90,000	\$ 14,885	\$ 75,115	\$ -	06/30/13
10217 RMHI DREDGING	\$ 276,000	\$ 56,151	\$ 77,033	\$ 142,816	06/30/14
10218 HPJA BOAT RAMP PARKING	\$ 42,500	\$ 42,499	\$ -	\$ 1	06/30/13
10219 ACCS HPCH MARCYGULCHCULV	\$ 37,500	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ 7,500	06/30/13
10220 RMHI MAINT CMLX	\$ 811,500	\$ 9,368	\$ 98,532	\$ 703,599	06/30/14
11200 HPCH CAMPER REGIST BLDG	\$ 125,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 125,000	06/30/14
11201 HPCH PLUM CRK ENTR STATN	\$ 111,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 111,000	06/30/14
11202 HPCH PHASE 3 TRAIL REPLC	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000	06/30/14
11203 HPCC SWIM BEACH TRAIL	\$ 77,250	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 77,250	06/30/14
11204 HPCH ROAD IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 510,000	\$ 86	\$ 153,635	\$ 356,279	06/30/14
11205 HPCC ASPHALT RESURFACE	\$ 25,000	\$ 23,322	\$ 1,678	\$ -	06/30/14
11206 HPCC ROAD IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 387,500	\$ 154	\$ 148,716	\$ 238,630	06/30/14
11207 HPCC E WATERLINE REPLACE	\$ 150,000	\$ 180	\$ 500	\$ 149,320	06/30/14
11208 SEPU S SIDE WTRLIN REPL	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ -	\$ -	06/30/14
11209 HPST DAVIS DAMS RENOVATN	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ 64,371	\$ 235,629	06/30/14
13200 SELA SWIM BEACH REDEVELP	\$ 651,464	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 651,464	06/30/15
13201 SETR ROAD IMPRV PH I	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,000	06/30/15
13202 RMNJ ROAD RENOVATION	\$ 520,380	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 520,380	06/30/15
13203 HPGG ROAD IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 350,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 350,000	06/30/15
13204 SEPU ROAD IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 966,208	\$ -	\$ 4,565	\$ 961,643	06/30/15
13205 HPCC ROAD IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ -	06/30/15
13206 HPCC PERIMETER RD IMPROV	\$ 800,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 800,000	06/30/15
13207 HPCH ROAD IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 1,900,000	\$ -	\$ 21,164	\$ 1,878,836	06/30/15
13208 SEEM WATER SYS IMPROV	\$ 638,900	\$ -	\$ 73,991	\$ 564,909	06/30/15
13209 HPCH BUILDING RENOVATION	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000	06/30/15
13210 HPCH ROOF REPLACEMENT	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,000	06/30/15

Totals	\$ 21,359,821	\$ 5,185,891	\$ 6,338,907	\$ 9,835,024	
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Program Description and Objectives

CPW's state park infrastructure is vital to promoting and providing a wide array of outdoor recreation opportunities for the citizens of Colorado. Many structures are more than 50 years old and require continuous maintenance, restoration, and improvement to provide safe and enjoyable outdoor recreation opportunities. Occasionally, new and diverse features are identified as a more cost effective alternative to repairing certain structures. Since the state park system 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. Long-term master planning maybe required to adequately identify the large scale projects in the park and provide a map of how to accomplish the projects utilizing all resources in the most efficient and effective manner.

During Fiscal Year 2012-13 there were three major projects in this program: Continued implementation of the St. Vrain Master Plan, Phase 1 development of Staunton State Park, and

Renovation of the Davis Ponds at Staunton State Park. Work completed on these projects is described below.

St Vrain State Park Master Plan Implementation

The road, water delivery system, toilets, day use area and reservoir improvements at St. Vrain State Park were completed. The entrance station was delayed to accommodate nesting birds and finalizing negotiations for the easement and the project will be completed in early 2014.

Staunton State Park

Staunton State Park opened to the public in May 2013. Staunton lies approximately 40 miles southwest of downtown Denver. Encompassing about 3,700 acres, the park is situated within Park and Jefferson Counties and is surrounded by the Pike National Forest to the north and northwest.

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. These features attract many outdoor and nature enthusiasts. 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 approximately one month, this park has had more than 71,000 visitors.



Visitors are greeted at a new Park Entrance off of Upper Ranch Road designed to reflect the resources within. During 2012-13, GOCO funds were used to complete the development of capital infrastructure on the park which includes: $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of paved road; 94 parking spaces in three parking areas; $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of waterlines; an onsite wastewater treatment system; 10 miles of multiuse trails and 3 miles of hiking trails; 1 picnic shelter; 1 water

treatment building; 1 temporary entrance station and office; 1 open line shed; 2 double vault toilets buildings and 1 temporary toilet.

Complications in negotiating water rights, and the ability to release water in the winter, and ongoing wetland mitigation negotiations with the Army Corps caused delays in this project. Additional aspects were discovered during the design of the dams that increased anticipated costs to bring these dams in compliance with the State Engineer's standards. Once definitive costs were identified, CPW requested funds for reauthorization to begin construction on the Davis Dams. The GOCO Board approved the request for \$2.2 million dollars for a total project cost of \$2.5 million and will be completed in June 2015.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The CPW and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have executed agreements to establish 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. Through this partnership the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers committed to funding one half of a combined total of up to \$38 million dollars in proposed improvements at all three parks. Colorado Parks and Wildlife's share of the partnership comes primarily from GOCO and Lottery funding,

with a small amount of Highway User's Trust Fund (HUTF) funding. The Army Corps Cost Share agreement is subject to the federal budget/appropriations process and any corresponding adjustments.

For the past five years, these three parks maintain an average of more than three million visitors each year and offer a variety of recreational opportunities. 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.

Accomplishments in FY 2012-13

Chatfield State Park

- Completed the resurfacing of the 1.34 miles of road from the top of the Chatfield dam, down the back face of the dam, and east to the Cottonwood Grove parking and picnic area.
- Completed the exterior retrofits to the Plum Creek Entrance Station to allow for taller vehicles to pass through and interior modifications will continue through December 2013 that will allow for ADA accessibility.
- A design analysis was completed on the replacement of the Camper Registration Building and construction will begin in the fall of 2013.
- The design for the Phase 3 trail replacement is complete and construction will begin in the fall. This project will remove the asphalt that is currently causing tripping hazards and will be completely replaced by spring of 2014.

Cherry Creek State Park

The swim beach trail is a non-accessible asphalt trail that is being replaced with a concrete trail. The design is complete and construction of the new trail is targeted for completion in early 2014. This trail will provide access from the picnic area to the swim beach.

Park Capital Projects

During FY 2012-13 the following projects were completed:

- Restoration at the North Sterling Marina Bay – This project addressed the shoreline erosion by adding rip-rap to prevent future erosion.
- Chatfield Marcy Gulch Bridge – Replaced the bike and pedestrian bridge that had been identified as a safety concern.
- Jackson Lake Boat Ramp Parking Lot – This project paved a section of the dirt lot to assist in minimizing dust and erosion.
- Energy Retrofits - This project identified water and electrical fixtures that required updating and/or replacing to enhance cost efficiencies at the following State Parks: John Martin, Lake Pueblo, Barr Lake, Golden Gate, Cherry Creek, Ridgeway, and Colorado River State Park. The estimated savings in energy bills is estimated at \$100,000 per year.
- Lake Pueblo South Side Waterline – This project sleeved a deteriorating concrete water pipe to enable better water quality and eliminate leaks.

At the May 2013 GOCO Board meeting, CPW requested extensions on four projects listed below. Funding for these projects now expire in June of 2014 and will be included in the Annual Report for FY 2013-14.

- St Vrain State Park Phase 3 Master Plan Development – GOCO Log #10196
- Highline Lake State Park Dredging – GOCO Log #10217
- Highline Lake State Park Maintenance Complex – GOCO Log #10220
- Mueller State Park Road Overlay – GOCO Log #10204

Capital Development Program

GOCO	Grant	FY 2013	Grant	
Log Project Name	Amount	Reimb	Balance	Expiration
12172 CAPITAL PROJECT MANAGMT	\$ 603,000	\$ 603,000	\$ -	06/30/13
<hr/>				
Totals	\$ 603,000	\$ 603,000	\$ -	

Program Description and Objectives

CPW's capital development program is responsible for managing the design, construction, development and completion of projects throughout the state. These projects range in size and complexity and are vital to enhance recreational opportunities throughout the State and identify new opportunities. Activities include planning, designing, engineering, budget and contract management, evaluating contractor qualifications, inspections of work being performed, and project completion sign-off. The capital development program is further responsible for 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 capital facilities. The program objectives are 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's 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.

During FY 2012-13, CPW's capital development team and GOCO staff implemented quarterly capital status meetings. These meetings are a great communication tool where all parties have the opportunity to identify and discuss potential changes and/or issues within a project. This collaborative approach allows for short- and long-term planning and success for this program.

Accomplishments in FY 2012-13

In FY 2012-13 nine capital project managers were involved in overseeing work on over 180 active capital projects in various stages of completion, with a combined value of over \$50 million.

Resource Management Program

GOCO Log	Project Name	Grant Amount	FY 2013 Reimb	Grant Balance	Expiration
12173	RESOURCE MGMT PROGRAM	\$ 421,000	\$ 397,441	\$ 23,559	06/30/13
Totals		\$ 421,000	\$ 397,441	\$ 23,559	

Program Description and Objectives

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife 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 staff on a variety of resource issues in seven major program areas:

- Natural resource inventories, monitoring, and stewardship planning for each state park
- Noxious weed mapping and management recommendations
- GIS production and management
- Threatened and endangered species reviews
- Natural Areas Program coordination
- Forest management
- Re-vegetation and Restoration

Comprehensive Resource stewardship plans contain information about vegetation and rare plants, wildlife and rare animals, water, geology, soils, archeology, paleontology, cultural history, internal and surrounding land uses, and property ownership at state parks. Surveys are conducted to map and document the condition of vegetation, rare plants, noxious weeds, and selected wildlife habitat, as well as paleontological and archeological resources. Survey data is used to provide park staff with up to date information on natural resources, as well as goals and details for the protection of these resources. Program staff also develop resource management prescriptions which focus on noxious weed management, park specific re-vegetation & restoration, and specific resource issues (wildlife/trash interactions, rattlesnakes, large predators, cottonwood/willow maintenance, etc), as well as monitoring methods. Management prescriptions are based on each park’s regional context and special resources such as rare species or natural communities. Managing volunteers to perform resource monitoring is another important aspect of this program, with a particular focus on the monitoring of breeding birds, birds of prey, rare plants, amphibians, and reptiles. Collaboration with the Natural Areas Program benefits parks through rare plant monitoring and botany expertise for park lands.



GIS production and management is an ongoing activity within this program and is utilized to support planning and maintenance. GIS data is collected or compiled from other sources (e.g. engineering drawings) and maintained for each 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. Boundary and parcel information is tracked in GIS, including which parcels are purchased with which funding source, how many acres and location of easements. Utilities and maintenance information is tracked including data on noxious weed locations, water, sewer and electric line locations. All

park field offices have GIS systems available and have at least one staff member trained in its use.

Environmental and Cultural Reviews conducted by the Resource Management Program are a vital step in the capital development process. Program staff review development project descriptions, review GIS information on habitat, species occurrence, and significant cultural resources in the area surrounding the project, visit the site of the project to conduct habitat evaluations, and consult with other biologists, archaeologists and park staff to produce a recommendation on a given project's impact on significant resources and compliance with state and federal regulations.

Colorado Natural Areas Program has 117 designated or registered natural areas encompassing 235,523 acres. These Natural Areas were established to protect natural resources of statewide significance and importance. These areas can be owned by federal, state, local 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 150 volunteers. Volunteers monitor these areas with regular photo monitoring, fill out detailed technical tracking forms, or may perform technical plant counts. Staff visits 20-40 designated or registered sites a year, as well as several new sites to be surveyed and evaluated for inclusion into the Program. The program collaborates with partners to implement stewardship projects, research studies or outreach to protect Colorado's most significant natural areas.

Forest management is an ongoing Colorado Parks and Wildlife program that actively responds to the trends and conditions of Colorado's forests. The project funding helps maintain continued oversight and stewardship of state land assets by developing and implementing appropriate forest management plans on all parcels. Investing in forest management activities helps improve the ability of state parks to recover from the effects of wildfires, insects and diseases and helps reduce the risk of wildfire to communities within the vicinity of many state parks.

Noxious weed mapping and management planning is an ongoing program that ensures weed populations are mapped and monitored in state parks and that state parks have weed management plans. Based upon species found, weed management priorities are provided and coordination on weed management obligations occurs with field staff to ensure compliance with the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. Work is done in collaboration with parks field staff, as well as the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

Re-vegetation and Restoration is an ongoing program that provides state parks and park capital development projects with re-vegetation seed mix specifications. These specifications are developed to match species growing in the area and meet re-vegetation needs of specific locations. This program also responds to restoration needs on parks. These responses have included re-vegetation responses to the High Park Fire and habitat improvements required to mitigate project impacts to listed endangered species. Responses range from providing seed mix recommendations to coordinating with outside organizations to perform on the ground restoration projects.

Accomplishments in FY 2012-13

Resource Stewardship Planning

The following are the major resource projects, inventories and surveys performed during FY 2012-13:

- Weed Mapping and Weed Management Plan development – Golden Gate Canyon, Castlewood Canyon, and Staunton State Parks.
- Bird Surveys (Breeding, Raptor, Owl surveys) – John Martin, Mueller, Yampa River, Elkhead, Staunton, Cheyenne Mountain, St. Vrain, Castlewood Canyon
- Small Mammal Surveys – Castlewood Canyon
- Herptile Surveys – Castlewood Canyon
- Dog Management Recommendations – Staunton
- Prairie Dog Management Planning – Lake Pueblo
- Paleontology and Geology Surveys – North Sterling
- Paleontology Interpretative Development – Lake Pueblo, Roxborough
- Geologic Hazard Reports – North Sterling
- Completed a weed map at Yampa State Park. Information collected will assist in development of a weed management plan for FY13-14.
- Cultural Resource/Archeology Resource Advice – Lone Mesa, Trinidad, Staunton, Lake Pueblo, Sylvan Lake, Stagecoach, Lone Mesa, Trinidad Lake, Roxborough, Lake Pueblo
- Re-vegetation Projects (seed mix/re-vegetation specifications) – Roxborough, Sylvan Lake, Lake Pueblo, John Martin Reservoir, Lone Mesa, Ridgeway, Cheyenne Mountain, Staunton, Lory
- Ecological Restoration – Lory State Park High Park Fire Restoration Volunteer Project
- Technology – GIS software, Binoculars, development of wildlife sightings and raptor monitoring databases



Stewardship Planning

- New or updated stewardship plans were drafted or completed at Lone Mesa, Roxborough, Staunton, and Lake Pueblo.
- A new round of surveys focused on monitoring resources already inventoried and addresses resources that have never been documented at parks. Archeological and paleontological resources were documented at several parks and detailed interpretive displays were created for Roxborough and Lake Pueblo through this project. Detailed breeding bird information gathered as part of the stewardship planning process and the volunteer raptor monitoring program was expanded to more parks to provide inventory and monitoring data. Rare species surveys were conducted at several parks to include bats, plants, and birds. All of this information provides the information necessary to help protect and manage resources at our parks.
- A partnership with the University of Colorado (Denver) for paleontological fossil surveys and has produced some scientifically significant discoveries that will open the way for state parks to be interpretive sites for dinosaur era resources. Interpretive displays and interactive activities are available at Lake Pueblo and Roxborough. A continuing partnership with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers assisted parks in restoring native habitats and train parks employees on restoration techniques. Through this collaboration, 70+ volunteers worked at Lory restoring high intensity burn areas from the High Park fire. Collaboration and information sharing with other agencies included work with Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas, Colorado Department of Agriculture, State Land Board, and Upper Arkansas Weed District.
- Volunteers were utilized in several areas to perform stewardship work on state parks. The raptor monitoring program managed nearly 100 volunteers who logged over 12,800

hours monitoring raptor nesting and habitat use on 16 state parks. Volunteers also performed surveys on breeding birds, raptors, butterflies, reptiles, and amphibians.

Natural Areas

- During FY 2012-13, CPW was monitoring approximately 235,523 acres in 117 registered or designated natural areas. Corral Bluffs Natural Area was added to the monitoring profile. Corral Bluffs is owned by the City of Colorado Springs Park, Recreation and Cultural Services Department located in El Paso County, four miles east of Colorado Springs. Corral Bluffs contains extensive geologic and paleontological values. It is reportedly the best site in Colorado and one of the top 20 sites in the world, to find mammals from the first one million years of the Age of Mammals. The bluffs expose the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary (K-T boundary), and contains fossil mammals, leaves and very large petrified trees. Corral Bluffs also has interesting biological and archaeological features and with this new designation CNAP can protect this unique space for current and future Colorado citizens.
- CPW staff and/or volunteers visited 69 of the Designated and Registered Natural Areas to monitor sensitive features and look for threats. During the 2012 field season, identified potential threats on several Natural Areas and brought these to the attention of the land managers. For example, on Copeland Willow Carr, CPW staff and volunteers identified and mapped a new noxious weed invasion, provided the data to City of Longmont and they are now in the process of eliminating that threat from the pristine wetland.
- CPW utilized Species Conservation Trust Funding to advance several rare plant conservation and research projects. These efforts include keeping species off federal lists, developing science-based Best Management Practices for oil and gas development, and mapping newly discovered species within the state. Working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, Universities, and other partners, CPW's dollars have magnified the effectiveness of rare plant conservation in Colorado.
 - In partnership with private landowners, USFWS and the BLM, CNAP supported fencing of a highly threatened and essential population of an endangered plant near Montrose. This project both protects the species and provided for monitoring that will inform future grazing management in rare plant habitat.
 - CPW created and expanded new populations of a rare plant species recently petitioned for federal listing as a threatened species. This effort is intended to reduce the pressure on the two original populations in addition to understanding more about the habitat requirements for this rare plant. If successful, this project may serve to improve the integrity of this very rare species.

Vegetation Management Program

GOCO		Prior Year	FY 2013	Grant		
Log	Project Name	Grant Amount	Reimb	Reimb	Balance	Expiration
10174	VEGETATION MANAGEMENT	\$ 400,000	\$ 305,941	\$ 88,601	\$ 5,458	06/30/13
11174	VEGETATION MANAGEMENT	\$ 400,000	\$ 238,137	\$ 85,831	\$ 76,032	06/30/14
12174	VEGETATION MANAGEMENT	\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ 234,796	\$ 165,204	06/30/15
Totals		\$ 1,200,000	\$ 544,078	\$ 409,228	\$ 246,694	

Program Description and Objectives

Great Outdoors Colorado funds contribute to vegetative management efforts at many of the parks statewide. This program sustains native ecosystems by containing noxious weed infestations and provides a proactive approach to better manage the natural habitats at our parks.

GOCO funds are used to support 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. Funding distribution, large scale projects, re-vegetation, mapping and development of weed plans are coordinated by the Resource Stewardship Program.

A large portion of CPW's 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 12-13

CPW integrated weed management approach on over 6,300 acres across all state parks. Re-vegetation projects of small and large scale occurred at a greater frequency and are making an impact on native vegetation communities. Tamarisk, Russian olive and Siberian elm are aggressively treated at parks where they occur. Hazard trees continue to be a priority as this issue becomes more prevalent following drought years.

Northeast Region

- Chatfield State Park treated 185 acres of weeds utilizing efforts from contractors, staff and volunteers. The park removed 218 Russian olives with the assistance of Mile High Youth Corps. Staff focused efforts in high use areas while contractor's worked along the bike paths removing puncture vine. 108 acres were treated by an application to control thistles, knapweed, mullein and leafy spurge and park staff provided treatment of 31.8 acres to control noxious weeds in high visitor use areas.
- Cherry Creek State Park used integrated weed management techniques to reduce noxious weed infestations on 525 acres.
- Eleven Mile State Park applied herbicide to approximately 95 acres throughout the park to control yellow toadflax, Canada thistle, spotted knapweed, and other species. The chemical milestone is providing effective control of Canada thistle which is a widespread issue in the park.
- Golden Gate Canyon State Park is focusing control efforts on yellow toadflax, leafy spurge and Canada thistle.
- Jackson Lake State Park treated approximately 130 acres of Canada thistle, field bindweed, white top and other noxious weeds.

- Lory State Park has seen a large increase in noxious weeds in the High Park Fire area, though some quick seeding and restoration work has reduced negative impacts. The park partnered with multiple organizations to assist in protecting their native vegetation. Northern Colorado Water Conservation District and Wildland Restoration Volunteers helped with re-vegetation efforts. Larimer County Weed District helped to spray herbicide on noxious weeds and Larimer County Sheriff's Office provided inmates to conduct manual removal of noxious weeds.
- North Sterling State Park staff identified tamarisk on the park for the first time and attacked it heavily with good success so far. The park increased area treated through all methods to 530 acres.
- St. Vrain State Park re-vegetated 10 acres and used multiple techniques on 420 acres to prevent spread of noxious weeds.
- Spinney Mountain State Park had approximately 34 acres treated to control Canada thistle, and three live tamarisk plants were discovered and treated below the high water line in willow-lined areas. Annual monitoring will continue to identify any new tamarisk infestations. Areas that were previously dense monocultures of Canada thistle have been successfully reduced to a few spotty infestations. A continuing re-vegetation effort on 4 acres located on the Pallas Property, land CPW manages for the City of Aurora, to re-establish native plants.

