

C O L O R A D O P A R K S & W I L D L I F E

Great Outdoors Colorado

FY 2017-2018 Annual Report



Letter from the Director

I'm pleased to submit the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Annual Report to the Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust. GOCO is a vital partner to CPW and makes many of the things we do possible. This report contains information about the many CPW programs and projects that benefitted from GOCO's support in state fiscal year 2017-18.

GOCO funding contributes to nearly every aspect of CPW's mission, from the day-to-day management of state parks and wildlife areas to long-term research that will protect Colorado's native plant and animal species. GOCO funding helps CPW preserve and maintain Colorado's beautiful landscapes for recreation, hunting, angling, and species preservation. In this report you'll see specific examples of the way GOCO benefits Colorado, including:

- Operating support at Colorado's 41 state parks, which hosted more than 15.3 million visitor days in FY 2017-18.
- Support for more than 340,000 hours of volunteer activity at Colorado's wildlife areas and state parks.
- Funding for more than 19 miles of non-motorized trail development and maintenance projects.

The partnership between CPW and GOCO will only become more important as we begin to address challenges in the near- and long-term future. Colorado is a wonderful place to live, attracting visitors and new residents from across the country. Increased population growth will apply increased pressure on the state's wildlife and natural resources. Ongoing GOCO support for CPW's hunter education, resource stewardship, species conservation, and interpretive programs will help educate and train the next generation of natural resource stewards in Colorado. GOCO and CPW may be separate entities, but our shared vision of the future of Colorado's natural resources unites us like no other.

Sincerely,

Bob Broscheid



Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Working Together for Colorado

Colorado is recognized around the country and the world for its beautiful scenery and diverse natural attributes. Outdoor recreation is a cornerstone of the Colorado lifestyle and quality of life, and access to outdoor recreation opportunities has been valued through much of the state's history. Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) is a major funding partner in Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) 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.

In 2015, the GOCO Board adopted a new five-year strategic plan to guide funding priorities through 2020. The plan is based around three key principles:

Protect more urban and rural land for people and wildlife

Connect people to the outdoors

Inspire more kids and families to explore and take care of our great outdoors

This annual report is structured around these ideas. There is significant overlap between the missions of CPW and GOCO, and a wide variety of programs, projects, and activities managed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife are supported with GOCO funding. This annual report highlights the great things that CPW has been able to accomplish in state fiscal year 2017-18 with GOCO's help.

CPW receives almost no general tax support, and GOCO funding is vital to the ongoing mission of CPW and makes many of the things we accomplish possible. At the end of this report you will find financial tables detailing GOCO's support for CPW in FY 2017-18 organized by Constitutional purpose and grant. CPW leveraged this GOCO funding against almost \$170.0 million in other funding to help protect our landscapes, connect Coloradans to the outdoors, and inspire kids and families to get outside.

