

Great Outdoors Colorado Annual Report 2013-14





COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Director's Office
1313 Sherman Street, Room 618
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone (303) 866-3203

March 12, 2015

Lise Aangeenbrug, Executive Director
Great Outdoors Colorado Trust
303 E 17th Ave, Suite 1060
Denver, CO 80203

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 2013-14 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.

This annual report has changed and now reflects a high-level view of GOCO investments throughout Colorado Parks and Wildlife, as outlined in Article XXVII of the State Constitution including:

- Wildlife watching opportunities;
- Educational programs about wildlife and wildlife environment;
- Programming that maintains Colorado's diverse wildlife heritage;
- Protection of crucial wildlife habitats through land acquisition, leases or easements that restore critical areas;
- Establishing and improving state parks and recreation areas throughout Colorado;
- Timely and appropriate public information and environmental education resources on Colorado's natural resources at state parks, recreation areas, and other locations throughout the state;
- Acquisition, construction and maintenance of trails and river greenways;
- Acquisition of water rights or agreements to provide water recreation.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is proud of the accomplishments resulting from this unique relationship. The shared vision and goals of our partnership continues to be of primary importance in our work. Thank you for the opportunity to present this document to the GOCO board.

Sincerely,


Bob D. Broscheid
Director



**Colorado Parks & Wildlife
Great Outdoors Colorado Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2013-14**

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Overview

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is recognized national leader in natural resource management and outdoor recreation. Funded primarily through user fees, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grants, and federal and state grants, CPW strives to ensure efficient and effective use of financial and human resources. Through extensive planning and incorporating Colorado's Lean Program, CPW evaluates its wildlife and outdoor recreational programs, adjusting and reforming its efforts to maximize customer benefits.

In FY 2013-14, CPW invested significant funding to help rebuild habitat and infrastructure in response to unprecedented flooding. CPW also provided local grants for trails, improved wildlife habitat, successfully worked with the public to develop a 5-year Big Game Season Structure and collaborated with partners to provide outdoor experiences for youth and families. This annual report highlights only a portion of CPW's many wildlife and outdoor recreation programs and their successes in the past year.

Wildlife and outdoor recreation represent an important part of Colorado's economy and quality of life, accounting for an estimated \$34.5 billion in total economic impact. Hunting, angling, wildlife viewing and state park visitation contributes roughly \$6.1 billion in economic activity statewide. Through ongoing partnerships, strategic planning and wise resource investments, CPW is poised to continue providing quality wildlife management and outdoor recreation opportunities during the coming years.

GOCO is a major funding partner in CPW's efforts and supports a wide variety of volunteer, youth, and education programs, park and operating management activities, species conservation efforts, habitat protection throughout Colorado and enhancement, maintenance and development of trails and infrastructure projects throughout Colorado. CPW utilizes GOCO funding for direct benefit to the citizens of Colorado, and leverages more than \$162.6 million in other funding sources to provide tangible improvements to our state park visitors, hunters, anglers and the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts. In FY 2013-14, CPW parks welcomed more than 11.9 million visitors and GOCO funding contributed to programs and improvements that continue to promote outdoor recreation throughout the state.

During FY 2013-14, more than \$13million in GOCO funds were awarded in support of Park Purpose and more than \$8.0 million supported Wildlife purpose activities statewide. This funding in concert with other CPW partner funding, ensures that Colorado citizen's are provided many unique and rewarding opportunities throughout state.

- Public information activities include outreach and marketing strategies to inform and engage the public of the various recreational and education opportunities available.
- Acquisition and management of water for recreational purposes. GOCO funding is used for annual leases to supplement existing water supplies, water purchases, and some program operational costs.
- State Park operating funds are vital to managing state parks on a day-to-day basis. CPW's parks are unique in their proximity and ecological diversity from park to park and outdoor recreation continues to be a priority for the citizen's of Colorado.
- Ensure that vital habitat is preserved for future generations.
- Conservation and research efforts are employed for Colorado native species.
- Youth and families have options to experience wildlife viewing events that promote Colorado's rich wildlife heritage.
- Educational programs are deployed to promote new and energetic environmental stewards.

Capital Development
Parks Purpose Funding

Capital projects include the development of new recreation amenities and the rebuilding, replacement, renovation, or restoration of existing facilities. This category also includes some operational support for CPW's State Parks' Capital Development Program that provides oversight and implementation of these construction and renovation projects.

Activity:

The following projects were completed in FY 2013-14:

- Staunton Davis Dams Renovations: Phase 1 was completed and minor work at the Dines property which included deck repair and carport and fence construction. The Davis Dams project included demolition of the three non-compliant dams and replaced with two new ones that meet the States requirements. The new dams now have compliant spillways and can accommodate large runoff events without washing out. The ponds were dredged and re-contoured and the water outlet structure was rebuilt to allow for summer and winter time release of water rights.
- Chatfield Plum Creek Entrance Station: This project replaced the 40 year old fee collection station at the Plum Creek entrance. The existing facility was too small, not accessible, and needed many repairs to keep open. Included with this project was a new septic system and improved automotive circulation.
- Cherry Creek Swim Beach Trail: This trail was originally constructed of asphalt and became non-accessible over the years. The asphalt was removed and replaced with concrete.
- Cherry Creek Perimeter Road Improvements: This project rebuilt approximately 1 mile of road through a wetland area that experienced frequent flooding. The improved design will minimize damage associated with annual freezing and minimize closures in the spring when water is high.
- Lake Pueblo Juniper Road Phase 1: This project roto-milled two inches and applied an asphalt overlay for 1.5 miles of Juniper Road and included crack seal and fog coat for 8 parking lots which shall result in extending the lifespan.
- Highline Dredging: Years of silt had built up in Highline Lake to the point where launching boats on the east ramp was no longer feasible. Large amounts of silt were removed and the boat ramp is fully operational for the upcoming boating season.
- Highline Maintenance Complex: The new complex includes bays for equipment maintenance, administrative space and locker, a multi-bay line shed, and a fueling station.
- Cherry Creek East Waterline Replacement: This 50 year old waterline was prone to frequent leaks that caused numerous service interruptions. This project replaced approximately 5,800 linear feet of waterline and is now complete.
- Eleven Mile Water System Improvements: This project addressed the aging water system. Chlorine levels were hard to control and the park was on notice by the health department. The new system includes a water treatment building which enhanced the management and is now in compliance with current health codes.
- Trinidad Road Improvement: Several sections of road have become safety hazards. There were numerous complaints and at least one accident attributed to the road condition. A flash flood in 2010 damaged one of the bridges. This project addressed these issues and repaired the bridge.

The following projects have completed the engineering and design phase and currently are under construction or being bid for the construction work to begin:

- Golden Gate Road Improvement: This project is going to make repairs and safety improvements to the Mountain Base Road which, due to its age, is undersized for the type of recreational vehicles that currently use this road.
- Lathrop Swim Beach Redevelopment: The buildings serving the swim beach area do not meet the needs of the public and are not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This project will replace the building, sidewalks, and parking lot and add new shade shelters at the picnic area to bring them into ADA compliance.