Northwest Region

- James M. Robb - Colorado River State Park has expanded vegetation management work on the park by leveraging GOCO funding as grant match for a large project with the Desert Rivers Collaborative and Tamarisk Coalition. 59 acres of herbicide application is having a positive effect at Connected Lakes. Volunteers from GJHS service learning class helped with an important re-vegetation project and the park is utilizing several irrigation barrels to currently achieve 100% survival for plants purchased for this project.
- Elkhead Reservoir State Park projects focused on native vegetation planting and tree planting. Contractors have worked hard to knock back the Dalmatian Toadflax which has come back to the reservoir this year with a vengeance. Local volunteers have planted 17 trees at various locations on the park, primarily in the campground. This mix of Cottonwoods and Aspen were donated to the park as well as the irrigation system to supply water. This project was a cooperative effort between a local civic group, the City of Craig and the park. Staff has also used GOCO funding to plant and maintain native grasses and forbs at the day use areas like the ski-beach and boat ramp beach.
- Highline Lake State Park applied herbicide to 30 acres and worked to remove tamarisk, Russian olive and Siberian elm on 8 acres. Hazardous tree pruning and removal was completed.
- Pearl Lake State Park focused on eliminating knapweeds and houndstongue with seasonal staff. Rehabilitating and re-vegetating burn piles from forestry treatments were completed.
- Stagecoach State Park is continuing to see progress in weed treatments and has developed a partnership with neighboring land owners to ensure cross boundary weeds are treated at the same time.
- Steamboat Lake State Park is making great progress reducing noxious weeds throughout the park. Rehabilitating and re-vegetating burn piles from forestry treatments were completed and remain a priority.
- Vega State Park used contractors to apply herbicide to 160 acres on two separate occasions.
- At Yampa State Park, all parking areas were treated with bare ground control and islands within parking lots were covered with weed barrier and crushed rock to inhibit weed growth.

Southeast Region

- Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area used Department of Correction crews to help remove hazard trees and re-vegetate disturbed areas. Noxious weed control efforts focused on kochia, Russian thistle, and Canada thistle.
- John Martin Reservoir State Park has removed all tamarisk from the east shoreline of Lake Hasty. Staff completed herbicide application on 4 miles of trail and worked on hazard tree pruning and removal of 15 hazardous trees.
- Lake Pueblo State Park is having good success from treatment in the Rock Canyon area from an annual herbicide application. The park hired a new PRT with vegetation management expertise and is providing additional training to expand certifications.
- Lathrop and San Luis State Parks treated and removed tamarisk, applied noxious weed treatment and completed hazard tree work.
- Trinidad Lake State Park treated 207 acres of noxious weeds and has begun to get all weed populations on the park mapped in GIS.

Southwest Region

- Crawford State Park treated 25 acres for Russian knapweed, Canada thistle and musk thistle.
- Lone Mesa State Park completed over 35 acres of control efforts and now monitoring the forest management areas for weeds.
- Mancos State Park utilized herbicide and mechanical means to control mullein and Canada thistle around the lake.
- Navajo State Park utilized expertise from Archuleta County to treat a variety of noxious weeds. Trees were replaced in the campgrounds. Tamarisk and other noxious weeds in the Sambrito wetland are being targeted as part of a wetland improvement project which will ultimately improve habitat for the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse.
- Paonia State Park treated approximately 6 acres of a 2.5 mile section along Hwy 133; this particular area is developing a serious weed problem.
- Sweitzer State Park continues to battle tamarisk on the north side of the lake and treated about 7 acres of various noxious weeds.

Forest Management

GOCO		Grant	Prior Year	FY 2013	Grant	
Log	Project Name	Amount	Reimb	Reimb	Balance	Expiration
10223	FOREST MANAGEMENT	\$ 300,000	\$ 98,735	\$ 201,265	\$ 0	06/30/13
11223	FOREST MANAGEMENT	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ 29,191	\$ 270,809	06/30/14
12223	FOREST MANAGEMENT	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ 10,573	\$ 289,427	06/30/15
Totals		\$ 900,000	\$ 98,735	\$ 241,029	\$ 560,236	

Program Description and Objectives

CPW's State Parks' Forest Management Program exists to provide opportunities that improve the resilience of state parks areas to recover from the effects of wildfire and insect/disease epidemics. By investing in the treatment and removal of hazardous forest fuels, CPW can reduce long-term suppression costs, improve visitor safety, reduce impacts on water and air quality, improve wildlife habitat and significantly reduce fire mitigation costs.

This ongoing program actively responds to the trends and conditions of Colorado's forests and advances the State's interest in federal natural resource policy by proactively identifying activities that may impact Colorado. Investing in these forest treatments, such as prescribed burning and mechanical removal of trees, will also reduce the risk of fire to homes and communities adjacent to many of Colorado's state parks. GOCO funding helps CPW maintain continued oversight and stewardship of state land assets by developing and implementing appropriate management plans on all parcels. Our ability to maintain safe natural areas for visitors is critical.

Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Insect and Disease Response – With spruce beetle surpassing mountain pine beetle in new acres impacted, Colorado Parks and Wildlife has broadened focus on treatments designed to mitigate impacts from all types of forest insects and disease. Partnering with the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), projects designed to protect public safety and improve forest health were completed at Steamboat and Pearl State Parks and at State Forest State Park at the Craggs Campground. Proactive work at Golden Gate Canyon to stay ahead of the mountain pine beetle continued with a 37-acre project along Mule Deer Trail, which is also an important wildfire access road. CSFS has also assisted with future project development, forest health inspections and hazard tree evaluations.
- Reducing Risk of Wildfire – Several projects were conducted in FY12-13 to reduce hazardous fuels and improve park's resiliency to wildfire. GOCO funding paid for 50% of the project cost for fuels mitigation treatments at Lory (96 acres), Lone Mesa (97 acres) and Roxborough (23 acres). Grant programs from the Colorado State Forest Service matched the other 50% of the costs. Through advanced planning and cooperative partnerships an important 30-acre project was implemented for zero cost along Lower Promontory Ridge in Golden Gate Canyon. Several additional projects were planned for future years at Sylvan Lake, Mueller, Cheyenne Mountain, Trinidad, and State Forest State Parks among others.
- Riparian Forests – CPW initiated a planning effort with the CSFS to determine resource trajectory of riparian forests and provide recommendations for improving areas identified with poor health. During the year, Barr Lake, John Martin Reservoir and Lake Pueblo State Parks had plans completed.
- Planning and Administration - CPW utilized local businesses for project planning, clearances, evaluations, signage, hazard tree removal, and preventative insect spraying. Hazardous tree removal remains a priority, especially in parks faced with new forest pest invasions and/or continued drought.

- Lory State Park received a GOCO funded fuels mitigation project in 2008. This project targeted the area burned by the High Park Fire to introduce a forest thinning treatment. The treatment was applied to prevent fire from moving through the treetops and forcing it to burn along the ground. The impacts to vegetation, soils and erosion are reduced in these areas as compared to areas that did not receive treatment. This project was highlighted multiple times including an article in the Denver Post, the 2012 Report on the Health of Colorado's Forests produced by the CSFS and in several field tours of the site.

Park Operations

GOCO		FY 2013		Grant	Expiration
Log	Project Name	Grant Amount	Reimb	Balance	
12175	CHEYENNE MTN OPS	\$ 343,000	\$ 343,000	\$ -	06/30/13
12176	CRAWFORD OPS	\$ 73,000	\$ 73,000	\$ -	06/30/13
12177	GOLDEN GATE OPS	\$ 103,000	\$ 103,000	\$ -	06/30/13
12178	JOHN MARTIN OPS	\$ 64,000	\$ 64,000	\$ -	06/30/13
12179	LATHROP OPS	\$ 73,000	\$ 73,000	\$ -	06/30/13
12180	LONE MESA OPS	\$ 44,000	\$ 44,000	\$ -	06/30/13
12181	RIFLE GAP OPS	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,000	\$ -	06/30/13
12182	ST. VRAIN OPS	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000	\$ -	06/30/13
12183	STATE FOREST OPS	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -	06/30/13
12184	STAUNTON OPS	\$ 184,207	\$ 184,207	\$ -	06/30/13
12185	SYLVAN OPS	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ -	06/30/13
12186	YAMPA OPS	\$ 115,000	\$ 115,000	\$ -	06/30/13
Totals		\$ 1,342,207	\$ 1,342,207	\$ -	

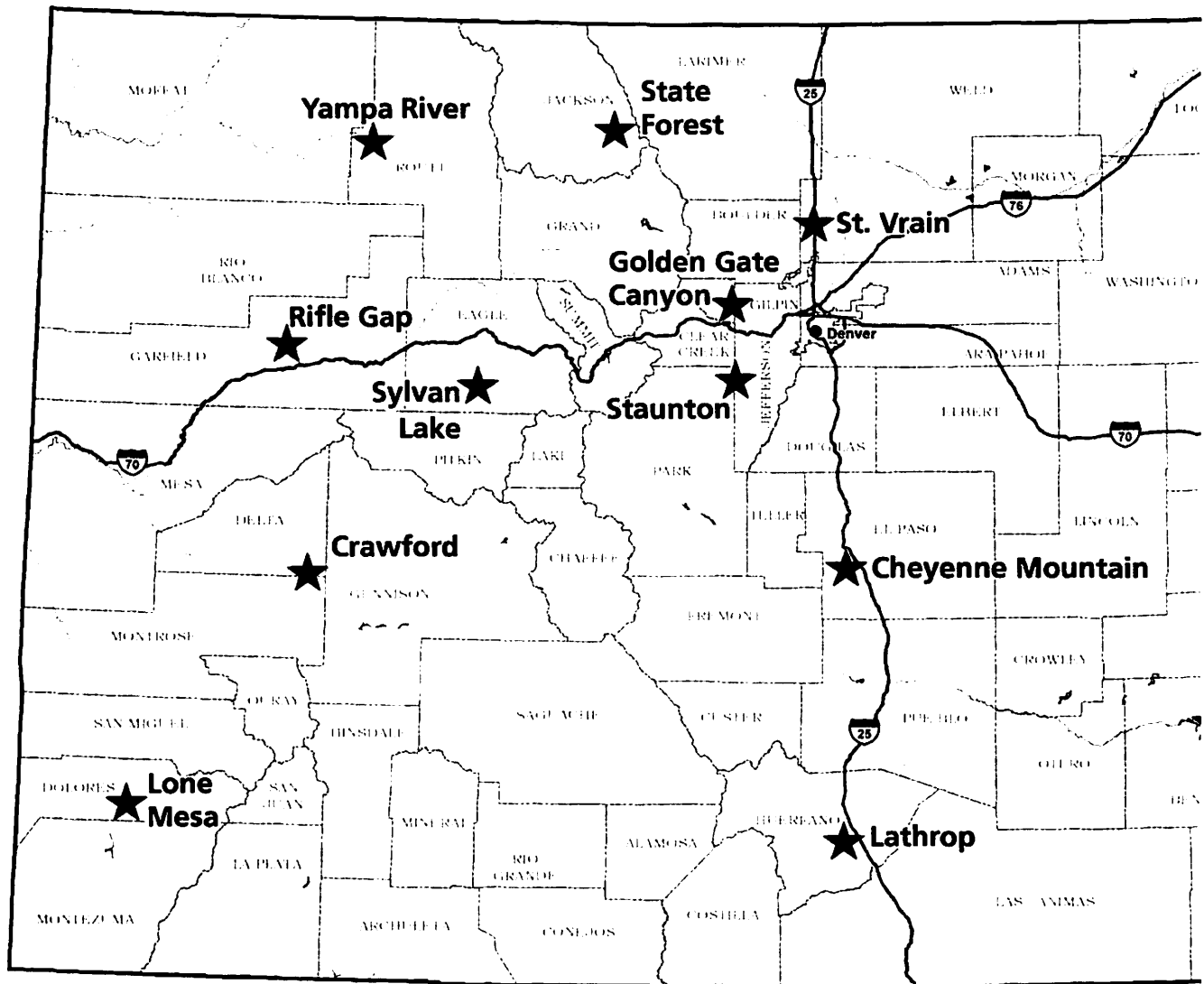
Program Description and Objectives

Great Outdoors Colorado has provided significant funding to almost every state park in the system to assist in development of 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.

State Parks offer an array of low cost outdoor recreational opportunities throughout the year in Colorado. Regardless of location, throughout the state, full time and seasonal staff, create and promote activities that engage all age ranges. Many of the parks offer elaborate trails systems that link people to the outdoors. While hiking, biking, and/or riding individuals experience the intricate detail of our landscape, get the opportunity to view wildlife and/or birds or learn about diverse habitat that supports the wildlife. There are boating and fishing opportunities as well as camping and children’s activities. Funding assists in the day-to-day activity in a park, for example:

- Interpretive services that provide visitors with information regarding local habitat and wildlife,
- Minor repair and maintenance costs and/or utility costs on facilities,
- Volunteer opportunities and programs that promote “getting outdoors”.

In FY 2012-13 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. A description of each park and its relevant statistics is provided below.



Cheyenne Mountain State Park is situated south of Colorado Springs and offers more than 60 campsites, 41 day-use sites for picnicking, a group picnic area that can accommodate 200 guests, and more than 20 miles of trails. The park's Visitor Center offers park information, hands-on educational displays, and spectacular views.

- FTE: 5.0
- Land acres: 2,336
- Water acres: 0
- FY 2012-13-total visitation: 121,287
- Camping: 61 campsites
- Picnic/Day use sites: 41
- Trails: 16 trails encompassing more than 20 miles

Crawford State Park offers great water-based recreation in Colorado's historic North Fork ranching country. The park's 400-surface acre lake is very popular with boaters, water skiers, and

fishermen, and includes a designated swim beach. Crawford offers two distinct campgrounds: Iron Creek includes full-service RV hookups; Clear Fork offers a more basic camping experience. Crawford also includes numerous trails and great picnic areas.

- FTE: 3.0
- Land acres: 334
- Water acres: 400
- FY 2012-13 total visitation: 106,480
- Camping: 66 campsites
- Picnic sites: 40
- Trails: 1 primary trail extending almost 2 miles

Golden Gate State Park encompasses almost 12,000 acres of mountain meadows, aspen groves, and pine forest. The park has an extensive trail network, extending more than 35 miles and providing access to 275 picnic sites; many trails are designated as multi-use and are popular with hikers, bikers, and equestrians. Golden Gate also offers a variety of camping options, including full-service sites with electrical hookups, tent sites with fire rings and picnic facilities, and primitive back-country sites. Golden Gate also offers eight cabins and yurts, available year-round. The park's visitor center contains environmental education activities, including the ADA-accessible Nellie Larkin Nature Trail.

- FTE: 8.0
- Land acres: 11,998
- Water acres: 7
- FY 2012-13 total visitation: 619,440
- Camping: 134 campsites, 6 cabins, 2 yurts
- Picnic sites: 125
- Trails: 15 trails encompassing 36 miles are accessible from the park

John Martin State Park offers great boating and fishing in southeastern Colorado. The park has more than 200 campsites, including full-service RV hookups, ten sites with fire rings, and primitive sites. Group picnic and camping facilities are also available. The park's trail network includes connections to the northern (Mountain) route of the historic Sante Fe Trail.

- FTE: 3.0
- Land acres: 1,727
- Water acres: 11,449
- FY 2012-13 total visitation: 78,769
- Camping: 213 campsites
- Picnic sites: 17
- Trails: 1 primary trail extending 4.5 miles

Lathrop State Park offers a variety of recreation opportunities in a high plains grassland environment, dotted with pinon and juniper and in the shadow of the Spanish Peaks. The park is a great place for fishing, waterfowl hunting, boating, windsurfing, and swimming. Lathrop has a diverse trail network that includes spectacular views of the Spanish Peaks, Sangre de Cristo, and Wet Mountain ranges. The park offers more than 100 campsites, including full-service RV hookups, tent sites, and primitive sites. Lathrop also offers a group camping site and a large number of picnic areas.

- FTE: 5.0

- Land acres: 1,184
- Water acres: 412
- FY 2012-13 total visitation: 85,428
- Camping: 103 campsites
- Picnic sites: 40
- Trails: 2 primary trails extending more than 5 miles

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. 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's center in Dolores. The Dolores office provides OHV, snowmobile and boat registrations and includes a Rocky Mountain Nature Association bookstore.

- FTE: 1.0
- Land acres: 11,702
- Water acres: 0
- FY 2012-13 total visitation: 9,335
- Camping: NA
- Picnic sites: NA
- Trails: NA

Rifle Gap State Park lies at the foot of the Grand Hogback, nine miles north of the town of Rifle. The park offers great water-based recreation opportunities, including boating, fishing, swimming, and diving. The park complex is adjacent to BLM lands and connects to an enormous number of trails for hiking, biking, and equestrian use. There are a total of more than 50 campsites at the park, including some RV sites, tent sites, and primitive sites.

- FTE: 5.0
- Land acres: 1,029
- Water acres: 360
- FY 2012-13 total visitation: 194,171
- Camping: 89 campsites
- Picnic sites: 14
- Trails: none

St. Vrain State Park offers hiking, camping, and fishing opportunities within an easy drive from several Front Range communities. The park has been extensively rehabilitated in the last four years (supported by GOCO funding); St. Vrain's 80 campsites have been completely updated to support RV camping. St. Vrain also offers picnic and day-use sites, an in-park trail network, and connections to many local and regional trails.

- FTE: 5.0
- Land acres: 452
- Water acres: 236
- FY 2012-13 total visitation: 140,925
- Camping: 87 campsites
- Picnic sites: 7

- Trails: 4 trails extending more than 4 miles

State Forest State Park is the largest park in the system and encompasses more than 70,000 acres, ranging in elevation from 8500 to 13,000 feet. State Forest contains four campgrounds with more than 150 improved sites, and also includes 76 “dispersed” camping sites in more remote areas of the park. State Forest also has seven yurts available year-round; these facilities are very popular in the winter with snowmobile users and cross-country skiers. The park’s extensive trail network provides opportunities to connect to the Routt National Forest, Rawah Wilderness, Roosevelt National Forest, and Rocky Mountain National Park.

- FTE: 5.0
- Land acres: 70,838
- Water acres: 170
- FY 2012-13 total visitation: 446,455
- Camping: 158 campsites, 6 cabins, 9 yurts
- Picnic sites: 9
- Miles of trail: 11 trails extending more than 94 miles

Staunton State Park opened in May of 2013 and 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 bordered by Pike National Forest to the north and northwest. 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.

- FTE: 1.0
- Land acres: 3,646
- Water acres: 0
- FY 2012-13 total visitation: 71,055
- Camping: NA
- Picnic sites: NA
- Trails: NA

Sylvan Lake State Park is located approximately 10 miles southeast of the town of Eagle in Eagle County. The park is open year-round, with a campground situated near a beautiful 46-acre mountain lake stocked with trout. The park features tent and RV camping, eight rustic cabins, one cabin with running water, and three yurts. Hiking and biking trails, picnic areas, and boating are all popular activities at Sylvan Lake. In the winter, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and ice fishing are popular activities. Sylvan Lake offers environmental interpretive programs for all ages during the summer, and upon request the rest of the year.

- FTE: 4.0
- Land acres: 1,506
- Water acres: 42
- FY 2012-13 total visitation: 95,854
- Camping: 44 campsites, 8 cabins, 3 yurts
- Picnic sites: 30
- Trails: 2 trails extending more than 1.5 miles

Yampa River State Park offers a unique experience in the State Parks system. The park offers a wide variety of recreation opportunities along more than 130 miles of the Yampa River. Park headquarters are located in the beautiful Yampa valley near Hayden, and include a visitor center, nature trail, 50 campsites, and picnic sites. The proximity to State Highway 40 makes park headquarters the base camp for many outdoor activities in the Steamboat area, including hunting, fishing, and OHV use. A 134-mile stretch of the Yampa River is the heart of Yampa River State Park. The river access sites offer recreationists six camping areas, excellent fishing on miles of flat-water and Class I-V rafting. The state park component of this river corridor includes 13 access points, stretching from Hayden to the Dinosaur National Monument near the Utah border.

- FTE: 5.0
- Land acres: 135
- Water acres: 134 miles of river
- FY 2012-13 total visitation: 74,434
- Camping: 49 campsites, 1 yurt
- Picnic sites: 47
- Trails: 1 primary trail extending more than 12 miles

Public Information and Environmental Education

Public Information Program

GOCO		FY 2013		Grant	Expiration
Log	Project Name	Grant Amount	Reimb	Balance	
12187	PUBLIC INFO PROGRAM	\$ 271,000	\$ 226,017	\$ 44,983	06/30/13
Totals		\$ 271,000	\$ 226,017	\$ 44,983	

Program Description and Objectives

Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Public Information Program manages external communications, CPW's brand, public outreach, and publications. Activities under this grant may include analysis of CPW's position in the marketplace and implementation of short-, medium-, and long-range efforts. The program analyzes and anticipates travel and recreation trends and their effect on public outreach efforts and visitation. The overriding purpose of all these efforts is to help connect people to the outdoors and aligns with the GOCO strategic plan state below.