\$16,608,934

FY 2017-18
TOTAL AWARD FOR STATE PARKS

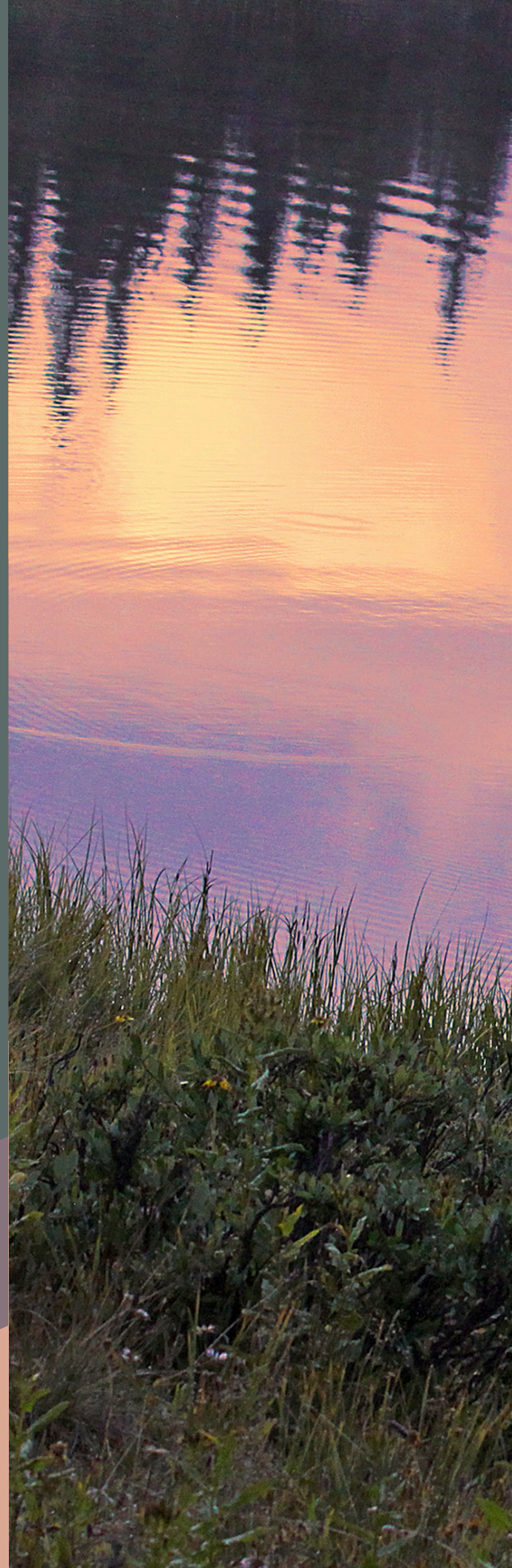
\$15,185,500

FY 2017-18
TOTAL AWARD FOR WILDLIFE

Protect

LAND, WATER, WILDLIFE

Protecting Colorado's most valuable natural resources. Protection of Colorado's resources is the shared mission of Great Outdoors Colorado and Colorado Parks and Wildlife.





SCHENKELZEW



DAWN REEDER/CPW

CPW



LAND AND WATER PROTECTION

CPW is responsible for the acquisition, protection and management of lands, water resources and water rights. These efforts are done in coordination with local, state and federal agencies, non-governmental partners and private landowners.

Colorado's 66 million acres of land includes 11.5 million acres of cropland, which sustains more than 36,000 ranches and farms. Without private landowner support, access to Colorado's abundant wildlife and world-class recreation opportunities would not exist. GOCO funding helps CPW leverage opportunities to protect these resources in perpetuity.

GOCO-SUPPORTED PROJECTS IN FY 2017-18

Highlight:

LOUISIANA PURCHASE RANCH

2,677 ACRES

GOCO funding helped secure a third-party conservation easement and associated public access easement on the Louisiana Purchase Ranch in Moffat County. Located between two large parcels of federal public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the ranch's conservation facilitates migration of both elk and mule deer,

and supports a number of special status species, including Columbian sharp-tail and greater sage-grouse, northern leopard frog, Townsend's big-eared bat, ferruginous hawk, and the juniper titmouse. This 2,677-acre property also provides habitat for black bear and mountain lion.

\$318,775

FY 2017-18
GOCO REIMBURSEMENTS
FOR LAND ACQUISITION

2,677

FY 2017-18
WILDLIFE ACRES PROTECTED

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Colorado's system of state parks and wildlife areas is more than 50 years old and requires continuous maintenance, restoration and upgrading to the standards expected by today's visitors. The CPW Capital Development Program manages construction and

maintenance at more than 1,400 structures and more than 100 dams across the state. GOCO funding supports Capital Development Program operations and is the primary funding sources for many capital projects.

LAKE PUEBLO STATE PARK

\$798,000

Swim Beach Renovation

This project replaced an outdated, unappealing restroom and shower building at the swim beach with a new building that is ADA accessible, brighter, and more functional for families. The building was designed to fit in aesthetically with existing park buildings while providing an updated look. The project included a new roof on an adjacent building and an improved configuration to better serve the needs for guest services and maintenance. New rinse-off stations outside the building and updated landscaping improve functionality and appearance.

STEAMBOAT LAKE STATE PARK

\$542,832

Water Intake Reconstruction

Steamboat is one of the most popular state parks in the Colorado system. The park relies on wells that draw from the lake, but aging infrastructure prevented the wells from functioning properly with low lake levels. Using directional drilling and assisted by divers, CPW engineers reconfigured the water intake system and created new wells that function under low lake conditions.