Activity funding:

GOCO Parks Investment - Operating: \$ 602,167

GOCO Parks Investment – Capital: \$7,145,290

Total Investment: \$11,798,938

Natural Resource Management Program

Parks Purpose Funding

During FY 2013-14, the Resource Management program completed inventories on state parks and revealed and documented resources never before found on state park land. These inventories are prioritized based upon collaboration with the State Park management plan team. Natural resource inventory efforts include the production of resource management plans and recommendations. Inventory findings and reports are incorporated into a comprehensive Resource Stewardship Plan for each state park and inventory reports are included in the appendices of each plan. Stewardship plans are then shared with the management planning team for use in the state park management planning process. Colorado Parks and Wildlife responded to changing conditions in the state and successfully coordinated with partners to obtain funding and get the forest managed in key areas to keep parks open and safe. Highlights of some of the activities performed during the year are listed below.

Activity:

- Weed Mapping and Weed Management Plan development – Crawford, Highline, Mancos, Mueller, San Luis Lakes, Trinidad, Vega, Yampa River, Castlewood (East Canyon), and Navajo (Campgrounds/VC) State Parks
- Bird Surveys (Breeding, Raptor, Owl surveys) – Rifle Falls, Rifle Gap, Harvey Gap, Ridgway, Trinidad, Lathrop, Cheyenne Mountain, Castlewood Canyon
- Small Mammal Surveys – Castlewood Canyon, Lathrop, Trinidad
- Herptile Surveys – Lathrop, Trinidad, Rifle Falls, Rifle Gap, Staunton
- Wildlife Viewing Education Cards
- Paleontology and Geology Surveys – Castlewood Canyon, Golden Gate Canyon
- Paleontology Interpretative Development – Roxborough
- Geologic Hazard Reports – North Sterling
- Cultural Resource/Archaeology Resource Advice – Lake Pueblo, Lone Mesa, Roxborough, Stagecoach, Staunton, Sylvan Lake, Trinidad Lake
- Cultural Resource – Historic Structure Assessment and Planning – Staunton
- Revegetation Projects (seed mix/revegetation specifications) – Arkansas Headwaters, Barr Lake, Eldorado Canyon, Eleven Mile, Golden Gate Canyon, Lake Pueblo, Staunton
- Ecological Restoration – Barr Lake Russian-olive removal demonstration area with habitat restoration
- Technology – GPS units and software, cameras, binoculars, wildlife sightings and raptor monitoring database management
- New or updated Stewardship Plans are in the draft/completion stage of the plan writing process at Stagecoach, Sylvan Lake, Lone Mesa, Roxborough, Staunton, and Lake Pueblo.
- Baseline natural resource inventories for the entire state park system were performed over the last 10 years to provide foundational vegetation and wildlife data. This new round of surveys is focused on monitoring resources already inventoried and addresses resources that have never been documented at parks. Archaeological and paleontological resources are now thoroughly documented at several parks and detailed interpretive displays were created for Roxborough and Lake Pueblo through this project. Detailed breeding bird information is being gathered as part of the stewardship planning process and the volunteer raptor monitoring program is being expanded to more parks to provide inventory and monitoring data. Rare species surveys have been conducted at several parks including rare bats, rare plants, and rare birds. All of this information is helping to protect, manage, and interpret these resources at our parks.
- A partnership was established 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 have been developed on state parks as a result of this work. A Global Boundary Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) was set at Lake Pueblo State Park by the International Union of Geological Sciences, this represents the very best place in the world to see the boundary between two particular divisions of geologic history (Cenomanian and Turonian stages of the Cretaceous System). It provides a reference to which all other examples of that boundary can be compared and is 1 of only 7 GSSPs in the United States.

- A partnership with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers continues to grow assisting parks in restoring native habitats and train parks employees on restoration techniques. Collaboration and information sharing with other agencies included work with Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Colorado Department of Agriculture, State Land Board, and Upper Arkansas Weed District.
- Research, Analysis and Planning to protect parks - Inventory and planning was conducted at twelve state parks for noxious weeds. Prairie dog inventory and planning was conducted at Cheyenne Mountain.
- Volunteers have been utilized in several areas to perform stewardship work on state parks. The raptor monitoring program manages almost 100 volunteers who logged nearly 13,000 hours monitoring raptor nesting and habitat use on 18 state parks. Volunteers also performed breeding bird, raptor, and butterfly surveys. A partnership with Colorado Partners for Reptile and Amphibian Conservation (COPARC) has produced volunteer led reptile, and amphibian surveys at Lake Pueblo, Staunton, Golden Gate Canyon, and Castlewood Canyon State Parks.
- 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), several projects designed to protect public safety and improve forest health were completed along trails and roads at Sylvan Lake (10 acres), Steamboat Lake and Pearl Lake State Parks (9 acres) and at State Forest State Park (163 acres). Work at Golden Gate Canyon to clean up after a late fall blow-down event occurred on 20 acres along Gap Road. CSFS has also assisted with future project development, forest health inspections and hazard tree evaluations.
- Reducing Risk of Wildfire – Several projects were conducted to reduce hazardous fuels and improve park’s resiliency to wildfire. GOCO funding was instrumental to gain a grant from the CSFS which covered project cost for fuels mitigation treatments at Lone Mesa (203 acres), Castlewood (45 acres) and Lory (80 acres). Several additional projects were planned for future years at Cheyenne Mountain, Lory, Mancos, Mueller, Ridgway, State Forest Trinidad Lake, and Vega State Parks among others. A partnership with the Division of Fire Prevention and Control has been initiated to expand the use of prescribed pile burning on state parks.
- Riparian Forests – CPW initiated a planning effort with the CSFS to determine resource trajectory of riparian forests and provide recommendations for improving areas with poor health. Building on a plan written last year for Barr Lake, CSFS provided grant money to kick off a project to completely remove Russian-olive from the park.

Activity funding:

GOCO Parks Investment: \$1,247,735

Total Investment: \$ 2,063,282

Environmental Education

Parks Purpose Funding

Colorado's State Parks make ideal outdoor classrooms for connecting visitors of all ages to engage in outdoor experiences on their own, along with development of 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.

Activity:

- Over 95,000 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 5,000 hours were dedicated to updating programs to meet new education curricula standards, partnership building, 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 2,800 hours were spent working directly with volunteers to manage projects and conduct education programs, and to supervise, schedule, recruit, recognize and train volunteers to help accomplish park goals.
- 790 hours were spent providing indirect support for park volunteer programs by marketing volunteer-led programs, logging volunteer hours into the volunteer database, providing volunteer-related information and photos for the park / statewide newsletters, providing nature center support benefiting volunteers, and supporting Friends Group efforts.
- Over 927,000 of the nearly 12 million park visitors (about 8%) 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.
- A two-day workshop was provided at The Wildlife Experience south of Denver in early June to prepare participants for the upcoming season. Sessions included:
 - Introduction to Interpretation
 - Interpretive Skills & Program Development
 - Marketing & Promoting Programs
 - Authority of the Resource: communications strategies for public contacts
 - Correlating Programs to State Education Standards
 - Volunteer Management
 - Community Connections Planning
 - Instructional Methods for Adult Learners & Child Learners of Various Ages
 - Partner Presentations: Boulder County Teen Program, RMBO, Metro Wastewater/CLRMA
 - Thinking Outside the Box: Creating Fresh Program Ideas
 - Creative Ideas for Engaging Friends Groups
 - Creating Effective Interpretive Signs