Great Outdoors Colorado 2010 Strategic Plan –


- Invest in Interpretation and Environmental Education Programs at State Parks and seek additional partnerships/re-granting opportunities.
- Develop opportunities for youth groups (schools, etc.) to visit conserved properties and learn stewardship values.
- Invest funds in partnerships/projects with schools to develop resources (e.g. Learning Landscapes).
- Invest additional Lottery proceeds over the next five years in enhancing or expanding outdoor programs at State Parks and the Division of Wildlife.
- Provide incentives for stronger partnerships with outside organizations in delivering these education programs.

Accomplishments for FY 2012-13

- CPW's statewide outreach staff teamed up with the Staunton park manager and the Northeast Region public information officer to plan the Staunton Grand Opening activities and announcements. A series of news releases detailing the steps taken to open the park were crafted and distributed to media outlets. Additionally, a dedication ceremony to recognize the park partners and initiate the media to the park was held on May 17, 2013. A public celebration was held May 18-19 with GOCO, Colorado Lottery, the Friends of Staunton State Park, and a number of other local community partners. A very popular activity was the T-shirt maker where kids got to color their own commemorative Staunton marmot T-shirt. Estimated attendance for opening weekend was approximately 3,500 and attendance continues to be very strong. The park opening was featured in CPW's May newsletter, several ads were placed in local papers, and earned media coverage appeared in all the major Denver network stations and papers.
- Continue to effectively utilize social media channels to reach constituents and the general public. Facebook fans grew by 219%, from 3,665 in FY 2011-12 to 11,688 during FY 2012-13. Total daily reach increased from 278,708 in FY 2011-12 to more than 2.2 million.
- Secured earned media coverage by issuing more than 500 news releases on events in state parks, wildlife related issues, initiatives and successes, including the hundreds of programs presented by the summer Great Outdoors Colorado naturalists. The news releases are sent to more than 600 newspapers, radio and television stations, and specialty websites.
- Responded to media inquiries to ensure that CPW's views and activities were accurately represented in media coverage. Fast response and good relationships with the media has enhanced our media inquiries and coverage.


- Quarterly meetings and conference calls with CPW and GOCO communication staff, has facilitated more effective and timely coverage on cooperative issues.

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- Cabins and yurts: sleep from 4 to 20 people
- Many campgrounds have facilities including flush toilets, hot showers and laundry rooms
- Cabins range from basic camper cabins to fully furnished with bedding and bathrooms

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- Park brochures were distributed at 10 Welcome Centers throughout the state and two Denver metro REI store locations reaching more than 1 million visitors annually.
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife started a new program to get more families outdoors. Through a donation from The North Face, public outreach and volunteer/education managers worked on developing a first-time campers program called “Let’s Camp!” Equipment was purchased for ten families to attend one of four camping weekends. This initiative was developed to teach basic camping skills, and GOCO park naturalists were involved by developing “Leave No Trace” and interpretive programs. Park volunteers also offered information about camping etiquette and features of each park for participants. The “Let’s Camp!” programs were held in July-August 2012 at Chatfield State Park and Golden Gate Park. A total of 28 families with 47 adults and 47 children attended the four programs; one-third of the adult participants identified themselves as non-Caucasian and 81 percent of participants indicated that they had never camped before. All responded that they plan to camp again “occasionally” or “regularly.”



Environmental Education Program

GOCO Log	Project Name	Grant Amount	FY 2013 Reimb	Grant Balance	Expiration
12188	ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM	\$ 290,000	\$ 280,416	\$ 9,584	06/30/13
Totals		\$ 290,000	\$ 280,416	\$ 9,584	

Program Description and Objectives

Colorado’s State Parks make ideal outdoor classrooms for reconnecting visitors and educating students about nature’s wonders. By providing outstanding learning opportunities for visitors of all ages, CPW expects 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, qualified interpreters have been offering educational programs and other services in state parks throughout Colorado since the mid-1990s.

GOCO funding for the Environmental Education program supports seasonal, temporary workers at almost every park in the system. Under guidance from the statewide Education Program, and regional and park staff, these workers provide a wide variety of services for park visitors including:

- Daily contacts with park visitors to provide assistance, information, educational programs and events
- Development of self-directed interpretation hikes and experiences, discovery packs, trail brochures and maps, and interpretive signs and exhibits
- Educational “campfire” programs, and Junior Ranger Program materials and packets
- Classroom programs conducted for children of all ages
- Staffing educational exhibits in park visitor centers
- Coordination and resources for volunteer naturalists providing programs for visitors
- Writing weekly newspaper columns, park newsletters, plant identification booklets, web page updates, and hunting & fishing information packets.



GOCO Temp Training at State Forest State Park

Accomplishments in FY 12-13:

- Over 113,000 park visitors were reached through programs and demonstrations including educating visitors on unique park features, wildlife, and other environmental issues through direct contact on trails, in campgrounds, at visitor centers and entrance stations.
- More than 7,200 hours were dedicated to completion of various research projects, 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, promoting programs through newsletters and digital slide shows, and maintaining native gardens, bird feeders, aquariums and other live animal exhibits.

- Over 815,000 of the 12 million park visitors (about 7%) 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, and so forth.
- GOCO funds helped support State Parks' 27 Visitor Centers with educational materials and, in some instances, updated and enhanced interpretive displays or exhibits. In addition, GOCO funding supported efforts to update interpretive signage and Watchable Wildlife displays along trails.
- Continued in-kind support for various local, state and national "kids and families outdoors" initiatives and events.



GOCO Temp Training at Sylvan Lake State Park

Volunteer Program

GOCO	Grant	FY 2013	Grant	
Log Project Name	Amount	Reimb	Balance	Expiration
12189 VOLUNTEER PROGRAM	\$ 306,000	\$ 306,000	\$ -	06/30/13
<hr/>				
Totals	\$ 306,000	\$ 306,000	\$ -	

Project Description and Objectives:

The Volunteer Program inspires and fosters active stewardship for Colorado's natural resources through the meaningful engagement and integration of diverse volunteers, partners & CPW staff. The program provides an organized, efficient, well-guided and cost effective approach to managing a wide range of volunteer efforts. 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 CPW to fulfill its mission.

The Volunteer Program is currently undergoing significant change with the ongoing merge of the Parks and Wildlife Volunteer Programs. Current staffing includes one Statewide Volunteer Program Coordinator and three Regional Volunteer Coordinators that work to meet an overarching goal to create an integrated volunteer program for CPW including a new strategic plan, policies, procedures and other written guidance. Early efficiencies have been identified and savings have been realized through streamlining administrative processes, for example, the purchase of one volunteer liability insurance policy.

The Volunteer Program has proven to be a significant success and has demonstrated rapid growth. In calendar year 2012, the Parks Volunteer Program helped manage and coordinate almost 5,000 volunteers working on projects within or connected to state parks. These volunteers contributed more than 222,000 hours – the equivalent 107 full-time employees. Participation is more than double the number of volunteer hours in 2003 when the statewide efforts began. The cost savings is \$4.9 million based on an average wage rate of \$22.14 per hour.

Final 2012 Parks Hours

Northeast Region: 116,764

Southeast Region: 33,086

Northwest Region: 27,422

Southwest Region: 35,395

Total Hours in Park Regions: 212,667

Other Park programs/Administrative Office hours: 9,408

Grand Total Volunteer Hours: 222,075

Grant Total Number of Volunteers: 4,927

Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Park volunteers helped CPW in a variety of critical areas including serving as campground hosts, gate & visitor center attendants, providing interpretive programs, trail construction, weed control, fire mitigation, wildlife and vegetation surveys, and fundraising.
- Facilitated statewide training and regional opportunities for approximately 250 staff and volunteers. Topic areas included volunteer management best practices, customer service, trail building/trail design/habitat restoration/crew leader development, database tips and troubleshooting, marketing and recruiting tips, and keys for volunteers to provide quality interpretive educational programs.

- Ensured parks successfully recruited and placed camp hosts at 100% of the 37 state park locations with openings. These 220 campground hosts contributed over 61,500 hours in 2012.
- Hosted the Campground host Jamboree at Stagecoach where 34 camp hosts, Friends members and staff from around the state were recognized and participated in trainings with a variety of topics: customer service, teambuilding, animals, plants and habitats.
- GOCO-funded temporary Volunteer Coordinators at 34 state park locations generated nearly 1,664 hours on indirect volunteer involvement to market volunteer programs, recruit and track volunteers, and spent nearly 3,743 hours on direct volunteer contact to train, reward & recognize, schedule and supervise volunteers.
- Hosted 15 projects at 10 state park locations in partnership with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) – AHRA, Chatfield, Cherry Creek, Cheyenne Mountain, Golden Gate Canyon, Lory, Roxborough Staunton, Sylvan and Vega. A total of 964 volunteers (585 adults and 379 youth) contributed almost 7,000 hours collectively. Work included the building of 34 erosion control dams; 1000 feet of fence removed; 70 feet of rock wall completed; 72 steps built; 6,300 feet of crusher fine trail completed; 1,500 feet of bike trail built; 5,500 feet of trail maintained; 9 acres of weeds removed and 800 willows planted.
- Partnered with Youth Corps from across the state to host a variety of pro-bono service learning projects including park clean-ups, bridge building, trail maintenance and more. 136 youth contributed 1350 volunteer hours collectively at 14 different park locations.
- Served on the Denver DOVIA (Directors of Volunteers In Agencies) Board and helped host the 27th annual We Count On You Awards ceremony emceed by Mitch Jelniker of Channel 7 News.
- At the “We Count On You” Luncheon, CPW had eight individual outstanding volunteer nominations, three dynamic duos, three volunteer managers, and one board member nominated. CPW also had two winners who received an award at the luncheon. Lonnie Shinault, Northeast Region, was awarded the 2012 DOVIA Outstanding Volunteer award and Del Kelley, Friends of Roxborough State Park, won Outstanding Volunteer Board Member.
- As part of the Colorado Stewardship Coalition, CPW hosted a well-attended legislative session near the Capitol. The goal was to reach out to and educate/inform legislators about the value of natural resource and outdoor stewardship for land managers and volunteer organizations at all levels -- nonprofit, local, state and federal.
- Participated with America’s State Parks, First Day Hikes initiative. Assisted with recruiting and organizing park host sites and volunteer naturalists to lead hikes on New Year’s Day 2013 at 15 different parks for over 300 visitors.
- Overall, parks continued to cultivate partnerships with America’s State Parks, Colorado Backcountry Horseman’s Association, Colorado State Forest Service, DOVIA, Good Sams RV Club, Governor’s Commission On Community Service, Metro Volunteers, REI, Scouts, Toyota Denver Region Office, United Way, VOC, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, Whole Foods, Xcel Energy, Miller/Coors, Backyard Collective, Vail Resorts, and many others.
- Promoted and/or provided on-the-ground assistance for over 350 local, state and national volunteer and special events across the state for Earth Day, Colorado Cares Day, National Public Lands Day, National Trails Day, Lake Appreciation Day, Pulling for Colorado, State Forestry Fair, and various local celebrations including Boy/Girl Scout events, AHRA’s CleanUp/GreenUp; North Sterling’s Putting Down Roots and many, many more.

Youth Programs

GOCO Log	Project Name	Grant Amount	FY 2013 Reimb	Grant Balance	Expiration
12190	YOUTH PROGRAM	\$ 275,000	\$ 257,394	\$ 17,606	06/30/13
Totals		\$ 275,000	\$ 257,394	\$ 17,606	

Program Description and Objectives

Colorado Parks and Wildlife 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. One key component of CPW's youth program is its partnership with the Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) and youth corps around the state that employ and train youth and young adults on land, water and energy conservation projects and engage Colorado's youth in meaningful outdoor work that helps them build a sense of natural resource stewardship. The program targets both in-school and out-of-school youth ages 16-26.

CPW utilizes youth 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 Russian olive and tamarisk removal; fence removal, repair and construction; and shoreline cleanup projects. This supports both improving conditions within the state parks and providing funding for CYCA and individual youth corps statewide. This grant also funds other smaller programs aimed at educating youth about the outdoors and connecting youth to the outdoors.

Accomplishments in FY 2012-13

- Colorado Youth Corps members worked 10,651 hours completing 39 project weeks at 17 state park or recreation area locations. Project accomplishments of the 190 corps members and 17 crew leaders included: 3,577 feet of trail corridor cleared, 3.8 miles of trail constructed, 2.85 miles of trail maintained or repaired, 2,086 feet of fence constructed, 7,300 feet of fence repaired, 634 trees removed, and 1,147 trees cut/bucked.
- Youth Corps crews spent an additional 1,036 hours engaged in environmental education.
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife contributed \$40,000 towards the expansion of the college student outdoor skills program of Wildland Awareness and Educational Institute (WAEI). WAEI reached 75 college students in the Fort Collins and Greeley area from CSU and UNC, and met with numerous colleges and universities around the state in efforts to expand their program. WAEI's outdoor skills program includes modules on survival, natural resource management, hunting and angling, hatchery management and other field skills courses for college students

Trails and River Greenways

State Trails Program

GOCO Log	Project Name	Grant Amount	FY 2013 Reimb	Grant Balance	Expiration
12191	STATE TRAILS PROGRAM	\$ 239,000	\$ 188,893	\$ 50,107	06/30/13
Totals		\$ 239,000	\$ 188,893	\$ 50,107	

Program Description and Objectives

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) State Trails Program's primary goal is to support the development and maintenance of recreational trails throughout the state. Trail use (e.g. hiking, jogging, and walking) continues to be by far the most popular outdoor recreation activity statewide, with nine out of ten Coloradoans routinely enjoying these activities.

A variety of entities are eligible to receive CPW's trails grants, including towns, cities, counties, school and special recreation districts, non-profit groups, and state and federal land-management agencies. Entities 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. Workshops and conferences are sponsored to bring trails advocates, community planners, and CPW 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.

Activities funded through CPW's trails grants include technical and financial assistance to communities, other agencies, land managers, and organizations devoted to trails, conservation, and open space, as well as assistance with planning, coordination, trail volunteers, organization building, funding, land development regulations, and trail maintenance and management. The CPW's Trails and OHV and Snowmobile websites serves as a clearinghouse for trails information in Colorado for trail planners and users to stay apprised of trail development projects and processes across the country. All of these program activities align with the GOCO strategic plan objectives below.

Great Outdoors Colorado 2010 Strategic Plan:

- Work to bolster funding for trails and the State Trails Program, including possibly dedicating more Local Government purpose funds.
- Fund the creation of a statewide trails plans.
- Provide additional funding for planning grants that focus on trail access and connectivity.
- Invest in increased funds in trail connections that allow for safer and easier access to recreational activities.

Annual objectives of the Trails Program include:

- Develop strategies, systems, processes, guidelines, and trail standards for the statewide Trails Program.
- Assistant and support for the Colorado State Trails Committee through the interpretation and development of trails statutes, policies, and regulations and guidance with the annual trails grant cycle. This statutorily mandated committee recommends statewide trails policy and trail grant funding priorities to the Parks and Wildlife Commission for approval.
- Extend financial assistance through trail grants to governmental agencies, non-profits, clubs and volunteer organizations that support, maintain, and build trails inclusive of

leadership and trail construction training, organizational capacity building and project management techniques.

- Administration of approximately 200 grants annually. Administration includes develop, implement, and maintain a thorough inspection process for all completed grants. These grants include all trail programs and their funding source. More than half of these grants consist of Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) grants funded through the OHV Fund, with the remaining comprised of Recreational Trails and Snowmobile and include various sources of funding.
- Management of State Trails Program budgets, accounts, and contracts, personal services contracts, and grant payments associated with trail projects for both motorized and non-motorized recreation; manages program budgets to accommodate operations, administration, salaries, and environmental reviews.
- Continuous review and revisions, as needed, of internal grant accounting policies and procedures to comply with changing federal, GOCO, and Constitutional Lottery requirements. Develop and implement internal control procedures to assure compliance.
- Identification of staff training needs, such as trail design, maintenance and construction, trail accessibility, purchasing/procurement, and the establishment of training programs to meet those needs.
- Verify compliance of all trail projects with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Accomplishments in FY 2012-13

In FY 2012-13, GOCO funding supported trails management and grant administration, including operations costs, to help meet the program objectives outlined above. In addition, GOCO funding provides operational support for four Regional Trail Coordinators.

- Administration of open grants. Trails Program funding is comprised of various sources, including GOCO Parks and GOCO Local Funding, Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF), and Recreation Trails Program (RTP) from the Federal Highways Administration. GOCO Parks funding for FY13 was \$550,000; GOCO Local Funding-\$499,840; LWCF-\$477,000; and RTP-\$350,000. The federal grant amounts are estimated based on approvals by federal agencies, however, final grant amounts are not disbursed until later in the federal grant cycles.
- Oversight and management of the FY 2012-13 trails grant award cycles securing funding for trail planning and development projects statewide.
- Gather and pull funding from different state and federal funding sources and publish grant availability on the Trails website.
- Coordination of the functions of reporting, funding, audits, inspections, meetings, and projects.
- Completed updates to the Colorado State Trails Program application manual.
- Gather grant applications, once ranked, convene grant review subcommittees to coordinate the grant review process.
- Seek public comment regarding applications on Trails website.
- Seek comment and funding strategies from the State Trails Committee, and forward information to Parks and Wildlife Commission.
- Once funding is approved, prepare contracts, which begins project phase of grants applications.
- Provide public information regarding the State Trails Program and trails in general.
- Verification of compliance of trail projects with the National Environmental Policy Act.
- Continue to update the geographic based maps of the Colorado Front Range Trail and the various alternative routes where the trail has yet to be completed.
- Convening grant writing workshops statewide to assist organizations on the Trails Grant Process.

Trails Program

GOCO

Log	Project Name	Grant Amount	Prior Year Reimb	FY 2013 Reimb	Grant Balance	Expiration
09202	BIANCA PEAK&ELL	\$ 36,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ -	09/30/12
09208	NE LAKEWOOD TR	\$ 23,712	\$ -	\$ 23,712	\$ -	09/30/12
10230	WHITE RIVER14ERS	\$ 199,780	\$ 22,634	\$ 90,092	\$ 87,055	09/30/13
10231	REC DEC PIKES PEAK	\$ 18,983	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,983	06/30/14
10232	WHITE RIVER PARK CONN	\$ 30,000	\$ 25,030	\$ -	\$ 4,970	06/30/13
10233	MANCOS COMM TRAILS	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ 29,559	\$ 441	06/30/13
10234	W MAGNOLIA TRAIL	\$ 36,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,500	06/30/14
10235	TRNG COS NXT GEN1	\$ 29,120	\$ -	\$ 29,120	\$ -	06/30/14
10236	DRY CREEK TRAIL PLAN	\$ 22,000	\$ -	\$ 17,149	\$ 4,851	06/30/13
10237	SAND CREEK GREENWAY TR	\$ 19,057	\$ -	\$ 19,057	\$ -	06/30/13
10235	TRNG COS NXT GEN1	\$ 14,560	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,560	06/30/14
11230	REG 14ER TRAIL	\$ 112,436	\$ -	\$ 57,242	\$ 55,194	06/30/14
11231	WRV 2012-13 PRT FOR STEW	\$ 66,250	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,250	06/30/14
11232	PARTNERSHIP GH TRAIL CON	\$ 64,031	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,031	06/30/14
11233	GWT SEVERANCE-WINDSOR	\$ 24,177	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,177	06/30/14
11234	CHERRY CREEK TRAIL SIGN	\$ 50,454	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,454	06/30/14
11235	DILLON RD TRAVEL PLAN	\$ 44,200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,200	06/30/14
11236	2012-13 FDRD STEW	\$ 31,565	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,565	06/30/14
11237	14ER TRAIL COND INV	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ 17,932	\$ 27,068	06/30/14
11238	NORWOOD-BURN CANYON REC	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ 9,688	\$ 35,312	06/30/14
11239	HOOSIER PASS TR PLAN	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,000	06/30/14
11240	OLD SOPRIS TR PHASE I	\$ 24,519	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,519	06/30/14
12232	FS-MT BIERSTADT RECON	\$ 174,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 174,600	06/30/15
12238	GEYSER SPRING TRL BRIDGE	\$ 80,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,000	06/30/15
12240	2013-14 FDRD STEWARDSHIP	\$ 1,300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,300	06/30/15
12234	EMERALD MTN TRAILS SIG	\$ 30,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,500	06/30/15
12237	WRV 2014 PART FOR STEW	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,000	06/30/15
12239	N FORK N ELK CRK TRAIL	\$ 18,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,600	06/30/15
12230	PAONIA RIVER PARK TRAILS	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,000	06/30/15
12231	OSI TRAINING PROGRAM	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	06/30/15
12233	MASTER LEAD TO SALIDA	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,000	06/30/15
12235	MASTRTRLGRNWAY-TRINIDAD	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,000	06/30/15
12236	WRV 2013-15 TR VOLLEAD	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,000	06/30/15

Totals	\$ 1,562,344	\$ 65,664	\$ 311,551	\$ 1,185,129
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Program Description and Objectives

The Trails Grant's primary goal is to develop recreational trails systems throughout the state. Trail use continues to be the most popular outdoor recreation activity statewide.