\$4,464,658

FY 2017-18

GOCO REIMBURSEMENTS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

\$10,497,434

FY 2017-18

TOTAL GOCO FUNDING AWARDED, SUPPORTING 11 CAPITAL PROJECTS



CAT



CPW



CPW

BOYD LAKE WATER TAP

\$542,832

Water Intake Reconstruction

This project upgraded the primary potable water lines at Boyd Lake State Park in Loveland. Aging water infrastructure at the park was based on two-inch pipes. Water demands at the park resulted in low water pressure and water shortages at peak park capacity. This project increased park water taps to three inches to help meet water demands and match city infrastructure.



SPRING CREEK DAM

\$542,832

Water Intake Reconstruction

Spring Creek Dam is a high hazard dam located in Gunnison County, about 20 miles northeast of Almont, at 10,000 feet in elevation. The dam was constructed in 1961 and requires maintenance to extend the life of the structure. CPW completed a Screening Level Risk Analysis for the dam in 2014, and a subsequent outlet investigation revealed several deficiencies with the structure. As part of other maintenance and improvements on the dam structure, in fall 2017 CPW constructed a saddle dam to limit the amount of water in areas where active seepage had been observed.

SPECIES CONSERVATION AND NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM

Colorado boasts some of the most diverse and abundant wildlife populations in North America, including an astonishing 960 wildlife species. Colorado Parks and Wildlife species conservation and wildlife reintroduction

programs help many of the state's most cherished and iconic species prosper today despite emerging habitat and climate challenges.





CANADA LYNX MONITORING

During FY 2017-18, CPW continued implementation of a monitoring program for Canada lynx in southwestern Colorado. Primary methods include use of trail cameras and snow tracking. Partnerships among many branches of CPW as well as U.S. Forest Service staff provide assistance to make this program a success.

LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN TRANSLOCATION

Colorado Parks and Wildlife, in partnership with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism and the United States Forest Service, completed the second year of an ambitious effort to augment the declining lesser prairie-chicken population in the Sand Sagebrush Prairie of southeastern Colorado

and southwestern Kansas. Through a multi-state partnership effort, CPW trapped prairie chickens in an area where the species is doing well in western Kansas and released the birds on leks on the Comanche National Grasslands in Colorado and Cimarron National grasslands in Kansas. Biologists have documented several new small leks as well as relatively high nest initiation and reasonable nest success rates.

BLACK-FOOTED FERRET REINTRODUCTIONS

Colorado is one of eight states involved with the reintroduction of black-footed ferrets to their native range. Reintroduction of ferrets into Colorado has occurred at seven sites. Since 2013, over 370 ferrets have been released on 11,000 acres in Colorado. In 2017-18, CPW and partners continued to focus on plague management at all the release sites.


NORTH AMERICAN BAT MONITORING PROGRAM

In cooperation with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program and the U.S. Geological Survey, Colorado began piloting the North American Bat Monitoring Program protocols in 2014. This program collects acoustic data on native bat species at randomly identified grid cells across the continent. In Colorado, 50 cells have been monitored with over 150,000 calls recorded and 16 bat species identified. This data will provide the best information to date on the baseline occupancy of most bat species in the state, important information in light of the increasing threats to these species from wind energy development and White-nose Syndrome.

THE COLORADO NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM (CNAP)

The Colorado Natural Areas Program (CNAP) was established through state statute over 40 years ago with a mission to identify, evaluate, and support the protection of Colorado's most significant natural features. To date, there are 95 designated state natural areas, representing over 178,000 acres, and supporting the conservation of 126 species of greatest conservation need. A group of 70 dedicated volunteer stewards assists CNAP in monitoring designated natural areas across the state. CNAP continues to be the sole program within state government with an emphasis on rare plant conservation. In the 2017-18 fiscal year, the program and its volunteers conducted monitoring on over 30 species, including vital long-term quantitative monitoring for 6 federally listed plant species.





\$4,465,000

**FY 2017-18
GOCO REIMBURSEMENTS
FOR SPECIES CONSERVATION**

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

Thanks to the continued support of GOCO, the CPW Resource Stewardship Program exists to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance the natural, scenic, scientific and outdoor

recreation values of Colorado's public state park and recreation areas. GOCO funding supports full-time and temporary staff, projects, and program operations.