Activity funding:

GOCO Parks Purpose Investment: \$253,628

Total Investment: \$253,628

Education & Youth Programs

Wildlife and Parks Purpose Funding

For FY 2013-14 CPW received GOCO funding in support of education, outreach, and youth programs throughout the state. CPW properties and resources continually make ideal classrooms. Whether sponsored at a state park or state wildlife areas, visitation to a school facility, or providing training for formal and non-formal educators, CPW continues to connect visitors, youth, and educators to outdoor experiences and promote stewardship towards the ecosystems in which we all live. Activities supported under this grant include formal and informal educator training, Schools in Outdoor Learning Environments (SOLE); collaboration with Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) and other statewide youth corps; angler education programs;

Activity:

- Piloted the Schools and Outdoor Learning Environments (SOLE) Program. The pilot happened during the 2013-2014 school year with two schools in the Denver Metro area – Mary E. Pennock Elementary in Brighton and Roxborough Intermediate, south of Chatfield State Park. During this pilot, CPW and seven partner organizations provided three field trips for 240 4th grade students, hosted Family Nature Nights at the schools, provided in-class support and programming, and worked with school administration to explore improving/creating outdoor classroom spaces. Pilot partners included: The Wildlife Experience, Butterfly Pavilion, US Forest Service, Audubon Society of Greater Denver, Denver Botanic Gardens, History Colorado, and Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory.
- The Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility (NASRF) partnered with the San Luis Valley Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Program again during this past year. The YCC assisted NASRF with continued maintenance of a water diversion structure. The crew “mucked” out fish ponds and picked up scrap-metal and debris and NASRF staff provided an in-depth educational tour of the facility.
- The NASRF continues to provide annual field trips, educational tours and experiential learning activities to both secondary and post-secondary educational institutions. In 2014 NASRF Hatchery Superintendent, Ted Smith, presented a guest lecture to fishery biology students at Colorado State University and hosted field trips for students of Adams State University, Western State Colorado University, Trinidad State Junior College and Center School District.
- Hosted 30 educator training workshops and teacher institutes, featuring Project WILD and other curriculum materials, reaching 581 educators in the state through nearly 480 hours of workshop contact time.
- The Angler Education program held 211 fishing clinics reaching over 17,000 participants. The Angler Education program continued to foster and maintain 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.
 - Engaging with schools, particularly high schools to create fishing clubs;
 - Educated families on fishing at the International Sportsman Exposition for the 6th consecutive year in Colorado;
 - Created a registration database and tracking of clinic participants;
 - Supporting “Outdoor Skills Days” in small towns across the state and several state parks as well as the National Get Outdoors Day Celebration in Denver that reached approximately 7,000 people.
- Managed and maintained lasting partnerships with the 50 active volunteer facilitators that implement Project WILD, Teaching Environmental Science Naturally (TEN), Outdoor Understanding for Teachers (OUT) and other professional development workshops.



- Work with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conservation Education Strategy on the planning team to implement a multi-state effort to evaluate the best methods to promote non-traditional wildlife education partnerships across the country.
- Served as a leading partner for the Get Outdoors Colorado efforts. Contributed to the getoutdoorscolorado.org website to manage, market, and expand services available on the page. Also worked with 100+ Get Outdoors Colorado partners to coordinate exhibitor presence at National Get Outdoors Day Denver – an event that served over 7,000 people (mostly families) in June 2014.
- Provided check-out wildlife education materials (critter crates) as well as curriculum, posters, and other supplemental resources for hundreds of Colorado teachers to use in classrooms across the state.
- CPW supported Careers in Natural Resources Initiative led by the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE) and Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) in collaboration with various local, state and federal partners.
- CPW continues to provide many unique opportunities to expose youth to natural resource careers. During the past year, CYCA performed many projects on many CPW properties:
 - On state parks, trail maintenance and landscaping enhancements were completed at: Cherry Creek, Golden Gate, Staunton, Arkansas Headwaters, Navajo, Vega, Ridgeway, Castlewood Canyon, Sylvan, Trinidad, Lory, Eleven Mile, Colorado River, and Highline.
 - On state wildlife areas work included habitat improvements, tree thinning, and maintenance projects at: Bellvue Watson Hatchery, Piceance, Radium, Deweese, Middle Taylor Creek, Pueblo, Beaver Creek, Skaguay Reservoir, Escalante, Rio Grande, and Chipeta Lake, to name a few.

Accomplishments for FY 2013-14

State Parks

- 43 weeks of work completed
- 119 youth participated on various projects
- 13,414 hours of labor
- 1,460 hours spent on environmental education projects

State Wildlife Areas/Fish Hatcheries

- 27 weeks of work were performed
- 110 youth participated on various projects
- 6,592 hours of labor were provided
- 712 hours were spent on environmental education projects

State wide CPW projects

- 70 weeks of work completed
- 229 youth participated on various projects
- 20,006 hours of labor
- 2,172 hours spent on environmental education
- 14 miles of trail maintained and/or improved
- 0.43 miles of trail constructed
- 6.87 miles of trail corridor cleared
- 2.63 miles of fence constructed
- 5 miles of fence repaired
- 12 miles of fence removed
- 126 acres of trees removed

Activity funding:

GOCO Parks Investment: \$219,283

GOCO Wildlife Investment: \$554,000

Total Investment: \$2,494,819

Volunteer Program

Parks Purpose Funding

Connecting citizens, as volunteers and supporters, continues to be essential to the sustainability of CPW. GOCO continues to be an important long-term funding partner for supporting the CPW Volunteer Program and provides a tangible impact on building a sustainable infrastructure for quality volunteer opportunities throughout Colorado.



This past year has been a transformative year and has provided an opportunity for reimagining the structure of CPW’s volunteer program. Both the former Parks and the former Wildlife agencies have been successful at conceptualizing and implementing sustainable volunteer engagement models. CPW staff evaluated successes and challenges and created alignments with a newly merged volunteer program. Keys to the success of both programs have involved leadership support, utilizing volunteers to their fullest potential, and empowering staff to engage volunteers and the community. Through the planning process a new program mission was

created and is: *In support of the CPW mission, the Volunteer Program will inspire and foster active stewardship for Colorado’s natural resources through the meaningful engagement and integration of diverse volunteers, partners & CPW Staff.*

Activity:

Volunteers are critical to CPW’s efforts including, but not limited to: angler outreach, bear aware conflicts, biological projects, customer service, backcountry rescue, boat safety, campground operations, environmental education, historical research, hunter education, hatchery assistance, fee collection, stewardship, trails, and wildlife transport.