GOCO capital funds are awarded each year to grant applicants. This program has one grant cycle annually, with the Recreation Trails Grant applications due November 1st.

The State Recreational Trails Committee (sections 33-11-105 and 106 of the Colorado Revised Statutes) uses a subcommittee structure to oversee and organize the grant ranking and selection process. Subcommittees for each grant category are appointed for the purposes of reading, discussing, evaluating and scoring grant applications.

As adopted by the Committee in September, 2010, the Recreational Grant review process is split between three subcommittees aligned with the three types of non-motorized grants awarded annually. These subcommittees are the planning/support, large construction/maintenance and small construction/maintenance. GOCO staff is actively involved in each of the various committees.

All recreational trail grant reviewers are required to read, score and provide staff comments on each grant application submitted in their category. State Trails Program staff, Great Outdoors Colorado staff and State Trails Committee members are required to attend, one reviewer meeting in Denver, to discuss the grant applications. Volunteer reviewers must also commit to the reviewer meeting in Denver attending either in person or by conference call.

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 2012-13, the State Trails Program was able to fund 22 grants out of 27 grants applications submitted. Great Outdoors Colorado funding is matched with local, state, federal and donation dollars for recreation trails grants.

Three GOCO funded projects received a time extension in June 2013: Recreational Development at Pikes Peak-South Slope, due to early frost; West Magnolia Trail System Plan, due to wildfires; and Training Colorado's Next Generation of Conservation Workers, due to a scheduling conflict. As a result of the recent flashfloods in the Boulder area, it appears that the West Magnolia Trail System Plan will require another extension; however, the other two projects are scheduled to finish on time.

Accomplishments in FY 2012-13

Of the 22 awarded grants, 15 received GOCO funding. Grants awarded include both trail maintenance 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 Colorado Parks and Wildlife 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.

Summary of Completed Projects

Colorado Parks and Wildlife completed a number of GOCO funded trails projects in FY 2012-13. Included below are narratives for five of the projects and a listing of all other GOCO funded trails projects completed and closed out in the past fiscal year are provided below.

Recreational Development at Pikes Peak-South Slope- This project completed construction on a ten mile trail around Mason and Boehmer reservoirs, including two foot bridges and two bridges that extend over the Fens. This much anticipated area had been closed to the public for over 100 years. Home to unique wetland and Fen habitats, big horn sheep, and Greenback

cutthroat trout, this property provides a variety of learning opportunities for all ages. Nestled within the shadows of Pikes Peak the beauty of the backcountry trails, coupled with the reservoirs, provides recreational activities that were limited within the City of Colorado Springs. Three reservoirs within the South Slope are open for fishing opportunities; given the limited amount of fishing opportunities within the City limits, fishermen were anxiously waiting for trail access to the reservoirs. Elements within the trailhead and day-use area *funded with a Fishing is Fun Grant* include: parking- 44 traditional spots, 4 ADA spots, 9 equestrian trailer spots, six trailer spots, vaulted restrooms, shade shelter, picnic tables, a hand-launch boat ramp, and a 1.2 mile trail which wraps around McReynolds Reservoir, providing opportunities for shoreline fishing.

Sand Creek Greenway Trail Layout- This project completed trail layout, design, engineering, and final plan documents for a portion of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway (SCRG) trail. This 13.5 mile off-road trail runs from the South Platte River Greenway in Commerce City, through Stapleton in Denver, to the High Line Canal trail in Aurora. The current segment of the SCRG in Denver is an 8 foot crusher fine trail. The SCRG Master Plan, adopted in 1998, calls for parallel trails, one paved and one crusher fine. A final trail design for two trails from the boundary of Commerce City (near 47th and Quebec) to the Smith Road Trailhead east of Central Park was also completed. Because the parallel trails (one paved and one crusher fine) will be wider than the existing single trail, Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership needed to complete a new plan which included the design of both trails. The use of the trail will increase with a paved portion since this is a major off-road commuting route for the northeast portion of the Denver Metro area, and the only off-road east/west route in this region. By building parallel trails, the Greenway design will avoid conflicts and other unsafe conditions.

White River Park Trails Connection Project- This project provided a master plan for a trail system in the Rangely community and is intended to enhance recreational opportunities, move pedestrian traffic away from the congested highway, seek out logical linkages between existing routes and seek educational opportunities along the trails highlighting Rangely's unique environmental aspects. The service area in this study was approximately 16 square miles. Trails studied serve an area from the heart of Town all the way out to the Kenney Reservoir east of Town. The project studied routes through BLM lands, existing routes, and new city R.O.W.'s; they also identified the need for access across private ground. The study also looked at connecting paths to the two schools, the town parks, a planned community garden, campgrounds, the hospital, neighborhoods, and the community college. Now that the initial planning is complete the project will be implemented in phases, completing separate, logical, segments or "loops" throughout the Town of Rangely.



Dry Creek Trail Planning- This project supported the implementation of the Dry Creek Travel Management Plan. The plan designated 67 miles of non-motorized trails on BLM land west of Montrose. The project provided trail layout, design, and pin flagging, and included cultural and environmental studies on approximately 15 miles of non-motorized single-track trails and 4 trailheads. This area has seen increased use due to population growth in Montrose, increased tourism on the Western Slope, and proximity to towns-this plan helps the BLM to meet the demand. The proposed trails and trailheads have been approved by BLM through the travel management plan, and additional funding was needed in to order to ensure trails were designed properly.

Mancos Community Trails Plan- The Mancos Community Trails Planning Project encompassed the identification of cultural and natural recreational resources within the Mancos planning region and identifies preferred routes linking these assets to one another via safe,

healthy, non-motorized recreational trails. Stakeholder meetings were conducted to identify and collaborate with potentially impacted parties. The project includes planning 15 miles of non-motorized trail connections between Mancos schools, parks, waterways, historic business district and neighborhoods to each other, to Mesa Verde National Park, Mancos State Park, the Colorado Trail, national forest, and state forest lands. The final plan includes a comprehensive funding strategy and list of potential resources and opportunities.

Trails in State Parks

GOCO			Prior Year	FY 2013	Grant	
Log	Project Name	Grant Amount	Reimb	Reimb	Balance	Expiration
10221	TRAILS IN STATE PARKS	\$ 450,000	\$ 282,429	\$ 51,734	\$ 115,837	06/30/13
11221	TRAILS IN STATE PARKS	\$ 450,000	\$ 93,402	\$ 144,170	\$ 212,428	06/30/14
12221	TRAILS IN STATE PARKS	\$ 487,548	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 487,548	06/30/15
Totals		\$ 1,387,548	\$ 375,831	\$ 195,904	\$ 815,813	

Program Description and Objectives

Trails in State Parks program provides resources to ensure that trail systems within the state parks are sufficiently maintained and constructed. This program seeks many sources of funding and partnerships to accomplish this task. This can include trail design and layout work, trail construction and/or maintenance. Annually state parks submit requests for trail work for review by an internal committee comprised of CPW staff. Each request is reviewed and ranked based on application submission. The State Trails Program prepares a recommendation for approval by the CPW Leadership Team for projects within the Trails in State Parks Program.

Accomplishment for FY 2012-13:

- Thirteen projects completed and they are outlined below.

Trails in State Parks

State Park	Project Name
Barr Lake	<u>PLANNING: Bergman Historic Barn Trail Planning, Design and Interpretation:</u> Site assessment, topographic survey, interpretive planning, concept design and preliminary and final design and bid package for a 80-acre site designated as a medium-use zone. Plan will include an ADA trail, 100-yr.old barn restoration. Historic/agricultural interpretation and signage. Completed - Trail Alignment Plan was prepared in project phases; site assessment, topographic survey and interpretive planning.
Chatfield	<u>MAINTENANCE: Phase II Chatfield Trail Maintenance:</u> - Complete - 1,785 sf of 8-foot wide concrete trail repairs
Chatfield	<u>MAINTENANCE: C470 Underpass Asphalt Replacement:</u> Remove 400' existing and degrading 8' asphalt and replace with Mesa Buff cement. Project includes base materials, compaction, final grading, native vegetation reseeding. Complete - 375 sf of 8-foot wide asphalt
Chatfield	<u>CONSTRUCTION REROUTE: Cottonwood Picnic Area Trail Reroute:</u> Project has 4 components: removal of 700', 10' cement trail and revegetation; remove 400', 6' asphalt trail from SE corner of Dog Off Leash Area, topsoil fill and reveg; construct 825', 10' cement trail reroute around Cottonwood Picnic Area; add 500 sq. ft. cement turn around loop to replace removed asphalt trail. Complete - 2013
Lory	<u>MAINTENANCE: Parkwide Trail Maintenance:</u> Drainage, rolling dips, fill material, corridor clearing including invasive species, switchback repair, social trail rehab, bridge repairs, fencing at trailheads and switchbacks, debirring, beetle-killed tree removal. Complete
Roxborough	<u>MAINTENANCE: Carpenter Peak Trail:</u> Install 15 stone steps, tread stabilization, drainage, crown tread, fix trail cupping. Complete - Youth Corp worked this project.
Roxborough	<u>MAINTENANCE: Fountain Valley Trail:</u> 15 rock waterbars installed, repair cupping, fix outslope, crown tread, drainage dips and nicks. Complete - Youth Corp worked this project.
Roxborough	<u>MAINTENANCE: South Rim Trail:</u> switchback rehab and reconstruction, general trail maintenance. Complete - Youth Corp worked this project.
Roxborough	<u>MAINTENANCE: Willow Creek Trail:</u> resurface 1.5 miles with crusher fines, general trail maintenance. Complete - Youth Corp worked this project.
Sylvan Lake	<u>CONSTRUCTION: West Brush Creek Trail:</u> remaining 3 - 3/12 miles of trail to be completed with a mechanized grader (SWECO/Ditchwitch); Sawyer Youth Corps (2 weeks) will remove hazard trees; Road crossing and regulatory signs; interpretive signs at historic structures and along the trail. Complete
Ridgway	<u>Ridgway Single Track Trails Planning Project:</u> Trail layout and biological and cultural surveys on about 10 miles of proposed single track on east side of Hwy 500 and would connect with current and proposed trails on BLM land. Complete
Lathrop	<u>PLANNING: William Henry Jackson Trail Spur:</u> CONSTRUCTION Component. Environmental, cultural, archeological assessment for switchback access trail to historic interpretive kiosk. Complete
Trinidad	<u>CONSTRUCTION: Parkview Hiking Trail:</u> Self-guided, interpretive ADA hiking trail. Concrete additions to 4 areas: short connective section, slope correction section, wheelchair overlook pulloff, concrete apron to existing asphalt area. Complete

Water for Recreational Purposes

Water Program & Water Acquisitions

GOCO			Prior Year	FY 2013	Grant	
Log	Project Name	Grant Amount	Reimb	Reimb	Balance	Expiration
10194	WATER ACQUISITIONS	\$ 360,000	\$ 126,496	\$ 11,105	\$ 222,399	06/30/13
12193	WATER PROGRAM	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 148,663	\$ 1,337	06/30/13
11194	WATER ACQUISITIONS	\$ 360,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 360,000	06/30/14
12194	WATER ACQUISITIONS	\$ 360,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 360,000	06/30/15
Totals		\$ 1,230,000	\$ 126,496	\$ 159,768	\$ 943,736	

Program Description and Objectives

The Water Program and Acquisitions GOCO grant provides support for the technical, legal, and water policy expertise necessary to protect and expand CPW's interests in all aspects of water resources management. The program is assisted with significant contract personnel and legal assistance from the Attorney General's Office. Activities include managing state parks' water resources including water rights, reservoir operations, and groundwater assets, monitoring water court actions, assessing water markets for individual parks, and coordinating with federal, state, and local agencies and user groups to maximize CPW's water supplies for recreational benefits.

This grant enables CPW to secure water supplies for a number of state 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 and operating plans with larger water providers, and leasing water storage space in reservoirs. Without this water, 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 can also result from insufficient water supplies.

Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Retained several consultants to provide technical expertise necessary to protect and expand CPW's interests in various aspects of water resource management, including assisting staff and legal counsel in developing water supply plans for various state parks, providing technical support in water court actions, and developing stream and reservoir operations to protect and improve recreation, fishery and fish habitat.
- As was done last year, pursuant to an IGA between CPW and the City of Longmont, CPW stored 300 acre-feet of water in Blue Heron Reservoir located in St. Vrain State Park during the summer of 2013.
- CPW cooperated with other federal, state and local agencies and stored additional water in John Martin Reservoir which helped improve water quality and enhanced fisheries while also boosting boating and other recreational opportunities in the lake.
- CPW entered into a storage lease with the Bureau of Reclamation for 1,000 acre-feet of storage space in Pueblo Reservoir. This space is used to store acquired water for later releases to augment and enhance the Arkansas River streamflows for boating and fishery within the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area. This park provides some of the best whitewater rafting and fishing opportunities in the country, therefore, adequate water supply is crucial to meeting visitors' expectations. Additionally, CPW provided weekly water operation updates for the benefit of area outfitters for more efficient rafting operations.

- North Sterling State Park used the water acquired pursuant to a water lease agreement with the North Sterling Irrigation District. This plan provides the means to pump water from the wells for the visitor center and campgrounds within the North Sterling State Park.
- Rifle Gap State Park used water acquired pursuant to a 25-year lease contract with the West Divide Water Conservancy District. This plan enables CPW to provide water for drinking and sanitary purposes for existing campgrounds as well as new campgrounds that are being developed in Rifle Gap State Park.

Management of GOCO Investments

GOCO Funding Management & Interest

GOCO Log	Project Name	Grant Amount	Prior Year Reimb	FY 2013 Reimb	Grant Balance	Expiration
11222	INTEREST	\$ 100,000	\$ 44,773	\$ 2,120	\$ 53,108	06/30/12
12195	GOCO FUNDING MANAGEMENT	\$ 162,000	\$ -	\$ 162,000	\$ -	06/30/13
Totals		\$ 262,000	\$ 44,773	\$ 164,120	\$ 53,108	

Program Description and Objectives

GOCO funds make up almost 20% of the total funding for the state park system. The GOCO Funding Management and Interest 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 2012-13

- In FY 2012-13 Colorado Parks and Wildlife managed approximately 130 open GOCO Parks Purpose grants totaling over \$30 million.

Wildlife Purpose

HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Overall Program Costs for FY 2012-13:

Grant Title	GOCO Log Number	CPW Work Package Numbers	GOCO Expenditures	CPW Funds	Total Funds
Habitat Management					
Acquire High Priority Habitat	8923, 8729, 11150, 12150, 12151, 13169, 13170	0320, 0330	\$7,689,000	\$7,442,436	\$15,131,436
Enhance Habitat on Lands and Water	12152	0350, 0360, 0370, 0380, 0438	\$505,358	\$1,623,898	\$2,129,256
Wetlands Conservation	10153, 11153, 12153	0436	\$948,810	\$436,673	\$1,385,484
GIS Habitat Information	12154	0461	\$475,000	\$838,193	\$1,313,193
Total Funds			\$9,618,168	\$10,341,200	\$19,959,368

Program Description and Objectives

Activities funded under the four Habitat Management programs allow Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to identify and map important wildlife habitat areas and trends across the state; identify priority habitat protection areas; implement habitat protection and enhancement efforts built on partnerships with landowners, land trusts and conservation organizations; support monitoring and management of new and existing properties and easements; and protect wetland resources across the state.

Successful Habitat Management efforts provide extensive and varied benefits. Through the protection of vital habitats which may assist in prevention of listing species under the federal Endangered Species Act through the protection of important habitats. Habitat management maintains crucial migration corridors and winter range for the health of Colorado's big game resources. Migratory birds and waterfowl benefit from protection and enhancement of wetland areas. These efforts further provide high quality public angling access to mountain streams and rivers. Wildlife viewers have expanded opportunities to see and enjoy Colorado's abundant wildlife resources. Additionally, more accurate and detailed habitat and land mapping leads to better informed land use decisions, more effective species recovery plans and easier public access to public lands.

Great Outdoors Colorado 2010 Strategic Plan:

- Make strategic investments in the protection of priority landscapes via fee title purchase and acquisition of conservation easements.

- Make investments through the CPW to identify, prioritize and protect important wildlife habitat.
- Continue to make priority investments in the preservation of rivers and riparian corridors.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2010-2020 Strategic Plan:

- Acquire interest in property where Division management can provide exceptional benefits to fish and wildlife and associated recreation.
- Develop partnership with landowners, land management agencies and others to restore, enhance and conserve fish and wildlife habitats.
- Provide incentives and assistance to landowners to improve habitat on private land.

ACQUIRE HIGH PRIORITY HABITAT

Colorado Wildlife Habitat Protection Program (CWHPP)

GOCO Log Number	Project Name	Grant Amount	Prior Year Expenditures	FY 13 Expenditures	Grant Balance	Grant Expiration
10150	Acquire High Priority Habitat	\$1,675,183	\$1,675,183	\$0	\$0	6/30/2013
11150	Acquire High Priority Habitat	\$1,814,617	\$28,687	\$1,025,540	\$760,390	6/30/2014
12150	Acquire High Priority Habitat	\$3,901,173	\$0	\$3,324,607	\$576,566	6/30/2015
12151	Acquire High Priority Habitat	\$593,000	\$0	\$593,000	\$0	6/30/2013
13150	Acquire High Priority Habitat	\$4,800,000	\$0	\$0	\$4,800,000	6/30/2016
13169	Acquire High Priority Habitat	\$2,600,000	\$0	\$2,600,000	\$0	6/30/2015
13170	Acquire High Priority Habitat	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,500,000	6/30/2015
08729	Colo Wildlife Habitat Protection	\$27,800,000	\$25,241,277	\$145,853	\$2,412,870	10/24/2014
Totals		\$44,683,973	\$26,945,147	\$7,689,000	\$10,049,826	

CPW reaches Habitat Protection goals through a wide variety of programs, or work packages. These programs include the acquisition and management of wildlife habitat, administering and protecting water rights, land use comments, digital mapping services, and habitat improvements on public and private lands.

Through the CWHPP, CPW and Great Outdoors Colorado work with land trusts and landowners to protect important wildlife habitat. The goals of CWHPP include preventing the further decline of Colorado's wildlife species, meeting species conservation goals to help recover declining species – thereby reducing the necessity of listing species under the federal Endangered Species Act – and protecting important big game winter habitat and migration corridors. Recent CWHPP acquisitions have also increasingly included public access provisions -- a breakthrough benefit considered impossible at the outset of the CWHPP initiative. Funding for the CWHPP comes from a variety of sources, including Wildlife Cash and Habitat Stamp funds, federal State Wildlife Grants and GOCO Wildlife Purpose funds. In 2012-13, CPW protected more than 26,000 acres.

Habitat protection is often a top priority in species recovery plans. In 2003, the impact of habitat protection efforts was illustrated in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) decision not to list the mountain plover as threatened or endangered; an action based in part on the successes of Colorado's habitat protection efforts. USFWS cited the long-term and perpetual protection afforded through CWHPP-funded easements -- and associated management plans for those lands -- as important steps by Colorado that influenced the decision not to list the mountain plover.

FY 2012-13 CWHPP Acquisitions

Gunsight Pass SHA

Gunsight Pass Acquisition Financing	
GOCO Wildlife Purpose Funds	\$770,000
Wildlife Cash/Habitat Stamp	\$356,512
Total	\$1,126,512

CPW purchased a conservation easement over a 1,120 acre ranch in Grand County to create Gunsight Pass State Habitat Area (SHA). The property consists of sagebrush rangeland, irrigated pasture and hay meadows, and intermittent streams with riparian and wetland areas. The wetland and stream areas are habitat for Colorado River cutthroat trout, northern leopard frogs, greater sage-grouse, pronghorn, elk, and mule deer. It also provides winter range and a migration corridor for big game species. The property borders BLM and State Land Board lands and a 1,300 acre tract of private land protected by a conservation easement held by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Wolf Mountain Ranch SHA Phase V

Wolf Mountain Ranch Acquisition Financing	
GOCO Wildlife Purpose Funds	\$5,600,000
Wildlife Cash/Habitat Stamp	\$3,185,523
Total	\$8,785,523

CPW helped Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation acquire a conservation easement over 8,658 acres of Wolf Mountain Ranch in Routt County. This is the fifth phase of this effort which totals 16,081 acres of protected lands. The easement conserves sagebrush, shrublands, montane grasslands, aspen woodlands, subalpine fir forests, and supports big game migration corridors, winter range, and calving and fawning areas. The northern portion of the Property contains nesting and brood rearing habitat for Greater sage grouse. This property also contains breeding, nesting, brood rearing, and winter habitat for Columbian sharp tailed grouse with several active leks located on, or directly adjacent to, the property.