THE RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM ADDRESSES SIX MAIN TOPIC AREAS:

ONE

The development of Resource Stewardship Plans and resource management standards for each state park

TWO

The development and management of Geographical Information System (GIS) natural and cultural resource data

THREE

Environmental and cultural resource reviews to promote resource conservation during capital projects

FOUR

Invasive species management, revegetation and restoration

FIVE

Forest management

SIX

Volunteer citizen science project management





CLAUSSEN/CPW

CPW

CPW

DURING FY 2017-18, THE RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM UTILIZED GOCO FUNDS TO ACCOMPLISH MANY SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS:

LAKE PUEBLO STATE PARK

In coordination with the Bureau of Reclamation's Resource Management Planning process, a comprehensive trail impact study and management plan was initiated for Lake Pueblo State Park. Intensive natural resource survey projects performed by the Resource Stewardship Program were utilized to build a comprehensive foundation for a trail management plan. Additionally, a tablet computer tool was designed to measure the physical condition of the trails at the park. Lake Pueblo has many significant geological, paleontological, and cultural resources. The park is also the home to 9 globally rare plants that are found only in the Pueblo and Fremont County area, and the park provides habitat for a significant number of state and federally listed wildlife as well as non-listed rare wildlife species identified through Resource Stewardship species survey projects.

BOYD LAKE STATE PARK

A comprehensive Resource Stewardship Plan was also completed for Boyd Lake State Park. Intensive natural resource survey projects were performed by the Program in order to build a comprehensive foundation of information for the resource plan. The park contains valuable wetland habitat occupied by species of conservation interest such as northern leopard frogs, migrating waterfowl, and American white pelicans. The park's reservoir is a major fishing destination and is stocked with walleye, rainbow trout, and large and small mouth bass.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

3	259
STATE PARKS	ACRES

CPW conducts forest management activities to keep parks open to the public and safe. In FY 2017-18, CPW developed a forest management plan at Jackson Lake State Park and conducted large-scale management projects at Golden Gate Canyon (50 acres), Mueller (45 acres), and Sylvan Lake (164 acres). CPW also completed smaller projects at John Martin State Park and Lone Mesa.

LONE MESA

At Lone Mesa, a 300-acre prescribed fire to reduce hazardous fuels and improve wildlife habitat was performed by the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control in October 2017.

VOLUNTEER CITIZEN SCIENCE

Volunteer citizen science is a critical tool for providing consistent real-time natural resource data and monitoring to CPW. Resource Stewardship manages over 200 citizen scientists across the state park system. In the last year, these citizen scientists provided observation and location data on reptiles and amphibians, invertebrates, rare plants, breeding birds, and nesting raptors. In 2018, the program's citizen scientists logged over 7,800 volunteer hours.

Connect

CITIZENS, PARTNERS, LANDS

Connecting all Coloradans to the outdoors. GOCO funding helps CPW manage and maintain 41 state parks and more than 350 state wildlife areas across the state. More than 6,000 volunteers and hundreds of partner organizations help CPW expand programs and activities. GOCO-supported trail projects provide a physical connection to Colorado's natural resources.





STATE PARK OPERATIONS

GOCO helps protect the places that Coloradans enjoy, and also supports the people who work there. GOCO funding helps cover staff and operating costs at Colorado's 41 state parks. GOCO's historic support for basic

state park operations has been invaluable to CPW, and has contributed to the enjoyment of millions of park visitors since the inception of the GOCO program.

15,321,417

FY 2017-18
STATE PARKS VISITATION

\$751,500

FY 2017-18
GOCO REIMBURSEMENTS
FOR PARK OPERATIONS





VOLUNTEERS

Volunteerism is a cost-effective way to help manage Colorado's resources while building stronger connections between CPW and local communities. The CPW Volunteer Program provides direct supervision, training and oversight of volunteers on state parks and wildlife areas statewide.

URAD STATE WILDLIFE AREA TRAIL PROJECTS

Located near Empire off of Jones Pass and Berthoud Pass, Urad Lake State Wildlife Area provides opportunity for fly fishing, camping, hiking and access to U.S. Forest Service trails. Due to a spectacular setting that provides local residents and visitors with top-notch recreational pursuits, Urad State Wildlife Area gets a lot of use. The area around the lake had no established hiking trails, which resulted in several unsustainable user-created social trails that degraded the landscape.