- In FY 13-14, over 6,188 volunteers contributed more than 308,295 volunteer hours—the equivalent of 148 full-time employees with a value of over \$6.9 million based on the Independent Sector rate of \$22.55 per hour.
- Creation of a new volunteer logo and uniform, an updated volunteer application packet, a combined volunteer section within CPW’s new website, and a new volunteer newsletter *Tracks, Trails & Tales*.
- Resident and campground hosts annually give more time than any other group of volunteers at CPW. In FY 2013-14, resident hosts collectively contributed more than 91,500 hours which is 30 percent of the overall volunteer hours.
- CPW Bear Aware volunteers contributed over 6,634 hours during the year to help keep both bears and people safe through education and marketing.
- Wildlife Transport volunteers provide transport of injured or sick animals and provided approximately 8,660 volunteer hours throughout the year.
- CPW volunteer naturalists led a variety of programs with visitors of all ages. Programs include Jr. Ranger, skins and skulls, tracks and scat, geo-caching, flower identification, bird viewing and much more. This passionate group of volunteers contributed 21,400 hours in the past year.
- DNR Lend A Hand Appreciation Day -The Department of Natural Resources along with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, State Land Board, Department of Agriculture and State Forest Service partnered with several local organizations to leverage resources and expand the reach of Barr Lake State Park’s Lake Appreciation Day, July 13th, 2013. This was a great example of how a community and many agencies can come together to complete projects that will benefit future generations.
- St Vrain State Park hosted an after the flood clean up event. More than 119 volunteers braved the wind and cold to clean debris, power wash picnic areas, and re-establish campsites.



Activity Funding

GOCO Parks Investment: \$306,000

Total CPW Investment: \$425,718

Trails Program

Parks Purpose Funding

Trails related outdoor recreation activities are the most popular and frequently utilized outdoor recreation venues in Colorado and throughout the nation. As referenced in the 2014 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) approximately 90 percent of Coloradans participated in outdoor recreation activities in the previous year. Sixty six percent of all Colorado residents recreated outdoors at least one day a week, on average. Walking, hiking/backpacking and picnicking made up the three most popular and most frequently pursued outdoor recreation activities, as calculated by total statewide activity days, with 83% of Coloradans participating in trail related outdoor recreation activities.

Activity:

Regional Fourteeners Construction and Maintenance Project

Colorado Fourteeners Initiative trail crews and volunteer groups completed 39 miles of high-priority trail maintenance projects on 23 Fourteeners (peaks above 14,000'). Projects included constructing/repairing rock steps/stairs, water bars, retaining walls, signage, and restoration efforts (vegetation transplants, soil stabilization). All trail work was completed by seasonal staff and volunteers (composed of partner youth groups, summer camps, colleges, corporate partners, and trail users). The work involved hand tools (picks, shovels, Mcleods, rock hammers), and was based in front country (near trailhead) and multi-day backcountry settings. Projects priorities focused on high-priority conservation needs in the sensitive tundra plant community to mitigate damage to vegetation, repair/prevent trail erosion, restore trail usability to prevent off-route hiking/damage, restore/re-vegetate existing off-trail impacts, and provide for an enjoyable and challenging backcountry experience. Trails range in difficulty from moderate to difficult, and from sub-alpine to alpine.

North Fork North Elk Creek Trail Construction project

The Southwest Conservation Corps, along with the US Forest Service, established a new 3,500 foot trail segment that serves as the first segment in a connection between Staunton State Park land and trails to National Forest System land and trails. The new trail segment is located just northwest of Staunton State Park, and converted old Forest System Road #102 and an existing non-system user created route into a designated trail for horse and foot traffic connecting to the existing Cub Creek Trail (FDT40) and the Mt. Evans Wilderness Area to the north.

The Old Sopris Trail Phase 1 Planning Project

This is a large scale project to develop a connector trail between the Corazon de Trinidad Historic District and Trinidad Lake state Park. The entire project will design and complete a trail at the southern point of the existing River Walk Trail in the City of Trinidad and roughly parallel the county-owned Old Sopris Road in a westerly direction toward the Trinidad Lake Dam and the southern entrance to Trinidad Lake State Park. Phase I produced a technical trail implementation plan that will be used in subsequent phases to guide the physical development of the trail. The plan includes (1) examination of potential routes for the trail, (2) route selection recommendations based on a thorough analysis of topographic and other constraints and (3) all the technical information necessary to develop the identified trail segments including maps, engineering and design, construction cost estimates, environmental reviews and other required information. Further this trail segment would be featured in the City of Trinidad's 2009 Purgatoire River Trail System Plan, and included as an "Envisioned Trail" in Colorado State Parks Colorado Front Range Trail Comprehensive Implementation Plan.

White River Fourteeners Trail Reconstruction Project

Colorado Fourteeners Initiative (CFI) completed high-priority trail projects on North Maroon Peak and Mount of the Holy Cross as follows: 2,550 feet of trail re-route construction on North Maroon; 7,356 feet of trail re-construction on Holy Cross; 10,494 sq. feet of trail restoration on North Maroon; and 19,887 sq. feet of trail restoration on Holy Cross. The project was focused on re-routing the severely degraded access trail to North Maroon, which had eroded to a point that was causing extensive damage to rare and sensitive alpine

vegetation. On Holy Cross, the project brought a high-elevation portion of the existing ridgeline trail back to sustainable standards; provided a better delineated route where hikers had often become disoriented (resulting in frequent Search-and-Rescue operations) and restoration of impacted areas. CFI utilized youth corps and volunteer crews led by CFI staff to implement project plans. Project workers worked out of backcountry base camps, and work consisted of constructing check-dams, rock steps/staircases, retaining walls, as well as implementing restoration and re-vegetation efforts (e.g. vegetation transplants, soil stabilization structures, and seeding). The work involved hand tools (i.e. picks, shovels, Mcleods, rock hammers). Trails range in difficulty from moderate to difficult, and from sub-alpine to alpine.

Hoosier Pass Trail Planning Project

This project completed the master planning phase for a Recreation Path from Park County to Summit County connecting the communities of Fairplay, Alma, Blue River and Breckenridge. The planning process reviewed multiple options, including a multi-use grade separated path or Highway 9 shoulder improvements. This trail would be approximately 17 miles and would potentially connect to over 55 miles of RecPath throughout Summit and Eagle Counties and commenced a 13 county trail connectivity objective in Colorado. Study components included researching landownership, contacting public resource managers and private landowners and evaluating their concerns, assessing options for easements or acquisition to assure access, contributing to countywide trail planning, developing priorities and providing preliminary cost estimates.

Other projects completed in FY 2013-14:

- Dillon Ranger District Travel Plan Implementation
- Training Colorado's Next Generation of Conservation Workers
- 14er Trail Conditions Inventory and Maintenance
- West Magnolia Trail System Plan
- Wildlands Restoration Volunteers 2012-2013 Partnership for Stewardship
- Recreational Development at Pikes Peak - South Slope
- Partnerships to Create Golden Horseshoe Trail Connection
- GWT Severance-Windsor Trail Upgrade
- Cherry Creek Signage Project Phase I
- 2012-13 FDRD Stewardship Projects