Sundown Farm SWA

Sundown Farm Acquisition Financing	
GOCO Wildlife Purpose Funds	\$163,000
Wildlife Cash/Habitat Stamp	\$46,552
Landowner Contribution*	\$166,948
Total	\$376,500

**Appraised value minus acquisition costs*

With CWHPP funding, the Montezuma Land Conservancy purchased a conservation easement over Sundown Farm in Dolores County. This 1,180-acre ranch consists of sagebrush and sage-grass mix. It supports habitats for leks, brood rearing, nesting, cover, and movement of Gunnison sage-grouse. Other bird species include burrowing owl, northern harrier, and four sparrow species. The presence of springs and perennial water on the property increases the habitat value for these species. Sundown Farm also provides habitat for deer (regularly) and a smaller number of elk.



John R. Schirard SWA

John R. Schirard Acquisition Financing	
GOCO Wildlife Purpose Funds	\$377,000
Wildlife Cash/Habitat Stamp	\$230,400
Landowner Contribution*	\$978,200
Total	\$1,585,600

**Appraised value minus acquisition costs*

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation purchased a conservation easement over the 2,520-acre John R. Schirard SWA in La Plata County. The conservation easement protects habitat and migratory corridors for mule deer, elk, and habitat for black bear, mountain lion and turkey as well as winter range for mule deer, elk, bald eagle and turkey and severe winter range for mule deer. The ranch is located in a CPW High Priority Habitat Acquisition area. The habitat consists of Pinyon-juniper shrubland, gamble oak, sagebrush, ponderosa, and a riparian zone.

Marsh SHA

Marsh Acquisition Financing	
GOCO Wildlife Purpose Funds	\$186,000
Wildlife Cash/Habitat Stamp	\$99,800
Landowner Contribution*	\$151,750
Total	\$437,550

**Appraised value minus acquisition costs*

CPW provided funding to the Montezuma Land Conservancy to purchase a conservation easement over the Marsh property in Dolores County which consists of four separate parcels totaling 733 acres. The four tracts are combinations of lots in the Secret Canyon Ranch Subdivision north of Dove Creek. The Gunnison Sage Grouse Rangeland Conservation Plan identified these parcels as critical habitat for protection of the species. The property is in the core of sage grouse habitat and there is a lek located on the property. CPW also identified the tracts as critical elk winter range and concentration, which includes the Marsh property. The area in and around the subdivision has historically been elk winter range. San Juan National Forest elk herds cross the Dolores River from the east and travel west following canyons through BLM property into this area.



Real Estate Administration:

Across the state, CPW owns more than 345 State Wildlife Areas and manages more than 800,000 acres for habitat and recreational values. In addition, CPW leases approximately 480,800 acres of State Trust Lands, protecting additional wildlife habitat and providing the public with opportunities to hunt, fish and watch wildlife. CPW’s Real Estate Unit has a key role in developing new habitat protections for vital wildlife habitat through the administration of the CWHPP, opening new public recreational access, and monitoring existing property interests.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-2013:

- Reviewed and ranked 58 proposals in response to the Request for Proposals for the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Protection Program.
- Provided acquisition support for 10 CWHPP projects, including baseline condition reports and management plans.
- Closed on 44 real estate transactions, including 11 conservation easements.
- Managed more than 400 active leases and term agreements.
- Monitored 173 CPW-owned conservation easements.
- Completed 79 Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and county impact assistance transactions.

ENHANCE HABITAT ON LAND AND WATER

Private Lands Program

GOCO Log Number	Project Name	Grant Amount	FY 13 Expenditures	Grant Balance	Grant Expiration
12152	Enhance Habitat Land & Water	\$525,000	\$505,358	\$19,642	6/30/2013
Totals		\$525,000	\$505,358	\$19,642	

Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s Private Lands Program develops, coordinates and implements conservation, research and habitat projects for priority game and at-risk species. The program draws on resources from private conservation, sportsman and agricultural organizations, along with major support from Farm Bill conservation. Projects and funds are based on the eligibility and funding from federal sources. The Private Lands Wildlife Biologist Program is a partnership with the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Since 2008, these outreach and habitat projects were accomplished with over \$10 million in Farm Bill Conservation funds and nearly \$14 million in habitat and capacity funding from numerous partners.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Assigned four biologists to NRCS offices to provide technical assistance to NRCS and landowners implementing conservation plans and habitat enhancement projects on private lands. The biologists implemented 10 projects enhancing 5,052 acres and provided technical assistance on 86 projects that impact 105,966 acres.
- The program biologists conducted 1,064 private landowner visits and participated in various outreach events that drew more than 9,600 people.
- The program secured more than \$547,000 in Farm Bill conservation programs and more than \$884,000 in non-Farm Bill funds for the enhancement of wildlife habitat in Colorado on private lands.
- The passage of legislation sponsored by the Colorado Cattleman's Association and supported by CPW, that will allow the reintroduction of black-footed ferrets on private lands in Colorado (ferrets will be released the end of October).
- The development and production of a private land recognition film, "Stewards of the Land – Landowners and Wildlife", available on the CPW website, that acknowledges the important role private landowners play in the conservation of all wildlife species in Colorado.
- Worked closely with NRCS to coordinate timelines with the CWHPP RFP for easement acquisition to conform within the timeline for Sage Grouse Special Initiative and Farm and Ranchland Protection Program funds that will potentially be allocated to successful RFP projects within sage grouse habitat.

Water Resources Programs:

CPW's Water Resources Unit oversees programs that protect in-stream flows on more than 8,500 miles of streams and in 486 natural lakes in the state, manages and protects CPW-owned water rights for recreational reservoirs, fish hatcheries and State Wildlife Areas (SWAs), and develops the data and expertise needed to protect water quality through Water Quality Control Commission proceedings. Activities include acquiring and analyzing aquatic ecosystem data for use in promulgation of rules, regulations, and standards to protect Colorado's rivers and wildlife species. This program is instrumental in development of software applications to analyze and distribute ecosystem data in a consistent and timely manner. This program also oversees the RiverWatch program which organizes groups, schools and individuals to obtain water samples throughout the state for data analysis and updates the data management system and website.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Added approximately 11,000 new records to RiverWatch water quality database.
- The RiverWatch Network maintained 123 active groups statewide; sampled 285 stations statewide; and held two training sessions that hosted 54 volunteers facilitating the addition of seven new groups to the program.
- Provided RiverWatch data to the Water Quality Control Division for Arkansas and Rio Grande Basin Rulemaking Hearings, the upcoming Temporary Modifications Hearing, and one site specific hearing.
- In January, 2013, work was initiated on a new RiverWatch scope of work and RFP since the prior five year agreement with the Colorado Watershed Assembly was due to expire in June, 2013.
- For the majority of FY 2012-13, the CPW Instream Flow Program Coordinator position was vacant. In addition, CPW's partner agency in the ISF area, the CWCB, also experienced some vacancies in key positions relating to the ISF Program. These positions have now been filled.
- No new instream flow recommendations were presented at the January 2013 Instream Flow Program Workshop, however, CPW worked on joint proposals with the BLM for

the Dolores River. CPW and BLM personnel collected additional supporting data on the Dolores in January, 2013 to bolster previously conducted investigations to support this ISF proposal.

- Provided technical assistance to the Colorado Water Conservation Board to evaluate two injuries with mitigation proposals and two instream flow water right acquisition proposals.
- Reviewed and commented on the water rights aspects of 22 proposed wetlands projects and more than 10 real estate proposals.
- Successfully resolved more than 18 water court matters and filed six water court applications.
- Upon receipt of a final decree in the Tamarack Managed Groundwater Plan, staff worked to develop the full build out of the project including design input as well as funding acquisition.
- Developed water rights and operations manuals for more than 30 State Wildlife Areas.
- Worked to finalize permanent water augmentation plans for the Shavano, Mt. Ouray, Monte Vista and Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility (NASRF) fish hatcheries. Secured additional water augmentation supplies for the Poudre hatchery. Initiated feasibility assessment of well development at the Bellvue and Watson hatcheries.

WETLANDS CONSERVATION

Wetlands Program

GOCO Log Number	Project Name	Grant Amount	Prior Year Expenditure	FY 13 Expenditures	Grant Balance	Grant Expiration
10153	Wetlands Conservation	\$700,000	\$276,757	\$422,510	\$733	6/30/2013
11153	Wetlands Conservation	\$700,000	\$101,172	\$333,480	\$265,348	6/30/2014
12153	Wetlands Conservation	\$700,000	\$0	\$192,820	\$507,180	6/30/2015
Totals		\$2,100,000	\$377,929	\$948,810	\$773,261	

Wetlands and riparian areas represent only about 2% of the land area of Colorado, but a majority of wildlife species use these habitats. Colorado has lost 50% of its wetlands, and 95% of riparian areas in the West have been degraded by human activity. Therefore, protection, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands and riparian areas are vital to conserve wildlife diversity in the state. The Wetlands Program was established 1997 when Colorado Parks and Wildlife received a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) legacy grant of more than \$4 million to conserve wetland and riparian habitats. Since that time, the program and its partners have



protected, restored, or enhanced nearly 300,000 acres of wetland, riparian, and associated upland habitat throughout Colorado. Since 2008, CPW has mapped and assessed wetlands in 4 major river basins which include the Rio Grande, North Platte, South Platte, and Arkansas. Through coordinated landscape-scale conservation actions, CPW and its partners will work to ensure that Colorado's wetland and riparian habitat is sufficient to support self-sustaining

populations of desired wildlife species and to provide wildlife-associated recreation for future generations. Goals for this program include improving the distribution and abundance of ducks, opportunities for public waterfowl hunting, and improving the status of declining or "at-risk" species associated with wetlands and riparian areas.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Waterfowl Habitat Conservation. In 2013, 12 wetland habitat improvement projects were funded for 8 priority waterfowl species on public and private lands.

- Recruitment and retention. Completed improvements to habitat on existing waterfowl hunting sites and opened newly identified hunting sites on State Wildlife Areas, State Parks, State Trust Lands, and National Wildlife Refuges to public hunting.
- Conducted other habitat improvement projects on 11 State Wildlife Areas and 2 State Parks.
- At-risk Species Conservation. In 2013, the Program funded projects for restoration and/or enhancement of existing wetlands and creation of new wetlands and riparian areas on private and public lands to benefit 15 at-risk wildlife species, including amphibians (e.g., Northern Leopard Frog), native fishes (e.g., Northern Redbelly Dace and Brassy Minnow), mammals (e.g., Preble and New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse), and birds (e.g., Least Tern and Piping Plover).
- Riparian Corridor Conservation Projects. Restored degraded riparian habitat on several major river corridors, including the Colorado, Green, South Platte, and Yampa.
- Identifying Priority Landscapes for Conservation is an ongoing wetland mapping and assessment initiative to identify priority wetland complexes and riparian corridors for targeted habitat improvement projects.
- The Wetlands Program supports numerous partnerships, including 7 active Wetland Focus Area Committees. Non-federal funds available through the Program facilitate partnerships and leveraging of major federal funding (e.g., North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Farm Bill). Each dollar invested through the Program represents several additional dollars for conservation.



GIS HABITAT INFORMATION

GIS Program

GOCO Log Number	Project Name	Grant Amount	FY 13 Expenditures	Grant Balance	Grant Expiration
12154	GIS Habitat Information	\$475,000	\$475,000	\$0	6/30/2013

CPW’s Geographic Information System (GIS) unit compiles wildlife data into formats that are more useable by wildlife researchers and biologists and are more understandable for the general public. GIS documents and analysis have been particularly important to biological assessments of the impact of energy development across Colorado. Other GIS products have facilitated public access to State Wildlife Areas and supported CPW land use comments.

Program Accomplishments for FY 2012-13 include:

- Developed maps and models for CPW consultations on approximately 50 energy development proposals and more than 100 other land use comments.
- Developed and distributed new public access maps for approximately 20 State Wildlife Areas, 30 State Trust Lands, and all Walk-in and Big Game Access properties.
- Updated critical GIS datasets for greater sage-grouse, Gunnison sage-grouse, lesser prairie-chicken, and Columbian and plains sharp-tailed grouse. Gunnison sage-grouse dataset was used in CPW comments to USFWS on EPA proposed listing decision.
- Updated GIS datasets for “species of greatest conservation need” identified in the Colorado Wildlife Action Plan for boreal toad, Townsend’s big-eared bat, white-tailed ptarmigan, bighorn sheep, native cutthroat trout and swift fox.
- Completed a comprehensive, web-accessible Colorado Fishing Atlas that was released in April 2013.

SPECIES PROTECTION

Overall Program Costs:

Grant Title	GOCO Log Number	CPW Work Package Numbers	GOCO Funds	CPW Funds	Total Funds
<i>Species Protection</i>					
Propagation of Aquatic Species At Risk	12155	0570	\$575,000	\$279,980	\$854,980
Native Species Protection	12156	0560, 0638, 0641-0652, 0656-0660, 0663-0666, 0680, 0686	\$2,690,000	\$2,447,393	\$5,137,393
Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery	12157	0662, 0670, 0810, 0820, 0830, 0841, 0842, 0850, 0860, 0870, 0880	\$400,000	\$412,619	\$812,619
<i>Species Protection Total</i>			\$3,665,000	\$3,139,992	\$6,804,992

Program Description and Objectives

Colorado is home to more than 900 wildlife species. The Colorado Wildlife Action Plan identified 210 of those species as being in "Greatest Conservation Need." Activities funded under this program allows CPW to monitor a wide range of wildlife populations in the state, assess population trends, determine distribution patterns, identify limiting factors, develop conservation or recovery plans, and work with other state, federal and local agencies, and private landowners on implementing recovery plans. Deliverables listed in these sections can be driven by decisions determined through federal sources and can include multi-year data collection, survey of species and/or habitats, and/or monitoring to validate findings over a multi-year period. In-depth data and information can be found on CPW's home page at:

<http://www.wildlife.state.co.us/>.

Success in meeting recovery plan goals or in proactive actions on declining species is crucial to retain wildlife management authority at the state level, allowing water projects to move forward, and preventing costly and burdensome federal actions. CPW's species conservation efforts strive to maintain or develop healthy populations of the full range of hunted, fished and non-game wildlife species. For species conservation work supported in part with GOCO funding, a primary objective is to develop and implement strategies to protect and recover declining species, with the goal of averting federal listings of Colorado species under the federal Endangered Species Act and the difficult land use, water development and other restrictions often associated with a threatened or endangered determination.

Great Outdoors Colorado 2010 Strategic Plan –

- Make investments through CPW for the protection of threatened and endangered species.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2010-2020 Strategic Plan –

- Maintain a list of species of greatest conservation need, priority threats and conservation actions necessary

- Regularly measure and report on conservation successes
- Inventory, monitor and assess the status of native fish and wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend
- Restore native species where they have declined or disappeared
- Provide information on the distribution, abundance and conservation of native fish and wildlife
- Collaborate with interested and affected parties to develop and implement plans to recover threatened and endangered species and conserve native fish and wildlife

The Colorado Wildlife Action Plan is a comprehensive catalogue of the status of knowledge and understanding of the state's wildlife species, the threats they face, and strategies to lessen those threats. While CPW is the state's principal wildlife conservation agency, partnerships with other local, county, state and federal agencies, landowners, wildlife conservation and sportsman organizations – along with the support of individual citizens -- are critical to protecting and enhancing Colorado's wildlife resources. Many of the programs supported with GOCO funding help develop and put in place these invaluable partnerships. These efforts are vital to ensuring that Colorado species do not completely disappear and assist in validating the data to maintain and/or increase species presence in Colorado.

CPW reaches the Species Protection program goals through a wide variety of programs, or work packages, including continued species research, surveys, reintroduction, tracking, propagation, recovery plan development and other aspects of broad-based conservation and recovery programs. A summary of program expenditures, and individual program activities and achievements for species conservation is outlined below.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY

GOCO Log Number	Project Name	Grant Amount	FY 13 Expenditures	Grant Balance	Grant Expiration
12157	Threatened & Endangered	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$0	6/30/2013

Peregrine Falcon

Peregrine falcons were delisted under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1999. A post-delisting monitoring plan (<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/Peregrineplan2003.pdf>) was included as part of the USFWS delisting determination. That plan calls for five monitoring periods, taking place every three years. CPW conducted the federally-mandated monitoring effort in 2012 and the next effort is scheduled for 2015, the last of such undertakings.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Coordinated with volunteers, other agencies, and staff to survey eyries
- Included monitoring results in the CPW raptor database for land use comments and for HB 1298 consultations to strengthen population-level monitoring locally and nationally.

Bald Eagle

The bald eagle was delisted under the federal Endangered Species Act in 2006. Colorado was not included in the post-delisting monitoring plan published in 2007. Bald eagle monitoring occurs on an annual basis and is primarily focused on monitoring nest occupancy and success. CPW field personnel and volunteers and the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's volunteer-based Bald Eagle Watch Program complete the monitoring efforts.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Continued periodic nest monitoring with the focus on nests that have not been visited in the past five years, with a goal of visiting known occupied nests once every three years.
- Document new nests as they are located and include them in the statewide raptor database.

Mexican Spotted Owl

The Mexican Spotted Owl primarily nests on federal land. CPW biologists are occasionally asked to participate in survey work. In this past year, CPW didn't actively participate in survey work and will only continue to be involved as requested by federal agencies.



Canada Lynx

Canada lynx was listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act in 2000. Between 1999 and 2006, CPW reintroduced 218 wild-caught lynx from Canada and Alaska in the core reintroduction area in southwestern Colorado. In September 2010, CPW declared the reintroduction effort successful in developing a viable self-sustaining population of Canada lynx in Colorado. CPW researchers are working in collaboration with management to develop a cost-effective, minimally-intrusive monitoring program to estimate the extent, stability and distribution of lynx throughout Colorado in the winter of 2014-15.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Utilized data collected from reintroduced animals to develop a predictive habitat model for lynx on a statewide basis.
- Collaborated with USFS researchers to better understand the interactions between winter recreation and lynx habitat use.
- Participated in the national effort to revise the Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy.
- Utilized research results to develop for consideration a statewide monitoring protocol for Canada lynx to be initially implemented during the winter of 2014-2015.
- Worked with federal agencies to develop a blueprint for managing Canada lynx on federally-owned lands in Colorado

Piping Plover and Least Tern

Piping plover and interior least tern were listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act in 2003 and 1990 respectively. Colorado's piping plover population is considered part of the larger Northern Great Plains population of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, and Minnesota. Colorado does not have critical habitat designated for either species or specified recovery goals. Least tern and piping plover occupy similar barren beach areas on a limited number of local irrigation reservoirs in southeastern Colorado.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Continue to work collaboratively with the Army Corps of Engineers staff at the local, district, and regional levels and other local partners to implement continued habitat improvement projects at historic nesting sites; develop long-term island habitats where possible; and pursue a possible land exchange with State Land Board to allow for more effective habitat management at Adobe Creek Reservoir.

- Conducted annual nest/population monitoring for least tern and piping plover at John Martin, Adobe Creek, Carlton Pit, Mid-West Farms Pit, Verhoeff, and Great Plains Reservoirs. For the field season starting in 2012, CPW staff observed 8 pairs of piping plover and 12 pairs of least terns that produced 15 and 7 fledglings, respectively. For the field season starting in 2013, we observed 8 nesting pairs of piping plover that produced 13 fledglings. For the first time since 1992, we observed terns, but no nesting pairs of least tern in Colorado for 2013.
- In an attempt to improve and isolate the nesting habitat around Dinosaur Island at John Martin reservoir, CPW staff worked with Army Corps staff to deepen (30-36") and widen (18-20') a trench around the island. In addition, four earthen dams were created to capture and store water during the winter fill season. The goal is to create and maintain an island during the least tern and piping plover breeding/nesting season for a range of water levels.
- CPW staff continues to work with the Army Corps of Engineers on the creation of an island at Lake Hasty at John Martin State Park. The Army Corps of Engineers is confirming water rights for the project and also awaiting funds and potential partnerships to complete the project.

Black-footed Ferret

Black-footed ferrets are considered to be the most endangered mammal in North America and were the first species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1973. Colorado initiated black-footed ferret reintroduction efforts in the Wolf Creek Management Area (WCMA) in 2001. Through the fall of 2009, 252 ferrets were released as part of the recovery program. However, in 2008, sylvatic plague positive fleas were first detected in the WCMA. The plague epizootic continued through 2010. The BLM and CPW have taken measures to reduce the impact to prairie dogs and ferrets by dusting burrows with an insecticide and monitoring areas for further outbreaks. As a result of this disease and its impacts, CPW has declined to request any captive-bred ferrets for release in the WCMA for the foreseeable future. New allocation requests will be dependent on disease surveillance findings, along with ferret and prairie dog population monitoring.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- CPW completed the Tuttle Ranch Conservation Easement in October 2012. This easement will protect about 2,100 acres of White Tailed Prairie Dog (WTPD) colonies which are part of a larger complex of about 3,500 to 4,000 acres. The easement lays the groundwork for eventual black-footed ferret reintroduction on the property and adjacent BLM lands.
- Work continues on the field testing of the new sylvatic plague vaccine. The US Geological Survey-National Wildlife Health Center recently developed this vaccine as part of a larger state-federal collaborative effort to develop a practical vaccination program for controlling plague in prairie dog populations for species conservation purposes including black-footed ferret recovery. In 2012, CPW conducted sylvatic plague vaccine field safety trials in both Gunnison's and black-tailed prairie dogs in Colorado. Additional research evaluating sylvatic plague vaccine efficacy will continue at multiple field sites within the range of these 2 species of prairie dogs in Colorado in 2013 and 2014. The success of the vaccine could support black-footed ferret species recovery.