Fifty-seven volunteers from Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado spent a wet weekend on July 21 and 22 at Urad State Wildlife Area to construct a trail around the northern side of the lake to provide sustainable fishing access. These hardy volunteers closed four social trails, constructed 1,000 feet of new trail, installed four rock walls to hold the new trail, and constructed 15 new rock steps. This projects completes a three-year partnership with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado to create this trail. In all, 154 volunteers spent a total of 2,384 hours constructing the trail over three weekend projects during that span.





“

[The volunteers] did an excellent job

and got an impressive amount done in just two days! I was at Urad for an angling clinic the weekend after the project and watched everyone using the trail. They had no problems finding it and everyone was complimenting on how nice it was to safely access the lake. I also didn't see a single person go off trail so that was a plus too!

”

- Joe Walter,
District Wildlife Manager

6,284

FY 2017-18
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

342,464

FY 2017-18
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$8,455,436

FY 2017-18
VOLUNTEER VALUE

TRAILS

GOCO's partnership with the CPW Recreational Trails Program has continued to encourage development of a variety of trails throughout Colorado. This collaboration has continued in 2017-18 with projects on some of our famous fourteen peaks to cities and towns across the state and US Forest Service lands. As part of former Governor John Hickenlooper's vision for more robust and easily accessible outdoor recreation opportunities for Colorado's residents,

the Colorado the Beautiful Initiative was launched in 2018. This initiative represents a statewide effort to grow, enhance, connect, and market statewide outdoor recreation resources as a means to support Colorado's rapidly growing demand for outdoor recreation opportunities. The inaugural CtB grant cycle awarded 10 grants to cities, counties and nongovernmental agencies across the state for trail building and planning projects.



CPW PARTNERS COMPLETED SEVEN GOCO-FUNDED TRAIL PROJECTS IN FY 2017-18:

COLUMBIA TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION

\$200,000

Colorado Forteener Initiative

NEW CASTLE LOVA TRAIL PLAN

\$43,022

Town of New Castle

WRV 2017 TRAIL PROJECTS

\$27,300

Wildlands Restoration Volunteers

CLEAR CREEK GREENWAY PLAN

\$45,000

City of Idaho Springs

NIWOT REC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

\$110,000

Boulder County Parks & Open Space

REPLACE GUNSIGHT BRIDGE PLAN

\$17,850

Crested Butte Land Trust

7

FY 2017-18

GOCO-FUNDED TRAIL
PROJECTS COMPLETED

7.9 miles

FY 2017-18

NEW TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

\$1,139,963

FY 2017-18

GOCO REIMBURSEMENTS
FOR THE TRAILS PROGRAM

11.1 miles

FY 2017-18

TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND
RECONSTRUCTION

Highlight:

WRV 2017 TRAILS PROJECT

Before 2017, Fillius Park of the Denver Mountain Parks system had no formal trail system, and as a result, a web of unsustainable social trails was beginning to form and causing resource damage. In 2017, thanks to funding from GOCO via State Trails, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) hosted 45 volunteers from the TeamWorks program, who worked a total of 405 hours constructing 500 feet of new trail and maintaining an additional 1,000 feet of existing trail. TeamWorks is a summer program that engages diverse young people, including urban, rural, and refugee youth, in stewardship and leadership.

Building on that work, 24 WRV volunteers constructed 1,500 more feet of new trail, maintained 144 feet of trail, and seeded and mulched 2,000 feet of closed road in September 2018. This reduced access to social trails in fragile terrain and connecting in with converted roads created a double loop trail system providing sustainable access to two popular sites in the park. Obliterating and restoring the road to leave only single track trail in the area reduced habitat disturbance and potential for future vehicle trespass.





Highlight:

**NIWOT RECREATIONAL
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

During 2017 and 2018, the Niwot Recreational Improvement Project was constructed using Boulder County Parks and Open Space (BCPOS) staff, Boulder County Youth Corps and private contractors. This project consisted of rerouting a section of the Longmont to Boulder Regional Trail (LOBO), constructing a new section of trail near Niwot High School, improving trail/street crossings at Niwot Road and another at Overbrook Drive and improving the Left Hand Valley Grange Trailhead by expanding the parking lot, constructing a kiosk and new restroom, and adding landscaping.