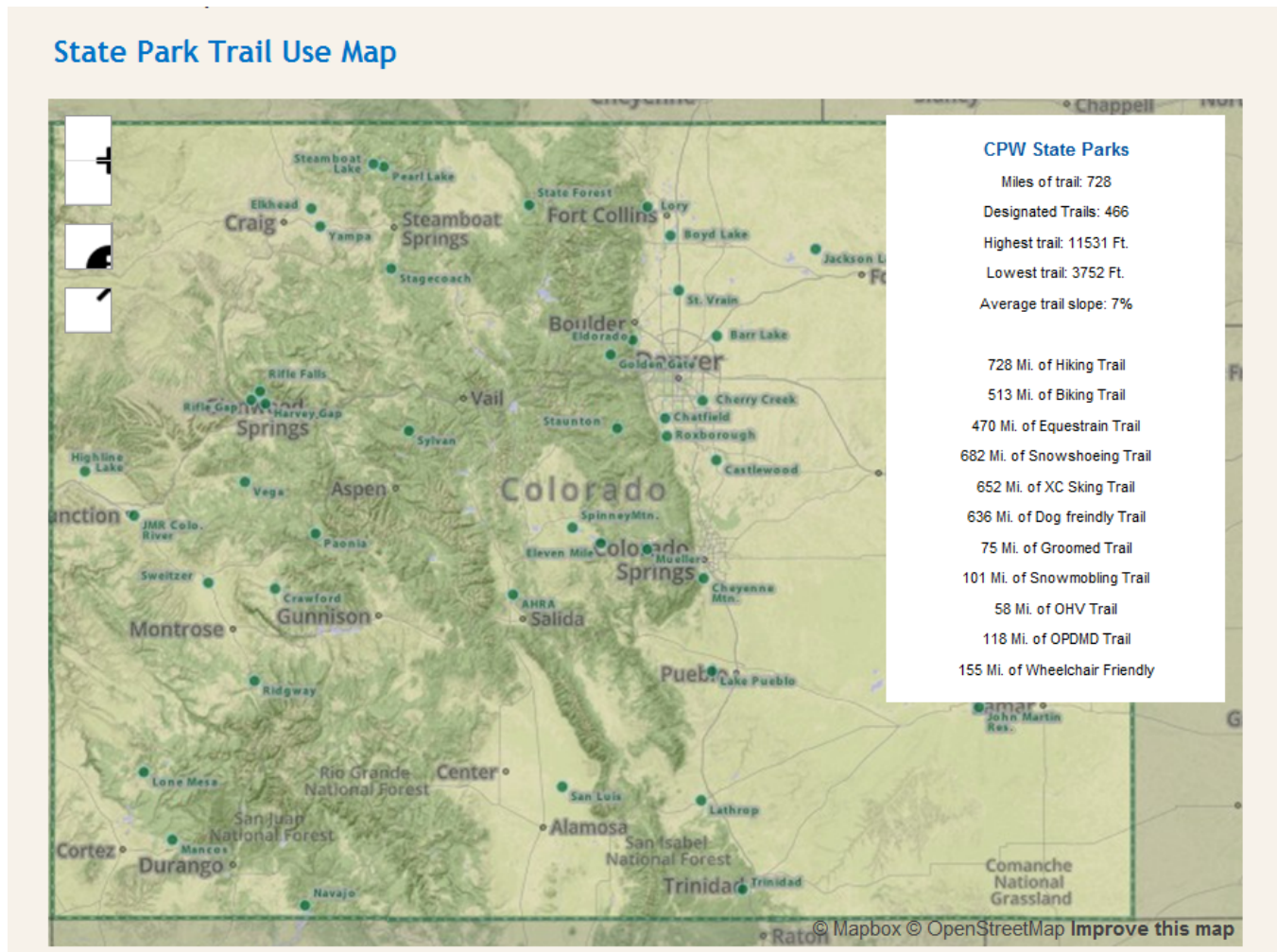
Activity funding:

GOCO Parks Investment: \$632,212

Total Investment: \$1,866,902

Trails in State Parks Parks Purpose Funding

Colorado's 42 state parks contain more than 700 miles of existing trail which accommodate various types of trail users - hikers, bikers, and equestrians. CPW completed the State Parks Trail Use Map <http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/Pages/Trails.aspx>, (below). This is an interactive tool that allows visitors to "pan over" a state park and discover the trails that are available on the park and the dynamics of those trails.



Activities:

The following trails in state parks projects were complete in FY 2013-14

- Barr Lake – The Niedrach Boardwalk Renovation that included re-decking 700 LF of boardwalk, staining the deck, constructing a 250 sq.ft. observation deck, placement of concrete and riprap for erosion control, reinforcing the structure with steel structure for support and replacing hand rail for safety.
- Castlewood Canyon State Park – Bridge was completed by utilizing an Eagle Scout Project. Also, due to the innovative efforts made by the Eagle Scout, the park was able to complete another project, a stair case at no extra cost. The grant award assisted the park with two separate projects instead of one. With the completion of these two projects, the park has addressed and resolved the issues identified.
- Chatfield State Park – There were two projects completed during the past year on this state park. The first project removed and replaced 1,679 sf of broken concrete trail and the second widened up to 8ft

and resurfaced an existing asphalt trail, and stabilized the trail on the south side of the dog off leash area and replaced approximately 3,400 linear feet of asphalt trail.

- Cherry Creek State Park – Replaced 600 linear ft the asphalt trail with concrete and upgraded for ADA accessibility.
- Eldorado Canyon – Reconstruction, maintenance and rehab on a steep climbing access trail to include 10 structures in 100 ft. for closure and revegetation of a 2.2 mile trail. Project included maintenance and rehabilitation of 75 structures; 1.75 miles of boulder step or removal; 25 climbing turns. Specialty crew required proficient in grip hoist, rock moving techniques, large, rock-shaping skills including work with feathers, wedges and hammer drills, technical backcountry trail building techniques, sawyer skills, scrambling and some basic rock climbing skills, and ability to build rock climbing anchors. Grades 25 - 80%.
- Golden Gate – Completed the final phase of the Mule Deer Trail reroute including reroute of 5,825 LF of 2-3 ft. wide, natural surface tread trail, two drainage crossings of 100' and 50', 750 ft. of difficult trail construction with many rocks and boulders, 800 ft. section with up to 20% slopes, rocks and boulders, heavy timber removal and constructions of a 150' section of turnpike and 545 feet of surface lift.
- Roxborough SP - Develop a trail plan to gain access to the newly acquired Willow Creek Falls area. Funding for a contractor to map the area, layout a proposed trail with a sustainable and easily maintained route. Trail plan near completion, a trail plan and layout walk through was completed in December 2014.
- Lory SP – The trails throughout this state park were impacted by the High Park and Galena fires. A trail crew as hired to complete work on the Overlook and Arthur's Rock Trails.
- Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area - Improve trailhead and parking lot at the River Ranch Trailhead and open trail for use. Addition of a CXT toilet, buck and rail fence (completed) around parking lot, signs, bridge (completed), and culvert removal. Project plans include closure and revegetation of 1/2 mile of trail, the addition of one 6-8 ft. bridge, and the addition of 8' culvert.

Activity funding:

GOCO Parks Investment: \$ 419,333
Total Investment: \$ 493,015

Habitat Protection
Wildlife Purpose Funding

During FY 2013-14 five acquisitions protected more than 3,000 acres of wildlife habitat for a variety of species.

Activity:

Secret Canyon SHA - Fury Parcel

Secret Canyon SHA is a 640-acre conservation easement in Dolores County. This property is a mix of a cold-water riparian corridor with associated stands of willow, aspen and mixed conifers with some grassy meadow areas along the stream corridor. It provides critical habitat for Gunnison Sage-grouse (GuSG) core population and also contains winter range for elk and critical winter range for mule deer. In addition to GuSG, elk and deer habitat, the property is mapped as overall black bear and mountain lion range, and winter range for bald eagle.