Greenback Cutthroat Trout:

The greenback cutthroat trout, thought to be Colorado's remaining cutthroat subspecies native to the east slope, was believed to have gone extinct in 1937 until extensive survey work discovered several populations. Numerous additional populations were established through reclamation and

restocking. The success of these efforts led to the 1978 down listing of greenback cutthroat trout from endangered to threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.

However, recently-developed genetic evidence from 19th century museum specimens, combined with re-discovered historical stocking records, suggests that many of the discovered populations—and others that were established from their offspring—originated from early stocking of cutthroats from the west slope. Many of these study results were published in the fall 2012 edition of the journal *Molecular Ecology*. The USFWS and the Greenback Cutthroat Trout Recovery Team (chaired by CPW) have embarked on an extensive taxonomic review to determine recovery goals and objectives for the greenback cutthroat trout and to evaluate more broadly the taxonomic status of cutthroat trout lineages of the Southern Rocky Mountains.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Brood stock development and hatchery propagation of an especially important, genetically pure population originating in the South Platte basin. (Photo below)
- Extensive collaboration on a study led by the Larval Fish Laboratory at Colorado State University compared visual characteristics of specimens collected across the southern range of cutthroat trout to specific molecular markers to determine if any physical traits are associated with those same taxonomic groups.
- Monitored core populations of greenback cutthroat trout for stability criteria defined by the Greenback Cutthroat Trout Recovery Plan.
- Stocked 550,000 greenback cutthroat trout into approximately 170 waters.
- Extensively evaluated 2 new sites for potential greenback cutthroat trout reintroduction.
- Recovery team partners continue to conduct range-wide surveys of genetic purity of Colorado's cutthroat trout populations to help guide future recovery efforts.
- CPW staff chaired the Greenback Cutthroat Trout Recovery Team.



Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program:

CPW is a founding partner in the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program, a unique partnership among federal and state agencies and other stakeholders with the goal of recovering four fish species that are federally listed under the ESA, while enabling water development to continue in the Upper Colorado Basin. The Program has responsibility for recovering populations of the Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, bonytail, and humpback chub. CPW will continue sampling, monitoring and restocking as part of its obligations under the recovery program.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Stocked more than 5,600 bonytail in Debeque Canyon on the Colorado River and in the Green River in Dinosaur National Monument.

- Continued participation in Colorado Pikeminnow Recovery Team, a scientific panel convened by the USFWS to review and update recovery goals and status assessment for Colorado pikeminnow.
- Conducted northern pike and smallmouth bass removal operations on nearly 100 miles of the Colorado River and tributaries, nearly 50 miles of the Yampa River, and about 15 miles of the White River, the portion containing the greatest concentration of predatory non-native fish. Removed more than 5,000 non-native fish from the rivers.
- Conducted approximately \$375,000 worth of projects in support of the recovery program. Through this agreement, each partner designates an “amount” of effort that will be utilized to support the recovery goals. CPW is committed to provide approximately \$155,000 each year.
- Continued to document the impact of non-native fish removal efforts in critical habitat areas of the Colorado and Yampa Rivers. This data is analyzed and distributed among program participants and methods are refined based on what techniques were or weren’t successful to use in the coming years.



NATIVE SPECIES PROTECTION

GOCO Log Number	Project Name	Grant Amount	FY 13 Expenditures	Grant Balance	Grant Expiration
12156	Native Species Recovery	\$2,690,000	\$2,690,000	\$0	6/30/2013

Colorado River Native Fishes (“Three species”):

The Colorado River drainage hosts three native fish species; the bluehead sucker, flannelmouth sucker, and roundtail chub, collectively referred to as the “three species”, that are the subjects of a Rangewide Conservation Agreement and Strategy. Participants of this agreement include 7 states, several Federal agencies and 2 tribes. The goal is to ensure the persistence of the three species throughout their ranges. Review of historical literature and data records suggest that each of the three species may now occupy 50% or less of their former distribution rangewide. Determining population demographics and life history, identifying habitat requirements, characterizing three species populations genetically and morphologically, and identifying and controlling threats posed by non-native species are among the conservation actions listed in the Rangewide Agreement that need to be researched or implemented.

Additionally, bluehead and flannelmouth sucker are prone to hybridization with non-native sucker species (e.g., white sucker, longnose sucker) that appear to be expanding their range in western Colorado. When this occurs, they cannot be counted toward conservation or recovery since genetics have been compromised. CPW continues to evaluate the distribution of these species within Colorado and identify measures to protect high-value conservation populations.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13 for Conservation:

- Surveyed approximately 35 streams for 3 species populations.
- Collected more than 200 fin tissue samples from three species fish for genetic analysis.

- Collected 20 mature flannelmouth suckers from the Yampa River for use as Northwest Region brood stock at CPW's Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility. Past collections were focused on bluehead suckers from NW and SW regions.
- Collaborated with Colorado State University biologists, in the development of a rangewide sucker identification key.



Photo: CPW staff sampling

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13 for Research:

- Continued multi-year sampling effort to define present native ranges of the three species, visiting 45 stream sites within three species range to determine present occupancy by the three species fish.
- Collected 280 fish tissue samples from three species fish for ongoing genetic analyses to evaluate purity, diversity and hybridization outcomes within the western slope native suckers and their hybrids. Some of these tissue samples may also be used to study trophic positions of the suckers by stable isotope analysis, a study which will help illuminate the effects of non-native sucker range expansion.
- Continued collecting numerous pectoral fin ray samples, currently over 1,000 specimens, from three species fishes for age and growth analysis for the purpose of characterizing environmental conditions conducive to spawning and recruitment success.
- Collected additional pure and hybrid sucker specimens for use in sucker identification workshops. These specimens also will serve to improve biologists' ability to accurately identify pure and hybrid suckers in Western Slope water as they are compared to genetic analysis identifications.
- Assisted with raft electrofishing efforts on the White River in support of graduate student studies on the three species in the White River and its tributaries.

Colorado River Cutthroat Trout

CPW partners with other state and federal land management and wildlife agencies in Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah to form the Colorado River Cutthroat Trout Conservation Team. Extensive collaborative work implemented by this team led USFWS to determine in 2007 that the subspecies did not warrant listing in under the Endangered Species Act – a position that the courts upheld in 2012. As part of this multistate Agreement, CPW biologists are charged with monitoring, managing, and reestablishing populations of native cutthroat trout to Colorado's Western Slope.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Conducted over 50 stream and lake inventories to evaluate population status and identify new Colorado River cutthroat trout populations.
- Completed reclamation and repatriation of Woods Lake near Telluride to develop a new wild brood lake

- Completed reclamation of Hermosa Creek near Durango, and repatriated with Colorado River cutthroat trout.
- CPW has participated extensively in a USFWS review of taxonomic status of cutthroat trout lineages of the Southern Rocky Mountains, motivated in part by extensive new genetic information published in the fall 2012 edition of the journal *Molecular Ecology*. CPW previously contributed tissue samples from over 100 cutthroat populations to this study.

Rio Grande Native Fish:

The Rio Grande basin is home to several fish species unique to the basin and requiring conservation measures due to their limited distribution and/or specialized habitat requirements. Most prominent among these is the Rio Grande cutthroat trout. This subspecies ranges further south than any other cutthroat trout, historically occupying waters as far as southern New Mexico. In Colorado, the species' range is confined to the headwaters of the Rio Grande surrounding the San Luis Valley. As with other subspecies of cutthroat trout, habitat fragmentation, whirling disease, and widespread introductions of non-native salmonids over the last century have served to limit the distribution of Rio Grande cutthroats to isolated headwater streams and lakes. Other fish species that, within Colorado, occur only in this basin are the Rio Grande sucker and Rio Grande chub.

As of May 2009, Rio Grande cutthroat trout are considered "warranted but precluded" for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act. For Rio Grande cutthroat trout, a court order mandates a proposed listing decision by 2014.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Continued extensive work with the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Conservation Team, comprised of tribal, state and federal agencies, to develop a scientifically rigorous conservation strategy intended to preclude federal listing.
- Completed 20 monitoring and inventory surveys for Rio Grande cutthroat trout and Rio Grande sucker. Included surveys at Placer Creek and its forks to monitor success of restoration project.
- Stocked 24,400 Rio Grande sucker and 74,000 Rio Grande chub into 5 waters each.
- Collected 188,000 Rio Grande cutthroat eggs from Haypress Lake to augment spawn take at Pitkin Hatchery and ensure that stocking objectives were met.
- Continued non-native trout removal at Alamacito Creek; declining capture rate on successive passes indicates good efficiency, but project is not yet complete.
- Rio Grande cutthroat trout were not stocked to augment core populations due to identification of some potential genetic issues with the brood stock; however, 101,700 Rio Grande cutthroat were stocked into recreational waters.

Boreal Toad

The boreal toad inhabits montane habitat between 8,000 – 12,000 feet elevation. Upon emerging from underground hibernation, toads congregate at ponds and wetlands to breed, after which most adults disperse into the forest for the rest of the summer and fall. Because of this cycle, the presence and abundance of toads in an area can be best estimated by monitoring potential breeding sites for evidence of breeding: adults engaging in breeding activity, or the presence of eggs, tadpoles or toadlets. Once common throughout many of Colorado's mountain regions, the boreal toad is now listed as endangered in the State of Colorado. Infection by the chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) appears to be the major cause of boreal toad declines within Colorado and elsewhere throughout the species' range. A multi-agency Boreal Toad Recovery Team was formed in 1997 and an interstate recovery plan completed in 2001. Criteria for de-listing the boreal toad in Colorado include establishment of at least two breeding

populations in each of several areas of historic distribution, and a minimum number of breeding populations statewide.

In 1995 the USFWS found the Southern Rocky Mountain population of boreal toad (roughly, Colorado, southern Wyoming, and northern New Mexico historically) to be “warranted but precluded” for federal listing and placed it on the candidate list. In a subsequent review in 2005 the Service determined that the Southern Rocky Mountain population was not significantly different from other boreal toad populations and removed it from the candidate list.

In 2011 the USFWS initiated a new evaluation in response to a petition citing two 2009 genetic studies that suggest that an “Eastern population” -- roughly comparable but not identical to the Southern Rocky Mountain population -- may constitute a “distinct population segment.” The USFWS has initially found that listing of the Eastern population as a distinct population segment may be warranted. Due to a backlog of work on other species, the USFWS indicated it is unlikely to complete a status assessment and listing decision before 2017.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- CPW staff identified 1 new breeding site in 2013 (two others were identified by Recovery Team partner agencies). Data is still being compiled, but the number of active breeding sites documented appears to be equal to or higher than in most previous years, as was the case in 2011 and 2012.
- Monitored 14 breeding sites, with each site requiring 2-4 visits.
- Tested samples from 45 breeding sites and 7 unknown-status or translocation sites for the presence of chytrid fungus. In four locations, radio-collared toads are being monitored and periodically retrieved and swabbed as a more extensive test for chytrid.
- Continued a study utilizing dual-frame and occupancy-based survey methods to increase reliability and accuracy of the statistical basis for detection of new breeding sites.
- Stocked over 7,000 toads and tadpoles at three reintroduction sites. Exported approximately 2,100 tadpoles to New Mexico to assist with reintroduction efforts.
- Provided approximately 60 toadlets to universities to facilitate ongoing *Bd*-resistance research.

Photo: Boreal Toads @ Mumma Hatchery



Eastern Plains Native Fish Conservation:

(In the Investment Plan these species were covered in two separate sections. For clarity, the Colorado Native Plains and Eastern Plains Native sections were combined.)

Of the 38 species of fish native to the eastern plains, eight are extirpated and another 12 are state endangered, threatened, or species of special concern. Although these fish are highly tolerant of the original harsh physical and chemical conditions of plains streams -- including fluctuating flows, high temperatures and low oxygen -- the fish are not tolerant of channel drying caused by recent droughts and other habitat degradation. Should climate change result in further drying and

warming of the region, increased groundwater pumping and water diversion will further reduce habitat for eastern plains fish species.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Continued a flathead chub movement study on Fountain Creek and the Arkansas River. More than 15,000 flathead chub have been tagged with passive integrative transponder (PIT) tags. Mobile reading arrays are used to detect fish movement through the system.
- Continued a large scale study in the South Platte River basin to identify the physical, thermal and potential flow regime related barriers to fish movement.
- Completed a project that evaluated the effects of irrigation recharge flows on native fish species in the South Platte River on the Tamarack State Wildlife Area.
- Identified and sampled permanent pools on the Pawnee National Grassland. Plains topminnow and northern redbelly dace were reintroduced in several ponds. Additional ponds may be treated for nonnative fish and have native species reestablished.
- Examined potential interactions of mosquito fish and northern redbelly dace through laboratory studies.
- Stocked over 110,000 plains minnow into the Arkansas River.
- Stocked or translocated three other plains fish species—northern redbelly dace, suckermouth minnow and plains topminnow—into waters in the South Platte and Arkansas basins.
- Evaluated 12 additional sites for future stocking of these species.
- Completed more than 100 individual site surveys for native fishes in the plains portions of the South Platte, Arkansas and Republican basins, many in potential high priority native fish conservation areas.
- Conducted two aerial surveys on 7 plains streams to document native plains stream fish habitat and barriers.

Photo: CPW sampling Carrizo Creek with Campo School students

low and southern redbelly dace to supplement existing brood stock Aquatic Species Restoration Facility.



River Otter

River otter are listed as a state threatened species. CPW has developed and is implementing a state recovery plan for the species that outlines monitoring protocols (see Recovery Plan at: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/SiteCollectionDocuments/DOW/WildlifeSpecies/SpeciesOfConcern/RecoveryPlans/CDOW2003Riverotterrecoveryplan.pdf>). Monitoring was conducted on the Green River in 2009-2010. Based on information from past survey efforts, including the Green River survey and the Dolores River survey in 2011, as well as the sightings database, river otters appear to be expanding their range in Colorado. Statewide monitoring results may demonstrate that recovery criteria in the Colorado River Otter Recovery Plan have been met, a major step in allowing the river otter to be removed from the state threatened list.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13 include:

- Implemented monitoring projects on the Colorado, Yampa and San Miguel Rivers, water conditions dependent, with a goal of delisting by 2014. See photos of CPW performing River Otter Surveys and the River Otter Tracks. This monitoring is directed by the 2003 Recovery Plan. If Yampa meets recovery criteria (due to be sampled Spring/Summer 2014), CPW will meet recovery criteria and can delist the species from the state list.
- Maintain a sighting database where general public as well as wildlife professionals can contribute their sighting reports to the overall data collection database for use in management decisions.



Bats

In Colorado and across in the West, little is known about the status, population biology and habitat requirements of bats. Roosting habitat, in particular, is poorly understood. Thirteen of Colorado's 18 species of bats are known to use abandoned mines as roost sites. Historically, common methods used to close mines did not allow for continued use of the mines by bats. This loss of roosting habitat could have devastating effects on some bat populations.

The Abandoned Mine Lands Closure Program -- administered by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety, the BLM and the USFS -- is intended to render inactive mines safe for the public while allowing continued bat access for roosting. The program evaluates the bat roost potential of mines scheduled for closure, identifies important bat roosts, and protects these roosts by installation of bat gates, which provide access for bats to such habitat, while providing for public safety.

In addition "White-nose syndrome" (WNS) is an emerging fungal disease of North American bat species. To date, WNS has likely killed at least five million hibernating bats in caves and inactive mines in the northeastern USA since 2006, and already has contributed to the imperilment of some bat populations and species. In 2010, Colorado Parks and Wildlife developed a White-nose Syndrome Response Plan. The goal of the plan is to protect all species of bats in Colorado by preventing or minimizing the human assisted spread of WNS and developing approaches for early detection and control of the disease.



Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Evaluated data collected through acoustic monitoring and data loggers which provide temperature and humidity information. No unusual winter activity was detected indicating no potential problem with white-nose syndrome.

- Conducted surveys at 12 inactive mine projects, totaling 192 openings. Recommendations were made to the Department of Reclamation Mining and Safety to install 45 bat gates as they close these mines to maintain habitat for sensitive species of bats in Colorado.
- Collected additional baseline information on bat species native to Colorado and being impacted by WNS in the eastern US. This information includes pit tagging at a maternity site in Western Colorado to identify movement between sites and radio tracking bats to identify winter roost locations.
- Continued to work with federal land management agencies and other organizations on bat conservation and the White-nose Syndrome Response Plan.

Lesser Prairie-Chicken

The lesser prairie-chicken (LEPC) is an upland nesting grassland bird present in regions of Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas. Once present in large numbers, the lesser prairie-chicken population and its original distribution have declined significantly.

The lesser prairie-chicken is listed as threatened in Colorado. On Dec. 11, 2012 lesser prairie-chickens were proposed as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. USFWS granted a six-month extension to the final decision deadline and currently a final listing decision is due by March 30, 2014.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- In cooperation with the Lesser Prairie-chicken Interstate Working Group, developed a Range-wide Conservation Plan for Lesser Prairie-chicken. The plan addresses all threats identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in their listing proposal. The plan includes comprehensive conservation actions as well as a mitigation framework to insure avoidance, minimization, and off-site mitigation when necessary. CPW anticipates that USFWS will endorse the final version of the conservation plan by November 2013.
- In cooperation with the Lesser Prairie-chicken Interstate Working Group, implemented a range wide aerial survey to estimate population sizes in 4 major ecoregions. The overall population estimate from 2012 was approximately 37,000 birds. The final 2013 estimate has not yet been released; however, due to ongoing severe drought conditions it is anticipated that populations may have declined by as much as 30-50%.
- Conducted population surveys, identifying a total of 84 birds and 10 active leks in Baca, Prowers, and Cheyenne counties.
- Participated in an ongoing experiment with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to evaluate plant establishment and resulting vegetative composition from seed mixes currently recommended in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) plantings.
- Continued to protect and enhance lesser prairie-chicken habitat through federal Farm Bill programs (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), Lesser Prairie-chicken Conservation Initiative (LPCI)) and CPW's LEPC Habitat Improvement Program.

Gunnison Sage-Grouse (GuSG)

In September 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a "warranted but precluded" listing decision for Gunnison sage-grouse. According to the USFWS, GuSG warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act, but a threatened or endangered listing is precluded by higher priority actions and lack of resources. The USFWS assigned a listing priority number of 2, which places the GuSG at the top of the Service's nationwide listing priorities.

On January 11, 2013, the US Fish and Wildlife Service proposed an 'endangered' listing and also proposed Critical Habitat for the GuSG. The final decision on the listing and Critical Habitat is expected March 31, 2014. Links to the Federal Register notices can be found at

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/birds/gunnisonsagegrouse/78FR2486.pdf> and for proposed Critical Habitat at <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/birds/gunnisonsagegrouse/>

Gunnison sage-grouse occupy a small fraction of their historical range, having been extirpated by habitat conversion from much of their historical distribution in southwest Colorado, southeast Utah, and northern New Mexico. Currently, the estimated GUSG range-wide population of 4,516 birds in Colorado is slightly above the population target of 4,500 birds called for in the 2005 Range-wide Conservation Plan. However, only the Gunnison population is meeting the individual population goal; all other satellite populations are well below their respective targets.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Responded to an unofficial data call associated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed listing decision for Gunnison Sage-Grouse in September, 2012.
- Reviewed and prepared comments on the USFWS proposed listing. Final comments submitted April 1, 2013.
- Completed the Gunnison Sage-grouse Captive Breeding program and prepared final reports. Two publications describing hatching and brooding of chicks and rearing and release to the wild are expected to be completed by November 2014. Also a manual for both Greater and Gunnison Sage-Grouse captive rearing is being compiled.
- Evaluated the response of sagebrush dependent songbirds and small mammals to recent and historically treated sagebrush/shrub-steppe habitats in the Gunnison Basin, Pinion Mesa and San Miguel population areas. A report has been submitted for internal review.
- Continued an aggressive trap and transplant effort for priority satellite populations. The Crawford and Pinion Mesa populations received birds. All transplanted birds are trapped from the core Gunnison Basin population and fitted with radio-transmitters. Monitoring will continue as long as radios continue to transmit in order to document habitat use and survival rates.
- The final report for the completed predator control project in the San Miguel Basin is being written now that the final mentoring of lek counts and chicks/yearling survival was completed in June 30, 2013.
- As of February 27, 2013, CPW has undertaken 33 certificates of inclusion with private landowners to participate in the GuSG Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances. This encompasses 58,682 acres of habitat conservation across the seven GuSG populations. CPW is currently working with USFWS to assess the level of interest in six additional key properties within Gunnison Basin (covering greater than 14,000 additional acres) that would provide further conservation measures and further preserve large tracts of land at the landscape level.
- Signed on as a supporting agency on the BLM's Candidate Conservation Agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the Gunnison Basin. The purpose of the CCA is to design conservation measures addressing 4 major issues on BLM lands: grazing, recreation, development and habitat fragmentation. Additionally, Gunnison and Saguache counties will sign as supporting local governments.
- Evaluated the ability to model GuSG seasonal habitats (breeding, summer/fall, and winter) across the range in Colorado. There is insufficient radio-telemetry in the satellite



populations to create these types of seasonal habitat models. Much of our telemetry data is from translocated birds which likely would provide biased modeling results.