Inspire

KIDS, FAMILIES, FUTURE STEWARDS

Inspiring the next generation of Coloradans. GOCO-supported programs help CPW provide opportunities to youth and students to learn firsthand about Colorado's natural resources.





OUTREACH, EDUCATION & INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is able to offer a wide variety of programming throughout the year to students, families, park visitors, teachers and volunteers. While the goals of these programs vary, they all work to spread CPW's passion and mission for the incredible parks and wildlife resources of the state.

YAMPA RIVER STATE PARK

In an effort to branch out and spread CPW's message beyond the state park, Yampa River State Park hosted two interpretive programs in the neighboring town of Hayden. Attendance was between 50-100 participants. In October, park staff hosted a "Hike or Treat" event that incorporated volunteers and park staff in hosting 350 participants. To date, this is the biggest event ever hosted at the Yampa River State Park.

HIGHLINE LAKE STATE PARK

Park staff hosted two field trips as part of the SOLE program. These included fishing, guided hikes, outdoor survival education, and a bear game. Highline also hosted two astronomy programs and a large number of Junior Ranger program activities.

CHATFIELD STATE PARK

Chatfield State Park is one of the busiest parks in the state but continues to reach the public on a more intimate level. Chatfield's campfire programs are very popular due to the diversity of topics, including stories with Mountain Man Possum, a Native American dancing presentation, science talk on Green Slime, a musical presentation by the Keytones, and a hosted Endangered Species Day.

JAMES M ROBB STATE PARK

With its location in the Grand Valley crossroads on Colorado's Western Slope, this park is able to handle large gatherings of people including the Mesa County Safety Fair (2,000 visitors), Outdoor Heritage Days (1,500 people) and Pomona and Tope Elementary SOLE family nights (80 students). Besides these larger events, park staff also hosted local school groups with presentations on habitat restoration, archery, fishing, ice safety/first aid and trail construction/rehabilitation.

ANGLER EDUCATION

CPW's angler education and outreach activities reach people across the state with support from GOCO. In FY 2017-18, CPW hosted more than 200 fishing clinics, including more than 12,000 participants. CPW distributed 9,100 free fishing rods to anglers at clinics and fishing locations statewide. These programs help foster partnerships local, state, and federal agencies to promote fishing and angling all across Colorado.

FAMILY ICE FISHING DAY

Ice fishing continues to be a big draw for families in the winter and this event at Lake Avery in the Northwest region is no exception. There were approximately 175-200 people in attendance and included such partners as the ERBM Recreation and Park District in Meeker, which provided equipment; signup table, staff to help families get registered and get raffle tickets for the drawing; and prizes for the drawing at the end of fishing event. The local chapter of the Lions Club had volunteers which provided a lunch for all participants.

OUTDOOR UNDERSTANDING FOR TEACHERS

The Southwest Region hosted four unique, one day OUT (Outdoor Understanding for Teachers) workshops to equip teachers with the background knowledge, curriculum, resources and support to enhance their appreciation for the natural world and promote place-based learning in their classrooms. The workshops this year included: Winter Interactions & Adaptations, Canyon Country, WILD About Insects, WILD About Bears. In total, there were 63 participants in the 4 workshops representing 31 teachers from 12 schools.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS

The Southeast Region hosted three professional development courses for teachers during the summer of 2018. The first was held in the Upper Arkansas Valley. This class, titled “Look What’s Here,” investigated local resources, such as Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area and the Leadville Fish Hatchery, for great field trip sites that encourage kids to be outdoors. The second was “What’s Your Problem Pueblo?” During this class, teachers looked at different local environmental problems and how they are being solved. The third was a class hosted

jointly by the Southeast and Southwest Region Education Coordinators. The class started at the Mt. Shavano Hatchery in Salida, where teachers counted and sorted fish eggs and fish fry and got up close and personal with crawdads. The class then moved on to the San Luis Valley, where teachers learned about bats and hiked to the Orient Mine to watch thousands and thousands of bats fly out of the mine at dusk. This was an experience that not many teachers will ever forget, and many were making plans the next morning to come back with students!