Fury Parcel Financing	
GOCO Wildlife Purpose Funds	\$108,000
Cash/Habitat Stamp Funds	\$112,188
Total	\$220,188

Cherokee SWA - Segelke-Carey Ranch

Cherokee SWA - Segelke-Carey Ranch is a 614-acre fee title property in Larimer County. The subject property is a mix of a cold-water riparian corridor with associated stands of willow, aspen and mixed conifers with some grassy meadow areas along the stream corridor. The topography is rugged with rocky slopes and mixed stands of spruce, fir, cedar, lodgepole and ponderosa pine and open grassy slopes with bitter brush and mountain mahogany.

Segelke-Carey Ranch Financing	
GOCO Wildlife Purpose Funds	\$1,272,000
Cash/Habitat Stamp Funds	\$84,632
Federal Grant Funds	\$400,000
Total	\$1,756,632

Lazy V Quarter Circle Ranch SWA

Lazy V Quarter Circle Ranch SWA is a 320-acre conservation easement in Garfield County. The subject property is composed of wetland meadow complex, forest and woodlands, Gamble oak and mixed mountain shrub lands and montane sagebrush steppe. Big game species present on the property comprise a list of the premier big game in North America: moose, American elk, mule deer, black bear and mountain lion.



Lazy V Quarter Circle Ranch Financing	
GOCO Wildlife Purpose Funds	\$40,000
Cash/Habitat Stamp Funds	\$442,326
Total	\$482,326

Tamarack Ranch SWA - Tarrell Parcel

Tamarack Ranch SWA - Tarrell Parcel is an 80-acre fee title in-holding in the Tamarack State Wildlife Area, located in Logan County. The land is very typical of the South Platte River bottom habitat found in Northeastern Colorado. This property has an abundance of whitetail deer, mule deer, turkey, bobcat, coyote, and red fox, pheasant, quail, raccoon, opossum, squirrel, rabbit, and numerous species of ducks, Canada geese and snow geese.

Tamarack Ranch SWA Financing	
GOCO Wildlife Purpose Funds	\$172,000
Cash/Habitat Stamp Funds	\$85,301
Total	\$257,301

Richard Ranch

Richard Ranch SWA is a 1,715-acre conservation easement and public access for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing located in Jackson County. The property contains rolling sagebrush hills, riparian and lacustrine habitats, shallow wetlands, and hay meadows that benefit breeding waterfowl, greater sage-grouse, elk, mule deer, pronghorn, white-tailed prairie dog, and other wildlife species.

Richard Ranch SWA Financing	
GOCO Wildlife Purpose Funds	\$352,750
Cash/Habitat Stamp Funds	\$707,250
Total	\$1,060,000

Activity funding:

GOCO Wildlife Investment – Operating: \$593,000

GOCO Wildlife Investment – Capital: \$1,944,750

Total Investment: \$5,310,343

Wetlands Program
Wildlife Purpose funding

Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s Wetlands Program, established in 1997, conserves wetland and riparian habitats and their ecological functions for the benefit of wildlife. These critical habitats represent only about 2% of the land area of Colorado, but are used by the majority of wildlife species in the state. Major goals of the program are to improve the population status of declining or at-risk wildlife species, and to improve the abundance and distribution of ducks and opportunities for waterfowl hunting.

In cooperation with conservation organizations, private landowners and other state and federal agencies, the Wetlands Program has protected, restored or enhanced approximately 298,000 acres of wetlands and riparian areas and adjacent habitats. Services provided by the program include funding of strategic planning for habitat conservation, wetland creation, enhancement, or restoration projects, and project-related expertise such as site evaluation, design, construction, and biological assessments. The Wetlands Program also facilitates partnerships through local Focus Area Committees and conducts wetland project monitoring and evaluation.

Activity:

- Awarded new grants totaling \$600,000 for 15 projects on private and public lands. Twenty grant applications were received. CPW funding will leverage \$1,209,261 from 23 different funding partners including federal, state, county, and municipal governments, nonprofits, private companies, and landowners. When completed, the projects will improve more than 4,742 acres of wetland and riparian habitat. Eight waterfowl species and 20 at-risk wildlife species will benefit from these projects, including amphibians (e.g., Northern Leopard Frog, Boreal Toad), native fishes (e.g., Brassy Minnow, Plains Orangethroat Darter), mammals (e.g., Preble’s Meadow Jumping Mouse, River Otter), and birds (e.g., Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo).
- Restored or enhanced 6,650 acres of wetland and riparian wildlife habitat in 23 projects completed during the period.
- Partnered with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program and Environmental Protection Agency on wetland mapping and field assessments in the lower South Platte and lower Arkansas Basins. The projects are adding to the CPW’s GIS database on wetland locations, developing new tools to assess wetland conditions and threats, and documenting wetland use by priority wildlife species. Digital wetlands maps were completed for the remainder of the state during this reporting period, and now 100% of the state has digital wetlands data. Additionally, through the CNHP/EPA partnership, wildlife habitat quality metrics have been completed for 10 species/guilds, and are in development for an additional 6 species. These metrics are in practice and will be used to quantify future project benefits to wildlife.



Activity Funding

GOCO Wildlife Investment: \$512,476
Total Investment: \$991,968

Species Protection
Wildlife Funding Purpose

The Colorado Wildlife Action Plan identifies 210 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. In the past year, highlights for some of the efforts are described below:

Activity:

Bald Eagle

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.

Black-footed Ferret

On Oct 30, 2013, fifty-five Black-footed Ferrets (BFF) were released on the 60,000 acre Walker Ranch north of Pueblo West Colorado. This was the 21st reintroduction of BFF nationwide and the first release of the ferrets on private property under the newly approved US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Safe Harbor Agreement which was finalized on Oct 23, 2013. They are also the first ferrets released in Colorado under SB 13-169 which was supported by the Colorado Cattlemen’s Association and signed into law on Jun 5, 2013. The bill allows the participation of CPW and the reintroduction of BFF on private lands in Colorado with landowner consent pursuant to the Safe Harbor Agreement. During the 2014 legislative session, HB 14-1267 added municipal lands to those areas where BFF’s could be released. In April, the NRCS started accepting applications under their EQIP program for enrollment in a special effort that will help recover the federally endangered black-footed ferret. Interest in the program was high and over 40 applications were submitted in SE Colorado.



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 worked in collaboration with management to develop a cost-effective, minimally-intrusive monitoring program to estimate the extent, stability and distribution of lynx throughout Colorado which is currently being implemented for the winter of 2014-15.

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.

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. 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. All three rivers sampled met recovery criteria as of Spring/Summer 2014.



Bats

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. 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. CPW conducted surveys at 5 inactive mine projects, totaling ~60 openings. Additional baseline information was collected 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 participating in pilot surveys under the North American Bat Monitoring Project.

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 was listed as a Threatened Species under the federal Endangered Species Act on May 12, 2014.

Gunnison Sage-Grouse

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.

In November 2014, the US Fish and Wildlife Service issued its decision to list the Gunnison sage-grouse as "threatened" under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Greater Sage-Grouse

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.