- Aerial flights to search for new (unknown) leks were conducted in 5 of the 7 GuSG populations. Possible new lek locations were found in the Pinion Mesa and the Cerro Summit/Cimarron populations.
- Feather samples were collected for a Landscape Genetic Analysis of GuSG. Samples were collected from leks in 6 of the 7 GuSG populations and provided to USGS researchers.

Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG)

CPW and four federal agencies adopted the Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan in March 2008 to facilitate the conservation of greater sage-grouse (GRSG) and their habitats in Colorado. The Conservation Plan is guided by the philosophy that local work groups – made up of private landowners, public agency representatives, and other interested stakeholders -- have a pivotal role in greater sage-grouse conservation efforts, which typically cross jurisdictional and ownership boundaries.

On March 5, 2010, the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced a “warranted but precluded” listing for the greater sage-grouse under the federal Endangered Species Act. The decision adds the species to the list of candidate species under the ESA, but precludes formal protections because of “the need to address other listings of higher priority.” The USFWS assigned the greater sage-grouse a listing priority number of 8, which is a relatively lower priority compared to most other species on the list.

In September 2011, a court order directed the USFWS to make listing decisions on nine federal Candidate Species occurring in Colorado. The court order reflects an agreement between USFWS and environmental groups to make a final listing determination for 251 identified species that are currently listed as “warranted but precluded”. Environmental groups charged that a “warranted but precluded” designation left species in a legal limbo in which the species were identified as federal candidate species but received no federal protections available under the Endangered Species Act. For greater sage-grouse, the court order mandates a proposed listing decision by 2015.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Provided supplemental information to the USFWS in response to a February 2012 data call, including findings from projects completed since the previous data call in March 2011.
- Conducted spring 2012 lek counts which indicate a slight increase in the overall population of greater sage-grouse within Colorado since 2009. Only one of the six populations had a slight decrease in numbers, the North Eagle/South Routt population.
- Conducted research on various aspects of GRSG populations and habitats including seasonal habitat use, potential effects of GPS transmitters on survival and behavior, male lek attendance, bird demographic responses to oil and gas development, and the effectiveness of techniques to rapidly restore sagebrush and other native vegetation following disturbance from well pads and pipelines. The model for seasonal habitats has been completed.
- Conducted habitat treatments in the North Eagle/South Routt population with 2 pinion juniper removal projects totaling 535 acres and an agricultural lands restoration project that includes sagebrush seeding on 631 acres.
- Participated as a Cooperating Agency with the BLM Sage-Grouse Environmental Impact Statement for Colorado. This state-specific EIS is part of BLM's National Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy.

- Participated on the USFWS Conservation Objectives Team, charged with defining the degree to which threats to the greater sage-grouse need to be ameliorated so that the species is no longer in danger of extinction or likely to become in danger of extinction.
- Developed preliminary high priority and general habitat maps for greater sage-grouse across their range in Colorado as part of the BLM National Planning Strategy for greater sage-grouse.
- Monitored vegetative response to five different experiments to restoring habitat conditions impacted by energy development activities. The research project involved approximately 350 plots at 20 sites in a mix of low, medium and high elevations in the Piceance Basin. Throughout the evaluation range of this suite of experiments, treatments were found which improved post-reclamation wildlife habitat. Monitoring of the experiments is continuing.
- Deployed GPS transmitters on 47 male greater sage-grouse in northwestern Colorado. These transmitters are routinely monitored (location data recovered daily) for on-going research projects.
- Discovered 16 new leks as part of other greater sage-grouse research projects which brings the total number of active leks in Colorado to 285.

White-tailed Ptarmigan:

In 2010 the white-tailed ptarmigan (WTPT) was petitioned to be listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (Center for Biological Diversity 2010). On 5 June 2012 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determined that substantial biological information existed to warrant a 12-month status review for 2 of the 5 recognized subspecies of WTPT: the Mt. Rainier WTPT that occurs in Washington State and the southern WTPT that occurs throughout alpine areas in Colorado, northern New Mexico and historically in Wyoming. The petitioners and USFWS cited climate change and its impacts to a species dependent on alpine habitats as the main threat to the viability of the 2 WTPT subspecies.

In response to the petition, CPW conducted statewide occupancy surveys in 2011 to develop a baseline distribution of the species. These surveys demonstrated that WTPT are widely distributed across the state and had relatively high detection probabilities. However, these surveys did not provide information on the demographics of individual populations (i.e., increasing or decreasing). Being able to incorporate demographic information into surveys would be useful in estimating and understanding actual population numbers, allowing for a better evaluation of the effects climate and other impacts may be having on populations. It would also allow CPW to develop better management strategies to maintain viable populations and avoid further listing scenarios.



In 2012, CPW built upon the occupancy models using mark-resight models to assess population numbers. These surveys were conducted at a subsample of plots selected for occupancy sampling. These surveys were continued in 2013 with the addition of monitoring radio-marked birds. Radio-marking will inform home range size, resource selection and survival. In addition, CPW will evaluate nest success and reproductive output as part of a cooperative effort with the Park Service and CSU.

Gunnison's Prairie Dog

In Colorado, some areas of Gunnison's prairie dog (GUPD) colonies have been extirpated due to plague or are surviving at very low densities. To help manage and conserve this species, dusting of prairie dog burrows is currently being used as a management tool to protect colonies from plague outbreaks within areas of concern.

In 2012, CPW dusted approximately 1010 acres of Gunnison's prairie dog habitat in 26 colonies (536 acres in the Gunnison Basin, 213 acres in South Park, 242 acres in the San Luis Valley, and 19 acres in the southeast). The 2012 dusting effort required 1080 work hours over 12 days (travel not included) to complete. The 26 colonies occurred on land owned or managed by several agencies (12 BLM, 7 State Wildlife Areas, 5 State Parks and 2 on private lands). CPW dusted these same areas again in 2013.

One important facet of CPW's ongoing work involves field testing of the new sylvatic plague vaccine. The US Geological Survey-National Wildlife Health Center recently developed this vaccine as part of a larger state-federal collaborative effort to develop a practical vaccination program for controlling plague in prairie dog populations for species conservation purposes. In 2012, CPW conducted sylvatic plague vaccine field safety trials in both Gunnison's and black-tailed prairie dogs in Colorado. Additional research evaluating sylvatic plague vaccine efficacy will continue at multiple field sites within the range of these 2 species of prairie dogs in Colorado in 2013 and 2014.

CPW and CU Boulder conducted a research project to examine if genetically distinct subspecies of *Cynomys gunnisoni* exists. The results from the effort were:

- A total of 838 prairie dogs were sampled from 48 different colonies across the range of the species in Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona.
- There was evidence for two distinct subspecies from all five tests of the predictions of the hypothesis; however the geographic distribution of the two subspecies differs from that suggested by current maps. A publication on the work is being developed and will be submitted in the fall 2013.

PROPAGATION OF AQUATIC SPECIES AT RISK

GOCO Log Number	Project Name	Grant Amount	FY 13 Expenditures	Grant Balance	Grant Expiration
12155	Propagation of Aquatic Species	\$575,000	\$575,000	\$0	6/30/2013

CPW constructed the Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility (NASRF) in 2000 to facilitate the conservation of rare aquatic native species through captive propagation, genetic conservation, scientific research and public education and awareness. Currently there are 11 fish species and one amphibian species housed on the unit. Many are State Threatened, Endangered or Species of Special Concern and one is federally listed. NASRF's overall mission is to recover Colorado native aquatic species in decline. By employing new and improved culture techniques, technologies and methodologies, NASRF continues to maximize its production while ensuring a safe and ethical culture environment for its aquatic species.

Biologists have observed overall gains in the survival, growth and reproduction within a majority of species by combining improved spawning techniques along with variations in diets and feeding regimes. Technological advancements were made within the hatchery, nursery and grow-out functions at NASRF. NASRF's goal is to maintain the health, growth and reproduction of these species and NASRF fully anticipates increased results in the propagation and production of fish and toads again in 2014.

Species at NASRF in 2013

- **Amphibian (1 Species)**
 1. Boreal Toad - 25 populations represented

- **Small-bodied Fish (8 Species)**
 1. Arkansas Darter (3 populations represented)
 2. Plains Minnow (2 populations represented)
 3. Suckermouth Minnow (1 population represented)
 4. Rio Grande Sucker (3 populations represented)
 5. Rio Grande Chub (8 populations represented)
 6. Roundtail chub (4 populations represented)
 7. Northern Redbelly Dace (1 population represented)
 8. Southern Redbelly Dace (1 population represented)

- **Large-bodied Fish (3 Species)**
 1. Bonytail Chub*
 2. Blue head Sucker
 3. Flannelmouth sucker

**Federally listed as Endangered in 1980.*

2013 Production Numbers

Small-bodied Fish

- **249,945** fish produced and stocked or anticipated for stocking in 2013
 1. Arkansas Darter – **16,505** fish
 2. Plains Minnow – **111,425** fish
 3. Suckermouth Minnow ~**7,000** fish
 4. Rio Grande Sucker ~ **13,500** fish
 5. Rio Grande Chub ~ **61,515** fish
 6. Roundtail Chub ~ **40,000** fish
 7. Northern Redbelly Dace – **0** fish (No requests from Biologists in 2013.)
 8. Southern Redbelly Dace – **0** fish (No requests from Biologists in 2013.)

Large-bodied Fish

- **5,400** fish produced and stocked or anticipated for stocking in 2013
 1. Bonytail Chub – **5,400** fish
 2. Bluehead Sucker – **0** fish (No request from Biologist in 2013.)
 3. Flannelmouth Sucker – **0** fish (No request from Biologist in 2013.)

Boreal Toad

- **8,955** tadpoles produced and stocked in Colorado in 2013.
- **2315** tadpoles exported to New Mexico to assist with their reintroduction program.
- **150** tadpoles and toadlets sent to various Universities and Zoos for research and genetic refugia.
- **19** older toads culled from captive brood stock, equipped with radio collars and returned to the wild to serve as sentinels.

Specific Colorado Waters Stocked as of August 2013

Small-bodied Fish

1. Arkansas Darter – **12,188** total fish stocked.
 - a. **4,537** in Deadman Ditch – near Lamar
 - b. **3,113** in Horse Creek – near Lamar
 - c. **4,538** in Willow Creek – near Karval
2. Rio Grande Chub - **11,515** total fish stocked.
 - a. **11,515** in Blanca Wildlife Area Ponds (Closed Basin)

Large-bodied Fish

1. Bonytail Chub – **2934** total fish stocked.
 - a. **2934** in Colorado River #2 at Debeque Canyon

Boreal Toad

1. Boreal Toad – **11,289** total tadpoles/toads stocked.
 - a. **6,491** in Mysterious (Gulch) Creek
 - b. **2,464** in Rocky Mountain National Park
 - c. **2,315** in New Mexico for New Mexico Game and Fish
 - d. **19** toads equipped with radio collars and stocked as sentinels throughout the State.

Estimates of Species Provided In 2013

Small-bodied Fish

- **18,191** Small-bodied fish provided refugia in 2013 as brood stock.
 - a. **2,684** Arkansas Darter
 - b. **4,649** Plains Minnow
 - c. **1,025** Suckermouth Minnow
 - d. **1,200** Rio Grande Sucker
 - e. **750** Rio Grande Chub
 - f. **834** Roundtail Chub
 - g. **6** Southern Redbelly Dace provided genetic refugia.
 - h. **~10,000** Northern Redbelly Dace provided genetic refugia
- Estimated number of small-bodied fish provided refugia in 2014 – **21,148 fish**

Large-bodied Fish

- **120** Bonytail Chub (YC08) provided refugia as brood stock. Historically, the Southwest Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center, previously known as the Dexter National Fish Hatchery, has been NASRF's sole source for Bonytail Chub fry. Due to disease outbreak (Largemouth Bass Virus) at Dexter in 2010, NASRF began building its own Bonytail Chub brood stock to meet future stocking schedules.
- **51** Bluehead Sucker provided refugia as brood stock. NASRF received **26** Bluehead Suckers from the Yampa River in 2011. Four died in captivity. NASRF received another **30** Bluehead Suckers from the San Miguel River in 2012. One died in captivity.
- **15** Flannelmouth Sucker provided refugia as brood stock. NASRF received **20** Flannelmouth Suckers from the Yampa River in 2012. Five died in captivity.
- **~20,000** Bluehead Suckers currently in grow-out production.
- **~29,954** Bonytail Chub currently in grow-out production.
- Estimated number of large-bodied fish provided refugia in 2013 – **186 fish (Bloodstock)**
- Estimated number of large-bodied fish provided refugia in 2013 – **49,954 fish (Grow-out)**

Boreal Toad

- **~738** Boreal Toads provided refugia as brood stock and representing 25 populations.

- NASRF held **109** tadpoles for metamorphosis from various sites/lots as future brood stock in 2013.
- Estimated number of Boreal Toad provided refugia as brood stock in 2014 ~ **847** Toads

2013 Production & Research Accomplishments

Great strides forward were made in the captive propagation of native fish to Colorado's Eastern Plains in 2013.

Arkansas Darter

- The NASRF witnessed a **250% increase** in the production of its Arkansas darter leaving NASRF to reassess the reproductive age of the captive brood stock populations. During the 2013 production season NASRF found Age 1 and Age 2 fish and their gametes to be more viable than the older age fish, as was originally thought.
- In 2013 young-of-the-year Arkansas darters (Age 0) were reproducing within the numerous aquaria and tanks located throughout NASRF's Recovery Building I, again leaving NASRF to reassess the reproductive age of its captive brood stock populations. NASRF staff feels that the increase in fish size due to enhanced diets and feeding regimes has led to earlier maturation rates in the fish; the use of flow-through aquaria system technology versus static aquaria provides a better environment in which to spawn; more efficient egg collection techniques; and weekly prophylactic treatments with sodium chloride (salt) to ward off ectoparasites are largely responsible for the breakthrough in Arkansas Darter culture.

Plains Minnow

- In 2012-13 NASRF produced and stocked 111,425 Plains minnow total. This number can be broken down into the 50,000 fish over-wintered from 2012 plus the current year's production of 61,425 fish. This is a 62% increase from 2011 in Plains Minnow production and is testament to years of hard work and dedication by NASRF staff and devoted CPW biologists and researchers. Currently a like-number of fish is being over-wintered in NASRF's warm-water grow-out ponds to gain in size prior to stocking in spring 2014.

The Three-Species Conservation Efforts

Bluehead Sucker

- In accordance with the objectives as stated in the State of Colorado's Conservation and Management Plan for the Roundtail Chub, Bluehead Sucker and Flannelmouth Sucker, NASRF once again successfully spawned Bluehead sucker in 2013. There are currently ~**20,000** Bluehead suckers in NASRF's warm-water grow-out ponds. NASRF anticipates a request for 5,000 fish at 8 inches total length in 2014.

Flannelmouth Sucker

- In accordance with the objectives as stated in the State of Colorado's Conservation and Management Plan for the Roundtail Chub, Bluehead Sucker and Flannelmouth Sucker, NASRF received **20** Flannelmouth Suckers from the Yampa River in 2013. Five initially died in captivity. The remaining 15 fish have adapted well to captivity and are given genetic refugia as future brood stock possibly to be spawned in 2014.

Boreal Toad Research

- In 2013, **150** post-hatch tadpoles were transferred from NASRF to **Colorado State University** in support of CSU research investigating the impact of introduced cutthroat trout on boreal toad breeding success and recruitment. The research is designed to determine if introduced cutthroat trout have a direct or indirect effect on Boreal Toad recruitment. Boreal

Toads have declined precipitously in the Rocky Mountain Region, and within Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) approximately 75% of the historical populations are extirpated, leaving only 5 known breeding sites.

The research focuses on the direct (predation) or indirect effects of cutthroat trout on early life history stages of Boreal Toads; whether Boreal Toad tadpoles exposed daily to cutthroat trout have lower growth rates, delayed time to metamorphosis and/or lower probabilities of survival to metamorphosis.

- In the spring of 2013, **Mississippi State University & Memphis Zoo** Researchers Natalie Calatayud, Ph.D., and Cecilia Langhorne spent 3 weeks at NASRF continuing with their Boreal toad ovulation and sperm research. Specifically they are investigating; Hormonal Induction of ovulation in the boreal toad; Synchronization of gamete deposition and rate of fertilization; Cryotoxicity and cryopreservation of boreal toad embryos; Sperm Cryopreservation; and Collection and cold-storage of spermic urine *in situ*.

In addition to their own research, Dr. Calatayud and Langhorne assisted NASRF in the reproduction of captive brood stock utilizing new and improved hormone injection protocols and In vitro fertilization techniques. Dr. Calatayud plans to return to assist NASRF again in 2014.

Education and Outreach

Public education and awareness of aquatic species is in decline and the reasons for the decline continues to be a major objective within the NASRF.

- On the afternoon of March 13, 2013, NASRF hosted a field trip with Cub Scout Den No. 3, Pack 307 of the **Boy Scouts of America** along with involved parents. NASRF encouraged the boys to work on obtaining their Fishing Badges and informed Den leaders on how Colorado Parks and Wildlife could assist.
- On April 11, 2013 **the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission** traveled to Alamosa for its April meeting and toured the NASRF. There they had the opportunity to observe and participate in the manual spawning of Rio Grande sucker, the bi-weekly hydration of Boreal toad in hibernation and the hormonal injections of spawning Suckermouth minnow.
- The first week of July 2013 NASRF partnered once again with the **San Luis Valley Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)** Program. This is a summer employment program, established by Public Law 93-408, for young men and women between the ages of 15 through 18. The program is administered by the [Department of Interior \(DOI\)](#), Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, [National Park Service \(NPS\)](#), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Enrollment periods typically last for eight weeks, depending upon the regional academic calendars, and the enrollees normally work a 40-hour week. Projects may include trail building, improving wildlife habitat, posting boundary signs, invasive plant control, bird banding, simple construction, office work and general maintenance activities as needed. The 6 young men assisted NASRF with the installment of a water diversion structure and construction of amphibian depredation fencing around endangered fish ponds. They also cut and pulled invasive weeds around the work unit. The youth were provided with an in-depth educational tour of the facility along with an appreciation luncheon.
- In addition to the general public, NASRF continues to provide annual field trips, educational tours and experiential learning activities to both **secondary and post-secondary educational institutions** in the San Luis Valley, including providing fish for the popular “Chubs in the Classroom” Program as well as mentoring and providing technical support with Science Fair Projects.

WILDLIFE EDUCATION

Overall Program Costs:

Grant Title	GOCO Log Number	CPW Work Package Numbers	GOCO Funds	CPW Funds	Total Funds
<i>Wildlife Education</i>					
Wildlife Education	12158	6130, 6140, 6150, 6160, 6260, 6290, 6581	\$554,000	\$682,094	\$1,236,094
River Stewardship	12160	6420	\$161,000	\$215,624	\$376,624
Wildlife Education:			\$715,000	\$897,718	\$1,612,718

Program Description and Objectives

Colorado Parks and Wildlife education programs combine school-based education on wildlife concepts -- including wildlife management, habitat needs and conservation -- with hands-on and field-based learning opportunities for students. With concern increasing over the loss of connection of our nation's youth to the outdoors and natural resources, Colorado Parks and Wildlife's education programs strive to instill stewardship skills and ethics in students across the state. Information contained within this section is intended to capture the accomplishments of the past year and the continued efforts to connect and educate people about wildlife throughout the state. Detailed information regarding the volunteer and education programs offered throughout CPW can be found at <http://wildlife.state.co.us/Volunteer/Pages/Volunteer.aspx>.

Great Outdoors Colorado 2010 Strategic Plan –

- Invest in Watchable Wildlife and Wildlife Environmental Education programs at CPW and seek additional partnerships/re-granting opportunities.
- Develop opportunities for youth groups (schools, etc.) to visit conserved properties and learn stewardship values.
- Invest funds in partnerships/projects with schools to develop resources (e.g. Learning Landscapes).
- Invest additional Lottery proceeds over the next five years in enhancing or expanding outdoor programs at State Parks and the Division of Wildlife. Provide incentives for stronger partnerships with outside organizations in delivering these education programs.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2010-2020 Strategic Plan –

- Provide a variety of “how to” hunting and fishing classes as well as other fish and wildlife educational opportunities
- Provide timely, accurate and user-friendly information on recreational and educational opportunities
- Provide materials and professional development training for formal educators to conduct effective field investigations with their students
- Develop partnerships to provide formal and informal outdoor wildlife opportunities specific to the needs of beginners, youth, people with disabilities and families

Youth Education

GOCO Log Number	Project Name	Grant Amount	FY 13 Expenditures	Grant Balance	Grant Expiration
12158	Youth Education	\$554,000	\$554,000	\$0	6/30/2013

The Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) is a statewide coalition of ten accredited youth conservation corps that seeks volunteer and summer job opportunities for approximately 1,800 youth. For more than a decade, CYCA crews have worked with Colorado Parks and Wildlife on angler education clinics, fence removal or repair at State Wildlife Areas, non-native invasive weed control, riparian habitat improvement projects, irrigation enhancement projects, trail repair and construction, and hatchery maintenance projects across Colorado. CYCA work crews learn first-hand about wildlife and habitat stewardship while developing job skills and experience that help them in future employment. With the help of CYCA crews, CPW is able to undertake valuable projects that might otherwise be delayed.

Program Accomplishments in FY 12-13

- Colorado Youth Corps Association crews assisted or undertook the following wildlife projects:
 - Installed pond steps, completed maintenance at two hatchery locations
 - Removed noxious weeds, Russian olive, Tamarisk, and thinned Pinion Juniper and timber at 7 State Wildlife Areas
 - Removed / repaired / installed fencing, and constructed signs at 6 State Wildlife Areas
 - Conducted irrigation enhancement and ditch repair at two State Wildlife Areas
 - Restored and improved habitats at two State Wildlife Areas
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife supported the Pathways to Careers initiative for natural resources careers led by CYCA at the first career fair held at West High School. This included planning the event, finding sponsors and organizing booths and information for students.

Educator Training

CPW staff and volunteer facilitators train formal and non-formal educators to teach about Colorado’s natural resources using the Project WILD, Aquatic WILD, Flying WILD, Growing Up WILD and other curriculum products created by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Conservation Education Strategy. These materials are also central to the Teaching Environmental Science Naturally (TEN) teacher institutes hosted in 13 communities around the state. Once trained, these educators reach thousands of Colorado students in schools and in non-formal education settings every year.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Hosted 35 educator training workshops and teacher institutes, featuring Project WILD and other curriculum materials, reaching 670 educators in the state through nearly 570 hours of workshop contact time.
- Managed and maintained partnerships with the 100+ volunteer facilitators that implement Project WILD, Teaching Environmental Science Naturally (TEN) and other professional development workshops.
- Worked in partnership with the Colorado Department of Education to revise and begin implementation of the Colorado Environmental Education Plan that was legislated in 2010 as part of the Colorado Kids Outdoors legislation. (HB10-1131) The Colorado Board of Education adopted the revised plan in December 2012 and implementation began in May 2013. The first step of implementation began with CDE, DNR/CPW and the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education recruiting and selecting members for the Colorado Environmental Education Leadership Council (CEELC). The CEELC is an

advisory council to the CDE and DNR to support the implementation of the Colorado Environmental Education Plan.

- Worked with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conservation Education Strategy on the core planning team to implement a new multi-state grant to promote non-traditional wildlife agency partnerships across the country. These partnerships will focus on connecting urban youth groups not traditionally connected to wildlife agency services with agency and outdoor recreation partners.
- Provided check-out wildlife education materials as well as curriculum, posters and other supplemental resources for hundreds of Colorado teachers to use in classrooms across the state.

Kids and the Outdoors

Colorado Parks and Wildlife actively partners with many local, state and federal government agencies, sportsmen organizations and others in support of events that introduce youth to the outdoors. CPW is one of the lead organizers, along with Denver Parks and Recreation and the US Forest Service, in the development of *Get Outdoors Colorado*, a state-focused outdoor activity program promoting various outdoor activities throughout the State.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- Launched Colorado’s “Get Outdoors Colorado” website; www.getoutdoorscolorado.org in March, 2013. This is an informational and interactive website that offers and promotes outdoor activities. “Get Outdoors Colorado” partners work together to foster and facilitate educational experiences and to encourage participants of all skill levels, abilities, and backgrounds to interact with the outdoors in a way that encourages healthy, active outdoor lifestyles; conservation, awareness and respect; natural resources stewardship and recreation participation.
- Participated in the “National Get Outdoors Day” on June 8, 2013. This national event offered hands-on opportunities for families to experience traditional and non-traditional outdoor activities with an emphasis on connecting youth to the outdoors; an event that served over 10,000 people (mostly families).

RIVER STEWARDSHIP

GOCO Log Number	Project Name	Grant Amount	FY 13 Expenditures	Grant Balance	Grant Expiration
12160	River Stewardship	\$161,000	\$161,000	\$0	6/30/2013

Angler Education:

The Angler Education program, with support from Great Outdoors Colorado, has successfully continued to grow in the Denver metro area as well as around the state. At the time of this report, current estimates for FY 2012-13 show that there have been 322 fishing clinics reaching over 24,500 participants. Additionally, CPW gave out more than 20,000 free fishing rods to anglers at various clinics around the state. The Angler Education program fosters and maintains hundreds of partnerships with local, state, and federal governments. Along with these partnerships, the Angler Education program has worked with local and national organizations including but not limited to: Police and Sheriffs’ departments statewide, Eagle Claw/Wright McGill, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Trout Unlimited Chapters. Below are several photographs from various fishing clinics throughout Colorado.



Efforts from the Angler Education program include promoting “Get Outdoors” programs across the state such as the National Get Outdoors Day Celebration, educating families at the International Sportsman Exposition for the 5th year in a row on fishing in Colorado, working with the state fish hatchery system on standardized educational outreach messages, and continuing development of the on-line registration database and tracking of clinic participants. This program will continue outreach efforts while focusing on new opportunities for angler recruitment in Colorado.



WILDLIFE VIEWING

Overall Program Costs:

Grant Title	GOCO Log Number	CPW Work Package Numbers	GOCO Funds	CPW Funds	Total Funds
<i>Wildlife Viewing</i>					
Wildlife Viewing	09161, 10161, 12162	5110, 5210, 5260, 5310	\$347,213	\$10,684	\$357,897
Wildlife Viewing Funds:			\$347,213	\$10,684	\$357,897

Program Description and Objectives

Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Watchable Wildlife programs reach out to introduce children, youth, adults, and families to outdoor recreation opportunities through fishing clinics, train educators in wildlife management concepts that can be utilized in the classroom and in a field instruction environment, and provide opportunities for partners to connect their audiences to wildlife using CPW materials, equipment and expertise. These activities build awareness and understanding of wildlife and wildlife management, help to meet the long-term vision of creating future stewards of the land and wildlife.

Great Outdoors Colorado 2010 Strategic Plan –

- Invest in Watchable Wildlife and Wildlife Environmental Education Programs at CPW and seek additional partnerships/regranting opportunities.
- Encourage better coordination of programs and projects by Parks, CPW and partners.

Colorado Division of Wildlife 2010-2020 Strategic Plan –

- Promote and market the Division's wildlife-based recreation programs to new as well as existing customers.
- Develop partnerships to provide formal and informal outdoor wildlife opportunities specific to the needs of beginners, youth, people with disabilities and families.
- Develop partnerships to create and enhance existing mentoring programs for wildlife-based recreation.
- Promote the social and economic benefits of wildlife-based recreation.

WILDLIFE VIEWING

GOCO Log Number	Project Name	Grant Amount	Prior Year Expenditures	FY 13 Expenditures	Grant Balance	Grant Expiration
09161	Wildlife Viewing – Capital	\$46,000	\$35,057	\$10,943	\$0	6/30/2013
10161	Wildlife Viewing	\$67,000	\$0	\$36,270	\$30,730	6/30/2013
11161	Wildlife Viewing	\$27,000	\$0	\$0	\$27,000	6/30/2014
12161	Wildlife Viewing	\$27,000	\$0	\$0	\$27,000	6/30/2015
12162	Wildlife Viewing O&A	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000	\$0	6/30/2013
Totals		\$467,000	\$35,057	\$347,213	\$84,730	

Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Watchable Wildlife programs reach out to a significant segment of Colorado's population that does not hunt or fish but who are interested in the state's wildlife resources. Watchable Wildlife programs also inform millions of citizens and visitors of the many program and project building blocks that support and preserve the wildlife viewing opportunities that they are able to enjoy. These efforts provide a range of Watchable Wildlife programs to

citizens that might not otherwise have the opportunity to learn about wildlife management and issues in the state.

In Colorado, more than 1.2 million individuals, residents and nonresidents alike, take more than 4 million trips to view wildlife annually. The significant state and local economic impact of wildlife watching activities – generating an estimated \$1.2 billion in annual economic activity and supporting nearly 13,000 jobs in Colorado – has laid the groundwork for a new and expanded set of partners for CPW wildlife programs.

Program Accomplishments in FY 12-13

Wildlife Viewing Festivals and Events:

CPW and its partners coordinated more than 35 wildlife viewing events or festivals across Colorado in FY 2012-13, many of which bring economic benefits to their local communities.

Events included:

- Fort Morgan Audubon Event
- Barr Lake Birding Festival
- Elk Fest Estes Park
- Monte Vista Crane Festival
- Greater Prairie Chicken viewing --Wray
- Bald Eagle Days-- Pueblo Reservoir
- Garden of the Gods Bighorn Sheep Festival Day --Colorado Springs
- Hummingbird Festival --Colorado Springs
- Eckert Crane Festival
- Lamar Snow Goose Festival
- Gunnison Sage-Grouse Festival
- Karval Mountain Plover Festival
- Georgetown Bighorn Sheep Festival
- Greater Sage-Grouse lek tours--Walden
- Ute Mountain Birding Festival –Cortez





Photo: Elk Fest

- Starting in 2003, CPW has facilitated the development of self-guided birding trails in three regions of the state. In FY 2012-2013 the site selection, trail loops with maps and printed guide for the northwest (NW) portion of the Colorado Birding Trail (CBT) were completed. The CBT website is currently being updated with the NW trails and sites. The NW CBT consists of 13 organized trails (i.e.: driving loops) with a total of 155 sites. Of these sites, 10 are private sites allowing access to the public for wildlife viewing for free or a nominal fee. The CBT includes each state park in the NW region as a site. Discussions are currently on-going with CDOT to place CBT signage on major highways for the trails in the NW region.
- In July of 2012, CPW and its partners held the third annual Grand Mesa Moose Day at the US Forest Service Visitor Center on Grand Mesa. Approximately 869 visitors ventured to the top of the world’s largest flat top mountain to learn about moose. 180 people attended indoor presentations on the moose introduction to Grand Mesa, moose viewing, and safety while viewing moose, and how CPW tracks moose and estimated the population on the Grand Mesa. 100+ children and their families hiked with a wildlife officer to learn about wildlife telemetry, how to search for hidden telemetry collars, and learn about moose biology. Some kids made themselves a moose and proudly wore their antlers! Attendees also learned what moose eat by trying their hand at a “moose meal” and were able to touch hides, skulls, antlers, and horns on the touch table. Local CPW District Wildlife Managers manned the Operation Game Thief trailer, and they answered questions about moose, fishing, hunting, and anything else attendees had on their minds.



Photo: Grand Mesa Moose Day
(USFS Photo Credit)

CPW moose partners include: US Forest Service, who hosts the event in their Visitor Center, A-n-G Outfitters, Cabela’s, Moose Radio 100.7 and the Grand Mesa Scenic and Historic Byway.

Wildlife Viewing Festivals and Events

- Monte Vista Crane Festival – Started in 1983 – 2013 Festival was its 30th Anniversary
- New Wildlife Viewing Festival – Yampa Valley Crane Festival – Steamboat Springs – September – Partners include: Yampatika, Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition, American Kestrel Press, Audubon Rockies, Book Trails, Bud Werner Memorial Library and others.

Southeast Festivals

- Garden of the Gods Bighorn Sheep Day – This event provides viewing of Colorado Springs’ Rampart Range Bighorn Sheep herd – within the City Limits of Colorado Springs. Held in February, each year, it provides wildlife viewing, awareness and education for nearly 3,000 participants. This is a partnership between CPW and Cheyenne Mountain SP, Colorado Springs City Parks and Recreation, Visit Colorado Springs – Tourism and Convention Bureau, the US Forest Service – Pike National Forest, the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, El Paso County Parks and The Bighorn Society. It has been an extremely successful festival held on the west side of Colorado Springs for the past seven years.
- Pueblo Eagle Days – February (This was the 17th year of this festival) –Partners include: The Pueblo Zoo, The Arkansas Valley Audubon Society, The Greenway and Nature Center of Pueblo and the Pueblo Raptor Center, The Pueblo Chamber of Commerce and Black Hills Energy Corp.
- High Plains Snow Goose Festival – 11th year - Lamar, CO – February - Partners include: The Lamar Chamber of Commerce, Kiowa County Economic Development Foundation, Prowers County Economic Development, NPS - Bents Old Fort National Historic Site and Sand Creek Massacre NHS, Bents New Fort NHS, USFS – Comanche National Grasslands, Canyons and Plains of Southeast Colorado, Canyon Journeys Tours, Lamar High School, Lamar Community College, McClave School District, local businesses and landowners.
- Lesser Prairie Chicken Viewing Tours: - Holly and Granada, CO – March and April – Partners include: Arena Dust Tours, local landowners/ranchers.
- Karval Mountain Plover Festival: April – Partners include: Karval Community Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, local landowners/ranchers, Karval School, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

Other partner projects continued:

- Starsmore Hummingbird Festival: May – Partners include: CPW, Colorado Springs Park and Recreation – Starsmore Discovery Center and North Cheyenne Canon Park, Colorado Mounted Rangers. This outstanding and popular festival will be expanded in 2014 to the Pikes Peak Birding Festival which will provide activities and events at a number of Colorado Springs area sites. CPW is participating in the expansion of this festival along with several other partners.
- “Bent on Birding” Heritage and Birding Festival: May – Partners include: CPW, John Martin Reservoir SP, Bent County Economic Development, Bent County Heritage, NPS – Bents Old Fort, Boggsville Historic District, Canyons and Plains of Southeast Colorado

Southwest Festivals:

- Monte Vista Crane Festival: March – Partners include: CPW, Monte Vista Crane Festival Committee, USFWS – Alamosa and Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuges, NPS – Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, USFS – Rio Grande National Forest, BLM – San Luis Valley Field Office, SLV Ecosystem Council, Rio Grande Water Conservation District, City of Monte Vista, Monte Vista Public Schools, Arkansas Valley Audubon Society
- Eckert Crane Days: March – Partners include: CPW, Cedaredge Chamber of Commerce, Black Canyon Audubon Society, Orchard Mesa Irrigation District, local business and others

- Gunnison Sage-grouse Festival: April – Partners include: CPW, Western State Colorado University, Gunnison Sage-grouse Working Committee, City of Gunnison, Gunnison County, NRCS – Gunnison Field Office, NPS – Curecanti NRA, BLM – Gunnison Field Office, US Forest Service – Gunnison National Forest, Siskadee, Gunnison Trails, Black Canyon Audubon Society, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
- Ute Mountain Mesa Verde Birding Festival: Cortez, May – Partners Include: CPW, Cortez Cultural Center, Black Canyon Audubon Society, NPS – Mesa Verde National Park, BLM – Cortez Field Office, USFS – San Juan National Forest, Dolores Chamber of Commerce, Ute Mountain Tribal Park, Mesa Verde Country, San Juan Mountains Assoc., Cortez Retail Enhancement Assoc., Cortez Journal, local businesses and landowners
- Orient Mine Bat Viewing: Villa Grove, June – August – Partners include: CPW, Orient Land Trust, Valley View Hot Springs, Bat Conservation International
- “Cranes For Kids” Festival: Monte Vista, October – Partners include: CPW, USFWS – Alamosa and Monte Vista NWRs, and others.

Watchable Wildlife with Partners

- Colorado Birding Trail & Heritage Kiosks in Southeast and South central Colorado - Partners included: Canyons and Plains of Southeast Colorado, Crossroads of Cultures – South Central Colorado, Byways to Birding, Colorado State Byways Program, CDOT Enhancement Program, 11 counties and more than 40 communities in southeast and south central Colorado that are participating in this project to erect 42 interpretive kiosks throughout the southeast and south central part of the state. Kiosk design adopted for this project is the kiosk used for state wildlife areas.
- Audubon Magazine Insert in May – June Travel issue of Audubon Magazine features 6 pages of information and marketing to attract tourists, especially birdwatchers to our state. Partners include: Audubon Magazine, Colorado Tourism Office, Colorado Dude Ranch Association, Aspen Chamber of Commerce, Visit Colorado Springs, Colorado’s Central High Plains, Canyons and Plains of Southeast Colorado, Southwest Colorado.
- Heritage and Agritourism Committee of the Colorado Tourism Board – CPW has been involved in advisory capacity since its inception. Other members include: Colorado Ag, Colorado Tourism providers, Colorado Brewer’s Guild, Colorado local food groups, Colorado Dude Ranch Association, Colorado Wine Board, Colorado Chefs.
- Pedal the Plains: September – Northeast Colorado, CPW- Provided interpretation, information, education and experiential booths, trailer and exhibits at the stops along the bike rally route which featured over 1,000 bikers as well as additional family, friends and support. Many partners participated in this event, including Governor’s Office of Economic Development, Colorado Tourism Office, and The Denver Post.
- Limon Wetlands Interpretive Panel Replacement Project: Project consisted of replacing six 10-year old large interpretive panels at the Gazebo at the Limon Wetlands just south of the town of Limon. CPW provided new panels and repairs to the frames, partners provided labor to erect the panels. Partners include: the town of Limon. This is a very unique project in that the wetlands are part of the very first Wetlands Mitigation Bank established in Colorado, providing habitat for waterbirds and shorebirds when their habitat may be lost due to CDOT highway projects.
- National Watchable Wildlife Conference held in Colorado Springs in May: Partners include: Watchable Wildlife, Inc. Wildlife viewing coordinators and professionals from around the country gathered to discuss enhancing these programs, and identifying successes and sharing information for future growth.
- “Hunger Games” themed youth workshop in Pueblo in November: This project provided wildlife viewing and observation skills experiential learning for young adults from the Pueblo Youth Naturally organization. Partners included: Pueblo Youth Naturally and other local partners.

- Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference: September, Steamboat Springs, CPW and CTO's Audubon Magazine Insert received recognition as one of the premier Tourism Partnership Projects in the entire state.
- Lamar Community College: Partners include: Lamar Community College, additionally local business such as Wal-Mart have provided free bird seed for use in this projects feeders. This unique wildlife viewing area is provided just outside of the Library building with bird feeders and wildlife feeders that attract species near to the library windows. Inside the library, CPW provided viewing guides and binoculars for students and other visitors to use to identify the birds and other wildlife and observe interesting behaviors. This area, known as "Lamar – Willow Creek" provides some of the best bird watching in the entire state of Colorado. It is listed on the Colorado Birding Trail and attracts thousands of birders each year.

Watchable Wildlife Volunteers

Volunteers assisted with many Watchable Wildlife projects. The viewing trail and interpretive sign project at North Lake SWA was completed with the work of 40 SE Region volunteers. This project is located at the headwaters of the Purgatory River at North Lake State Wildlife Area.

Watchable Wildlife Capital

- Shavano Hatchery in Salida a new entrance walkway and interpretive sign welcomes hatchery visitors. Hatchery staff and volunteers provided labor for the project which provides an attractive and educational entrance to the Hatchery. CPW provided the interpretive sign panel and frames for the project.
- Installed 6 interpretive kiosks at Lake Avery on the Oak Ridge SWA, including maps, regulations and information for visitors.
- Supplemented material costs for an Eagle Scout bridge construction project on Leatha Jean Stassen SWA.
- Designed and purchased interpretive mountain goat signage (e.g.; "Do not feed or harass the mountain goats").
- Initiated work on an ADA-accessible path and viewing blind on the Shriver-Wright State Wildlife Area. Partners in the project include the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, the US Bureau of Land Management and the Southwest Conservation Corps.

Volunteer Programs:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Volunteer Program helps provide a skilled and knowledgeable workforce to augment programs and initiatives. Volunteers assist in a full range of activities, from customer service in offices and on State Wildlife Areas to field work helping with species surveys.

Nearly 750 volunteers worked on 239 CPW projects in FY 2012-13, providing 51,000 hours of work, or the workload of approximately 24.5 FTE. Volunteers donated time and energy worth more than \$1.1 million to the CPW's wildlife programs.

Program Accomplishments in FY 2012-13:

- More than 1,000 hours assisting fishing clinics.
- More than 4,300 hours as hosts for CPW fish hatchery tours and at State Wildlife Areas.
- 1,500 hours in bighorn sheep population count projects.
- 700 hours conducting in-stream fish population surveys (i.e.; electroshocking).
- More than 1,000 hours transporting injured animals to wildlife rehabilitators.