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 June 5, 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. This project will continue in the next few years which will allow CPW to increased confidence in estimates and to test trends in both survival and population size.

Activity funding:

GOCO Wildlife Investment: \$3,090,000

Total Investment: \$7,138,594

Propagation of Aquatic Species at Risk

Wildlife Purpose Funding

During FY 2013-14, at the Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility (NASRF) observed significant gains in the production of Arkansas darter, Plains Minnow, and Suckermouth minnow. However, spawning and fertilization rates in captive boreal toad remained low. Further research efforts are warranted for improvement within the production of this species. Currently there are 12 fish species and one amphibian specie housed at the NASRF. 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.

Activity:

2014 Production & Research Highlights

The NASRF produced a grand total of 246,911 fish and Boreal toad in 2014. A total of 222,356 fish, tadpoles and toadlets were stocked in 2014 and another 24,555 fish are being over-wintered at NASRF for increased growth and stocking in 2015.

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 continues to develop a genetically-based propagated stock of Bluehead sucker. For a third year in a row NASRF has successfully spawned Bluehead sucker in captivity. There are currently 22,000 Bluehead suckers in NASRF's earthen grow-out ponds.
- **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 continues to develop a genetically-based propagated stock of Flannelmouth sucker. NASRF received a total of **21** wild Flannelmouth Suckers from the Yampa River in 2013 and again in 2014. NASRF still awaits this species to exhibit spawning behavior and hopefully produce offspring in the spring of 2015.
- **Boreal Toad Research**
In 2014, San Diego Zoo Researcher Natalie Calatayud, Ph.D., spent 6 months at NASRF investigating the induction of reproductive behaviors, gamete release and fertilization in captive boreal toad utilizing exogenous hormones. Specifically, twenty (20) females and thirty-one (31) males were treated with Amphiplex in May, June and July 2014. Although reproductive behaviors were recorded, spawning and fertilization rates remained low. Additionally, another group of females were treated with an hCG,LHRHa protocol to induce spontaneous ovulation. Eggs were then used *in vitro* fertilization experiments.

Dr. Calatayud will return in spring 2015 to further research exogenous hormones to promote reproductive behaviors and embryo production. During 2014, research observations suggest that Amphiplex was very successful in promoting male reproductive behaviors including amplexus and spermiation. Although the use of this protocol on females also led to some egg production it seems that it was not as successful in promoting egg deposition as in previous injection protocol.

In the spring of 2014, Mississippi State University & Memphis Zoo Researcher Cecilia Langhorne spent 3 weeks at NASRF continuing with her Boreal toad sperm research. Research focused on sperm cryopreservation and the collection and cold-storage of spermic urine *in situ*. Fifteen (15) males have been requested and will be sent to MSU to further Langhorne's research in fall 2014.

Activity funding:

GOCO Wildlife Investment: \$575,000

Total Investment: \$1,100,065

Wildlife Viewing
Wildlife Purpose funding

Viewing Festivals draw thousands of wildlife enthusiasts, families and passers-by to engage in a variety of activities designed to educate and inspire conservation. These activities are held throughout the state at various state parks, state wildlife areas, in classrooms, nature centers, Audubon locations, and other sites which allow for participants to go for a wildlife viewing hike. Each year CPW supports, hosts, and/or collaborates with local agencies, more than 20 annual wildlife viewing events throughout the state. In 2013-14, more than 6,322 volunteer hours supported wildlife viewing festivals throughout the state.

Activity:

CPW’s Watchable Wildlife programs reach out to a significant segment of Colorado’s population who are interested in the state’s wildlife resources. Watchable Wildlife programs inform and educate 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.



Each spring, there are Great Horned Owls that consistently nest at Connected Lakes, on James M Robb State Park, or on adjacent Audubon property. Teachers plan field trips for this annual event, so that their students can view the owlets. Armed with spotting scopes and binoculars provided by the Watchable Wildlife program, the kids are able to see the owlets in the nest and hopefully an adult nearby.

In mid-September, many towns in the Front Range were ravaged by torrential downpours and resulting flooding, impacting homes, businesses, and, of course, ensuing in the tragic loss of life. One area particularly hit hard was the tourist town of Estes Park, gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park and host of the annual wildlife festival, “Elk Fest.” As the town worked diligently to recover both physically and emotionally from the devastation, Estes decided to move forward with the 16th Annual Elk Fest, maybe as much for the potential economic benefits as for attempting to just feel “normal” again.

Work has been taking place over the past two years the Shriver-Wright State Wildlife Areas in the San Luis Valley, just north of Monte Vista. About 160 acres, was established as a memorial to two water resource leaders in the San Luis Valley -- Doug Shriver and Ray Wright. The men were killed together in an accident in 2011.



This not only memorializes two men but also serves as an outdoor classroom for local schools. It includes interpretive signs that explain wildlife and how agriculture fits in, a viewing blind, a one-mile long walking path, and a memorial circle that includes stone benches and a metal table “map” that shows the relationship of the Rio Grande River to the whole valley.

Activity Funding

GOCO Wildlife Investment - Operating: \$235,681
GOCO Wildlife Investment - Capital: \$60,183
Total Investment: \$295,864

FY 2013-14 GOCO
Financial Summary

Log	Description	GOCO Grant Award	Prior Year Reimbursement	FY 2013-14 Reimb Request
	Parks Purpose			
	Establish & Improve State Parks and Recreation			
10196	St. Vrain State Park Phase 3 Master Plan Development	2,880,000.00	2,509,260.12	318,652.17
10217	Highline Dredging	276,000.00	133,183.60	142,816.40
10220	Highline Maintenance Complex	811,500.00	107,900.81	703,599.19
11201	Chatfield Plum Creek Entrance Station	111,000.00	0.00	94,717.88
11202	Chatfield Phase III Trail Replacement	100,000.00	0.00	88,477.11
11203	Cherry Creek Swim Beach Trail	77,250.00	0.00	74,966.13
11204	Chatfield Road Improvements	510,000.00	153,720.87	356,279.13
11206	Cherry Creek Road Improvements	387,500.00	148,869.64	238,630.36
11207	Cherry Creek East Waterline Replacement	150,000.00	680.00	149,320.00
11209	Staunton Davis Dams Renovations	300,000.00	64,371.27	235,628.73
13200	Lathrop Swim Beach Redevelopment	651,464.00	0.00	613,818.07
13201	Trinidad Road Improvement	200,000.00	0.00	121,200.59
13203	Golden Gate Road Improvement	350,000.00	0.00	25,405.54
13204	Lake Pueblo Juniper Road Phase I	966,208.00	4,565.00	961,637.00
13206	Cherry Creek Perimeter Road Improvements	800,000.00	0.00	800,000.00
13207	Chatfield Road Improvements	1,900,000.00	21,163.78	141,060.26
13208	Eleven Mile Water System Improvements	638,900.00	73,991.00	97,103.98
13215	Eleven Mile State Park: South Side Rehabilitation	380,000.00	0.00	240.76
13219	Mueller State Park Road Rehabilitation	500,000.00	0.00	240,712.92
13220	St. Vrain State Park Pipeline	324,000.00	0.00	290,388.93
13224	Staunton Davis Dams Renovations	2,200,000.00	0.00	1,450,635.46
11171	Land Acquisitions	350,000.00	0.00	48,913.57
13172	Capital Development Program - Operating	603,000.00	0.00	602,167.24
13175	Cheyenne Mountain State Park Operations	343,000.00	0.00	339,257.90
13176	Crawford State Park Operations	73,000.00	0.00	73,000.00
13177	Golden Gate State Park Operations	103,000.00	0.00	103,000.00
13178	John Martin State Park Operations	64,000.00	0.00	64,000.00
13179	Lathrop State Park Operations	73,000.00	0.00	73,000.00
13180	Lone Mesa State Park Operations	44,000.00	0.00	44,000.00
13181	Rifle Gap State Park Operations	28,000.00	0.00	28,000.00
13182	St. Vrain State Park Operations	175,000.00	0.00	175,000.00
13183	State Forest State Park Operations	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00

FY 2013-14 GOCO
Financial Summary

Log	Description	GOCO Grant Award	Prior Year Reimbursement	FY 2013-14 Reimb Request
13184	Staunton State Park Operations	185,000.00	0.00	185,000.00
13185	Sylvan Lake State Park Operations	110,000.00	0.00	109,100.00
13186	Yampa River State Park Operations	115,000.00	0.00	115,000.00
11223	Natural Resource Management Program	300,000.00	29,191.20	270,731.99
12223	Natural Resource Management Program	300,000.00	10,572.53	15,032.84
13173	Natural Resource Management Program	421,000.00	0.00	419,803.03
11174	Invasive & Noxious Weed Management	400,000.00	323,968.00	64,313.98
12174	Invasive & Noxious Weed Management	400,000.00	234,795.99	77,853.11
13174	Invasive & Noxious Weed Management	400,000.00	0.00	400,000.00
	Total for the Grant	19,030,822.00	3,816,233.81	10,382,464.27
	Public Information & Environmental Education			
13187	Public Information Program	271,000.00	0.00	271,000.00
13188	Environmental Education Program	290,000.00	0.00	253,627.54
13190	Youth Program	275,000.00	0.00	219,283.42
13189	Volunteer Program	306,000.00	0.00	306,000.00
	Total for the Grant	1,142,000.00	0.00	1,049,910.96
	Trails & River Greenways			
10230	White River Fourteeners Trail Reconstruction	199,780.00	112,725.47	87,054.53
10231	Recreational Development at Pikes Peak - South Slope	18,983.00	0.00	18,983.00
10234	West Magnolia Trail System Plan	36,500.00		36,497.00
10235	Training Colorado's Next Generation of Conservation Workers	43,680.00	29,120.00	14,560.00
11230	Regional Fourteener Trail Maintenance Project	112,436.00	57,242.42	55,193.58
11231	WRV 2012-2013 Partnership for Stewardship	66,250.00	0.00	66,250.00
11232	Partnerships to Create Golden Horseshoe Trail Connection	64,031.00	0.00	64,031.00
11233	GWT Severance-Windsor Trail Upgrade	24,177.00	0.00	24,177.00
11234	Cherry Creek Signage Project Phase I	50,454.00	0.00	50,454.00
11235	Dillon RD Travel Plan Implementation	44,200.00	0.00	43,669.78
11236	2012-13 FDRD Stewardship Projects	31,565.00	0.00	31,565.00
11237	14er Trail Conditions Inventory and Maintenance	45,000.00	17,932.17	27,067.83
11239	Hoosier Pass Trail Planning Project	45,000.00	0.00	45,000.00
11240	The Old Sopris Trail Phase I	24,519.00	0.00	24,519.00
12230	Paonia River Park Trails Project	45,000.00	0.00	8,349.90
12231	Outdoor Stewardship Institute Training Program	20,000.00	0.00	6,432.99

FY 2013-14 GOCO
Financial Summary

Log	Description	GOCO Grant Award	Prior Year Reimbursement	FY 2013-14 Reimb Request
12236	WRV 2013-15 Trail Volunteer Leader Capacity	45,000.00	0.00	9,807.03
12239	N Fork N Elk Creek Trail	18,600.00	0.00	18,600.00
10221	Trails in State Parks	450,000.00	334,163.21	42,154.73
11221	Trails in State Parks	450,000.00	241,938.05	107,250.04
12221	Trails in State Parks	487,548.00	0.00	269,928.54
13191	State Trails Program - Operating	239,000.00	0.00	232,019.80
	Total for the Grant	2,561,723.00	793,121.32	1,283,564.75
	Water for Recreational Purposes			
11194	Water Acquisitions and Leases	360,000.00	0.00	22,539.50
13193	Water Programs	150,000.00	0.00	150,000.00
	Total for the Grant	510,000.00	0.00	172,539.50
	Financial Management			
13195	GOCO Funding Management	162,000.00	0.00	162,000.00
	GRAND TOTAL - Parks Purpose	23,406,545.00	4,609,355.13	13,050,479.48

FY 2013-14 GOCO
Financial Summary

Log	Description	GOCO Grant Award	Prior Year Reimbursement	FY 2013-14 Reimb Request
	Wildlife Purpose			
	Habitat Management			
11150	Land Acquisitions*	1,814,617.00	1,054,227.00	0.00
8729	Wildlife Habitat Protection Program*	27,800,000.00	25,387,130.00	1,944,750.00
13151	Acquire High Priority Habitat - Operations	593,000.00	0.00	593,000.00
13152	Enhance Habitat on Lands and Water	525,000.00	0.00	521,114.87
13150	Acquire High Priority Habitat	4,800,000.00	0.00	0.00
13170	Land Acquisitions*	1,500,000.00	355,034.00	0.00
11153	Wetlands Conservation - Capital	700,000.00	434,652.14	225,797.48
12153	Wetlands Conservation - Capital	700,000.00	192,820.63	191,799.40
13153	Wetlands Conservation - Capital	700,000.00	0.00	94,878.63
13154	GIS Habitat Information	475,000.00	0.00	371,114.99
	Total for the Grant	39,607,617.00	27,423,863.77	3,942,455.37
	Species Protection			
13157	Threated and Endangered Species Recovery	400,000.00	0.00	400,000.00
13156	Native Species Protection	2,690,000.00	0.00	2,690,000.00
13155	Propagation of Aquatic Species at Risk	575,000.00	0.00	575,000.00
	Total for the Grant	3,665,000.00	0.00	3,665,000.00
	Wildlife Education and Environment			
13158	Wildlife Education	554,000.00	0.00	554,000.00
13160	Angler Education	161,000.00	0.00	161,000.00
	Total for the Grant	715,000.00	0.00	715,000.00
	Wildlife Viewing			
10161	Wildlife Viewing - Capital	67,000.00	36,270.61	30,729.00
11161	Wildlife Viewing - Capital	27,000.00	0.00	13,701.55
12161	Wildlife Viewing - Capital	27,000.00	0.00	15,751.96
13161	Wildlife Viewing - Capital	27,000.00	0.00	0.00
13162	Wildlife Viewing - Operating	300,000.00	0.00	235,681.40
	Total for the Grant	448,000.00	36,270.61	295,863.91
	GRAND TOTAL - Wildlife Purpose	44,435,617.00	27,460,134.38	8,618,319.28