SCHOOLS & OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

The Schools and Outdoor Learning Environments (SOLE) Program is designed to increase youth interest and participation in the outdoors by supporting and enhancing existing environmental education programs in Colorado schools. The program's overall strategy focuses on connecting youth to Colorado's state parks

and other partner sites, creating programs and incentives that encourage the use of school grounds as outdoor classrooms, and facilitating outdoor recreation involving students and their families. GOCO supports the SOLE program through operational support for activities and field trips and funding for CPW staff.

64

FY 2017-18
PARTICIPATING
PARTNERS

123

FY 2017-18
CLASSROOM
PROGRAMS

48

FY 2017-18
PARTICIPATING
SCHOOLS

46

FY 2017-18
FAMILY NATURE
NIGHTS

2,872

FY 2017-18
FAMILY NATURE
NIGHTS PARTICIPANTS

3

FY 2017-18
FAMILY WORKSHOP
PROGRAMS

5

FY 2017-18
SCHOOLS
REPRESENTED AT
TEACHER RETREAT

122

FY 2017-18
FIELD TRIPS

50

FY 2017-18
FAMILY WORKSHOP
PARTICIPANTS

PROGRAM EVALUATION

SOLE program goals for FY 2017-2018 included the following:

Classroom connections

- Experiences allow students to apply classroom learning, which reinforces the content standards, particularly in Colorado history
- SOLE field trips act as reinforcing experiences of classroom learning for students
- Learning is new and exciting
- Standards-based content was reinforced through meaningful hands-on learning experiences

Outdoor connections

- Students are having meaningful experiences in the outdoors
- Field trips provide access to new places

and people

- Field trips provide experiences students and teachers would not otherwise have

Personal connections

- Students share bonding experiences with peers and teachers outside of classroom
- Students enjoy learning
- Experiences are life relevant and allow application in real-world context

Recommendations from the evaluators included:

- A focus on strong communication between teachers, CPW, and Partners
- Pre/post trip activities and supports for teachers and students
- Explicit connections with outdoor experiences





“

My favorite part was when we

were down by the river, because you got to see and smell and feel what it was like there.

”

- 4th grade student

“

Our school had a SOLE Outdoor night with

archery and my husband and daughter loved it so much they were inspired to take up archery as a regular activity. They purchased bows and arrows, practice together regularly, and greatly enjoyed the Archery event at Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Thank you so much!

”

- SOLE Family Night Participant





“

There's this...

overall getting to learn something that's pretty much what it's about.

”

- 4th grade student

“

I felt amazed. I felt like maybe

I could work there one day, 'cause it might be really fun to do something like that.

”

- 4th grade student



YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The CPW Youth Internship Program (YIP) provides training and hands-on experience to youth aged 16-24 interested in pursuing natural resource careers. The YIP program places interns in a variety of positions throughout CPW.

In FY 2017-18, YIP interns assisted CPW program areas including aquatic biology, wildlife biology, fish hatcheries, engineering, GIS, planning as well as assisting in 32 state parks.

83

FY 2017-18
INTERNS

4

FY 2017-18
INTERNS HIRED AS
PERMANENT STAFF





Highlight:

CPW CAREER CAFE AND BROWN BAG LUNCHES

Interns participated in career workshops to improve their resumes. During an online brown bag lunch presentation hosted by a new wildlife officer, interns learned about career pathways to the position of wildlife manager.

Highlight:

CPW CAREER DAY TRAINING EVENT, JUNE 2018

Twelve high school and college-aged youth from Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) joined Mile High Youth Corp students and 19 of our interns for a day of career development as they interviewed CPW staff from across all sections of our agency. Students practiced introductions, networking and interviewing skills while interacting with each other and professional staff members.



COLORADO YOUTH CORPS ASSOCIATION

Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA), a network of locally run Youth Corps, recently completed its 18th season of partnership with CPW. Youth Corps crews made substantial contributions to state parks, wildlife areas and fish hatcheries. Youth Corps crews consist of

8-10 youth ages 16-26 working on various projects over the summer. Youth Corps continues to provide opportunities to engage young people by promoting work and life skills while protecting Colorado's conservation legacy.

6.7

FY 2017-18
MILES OF FENCE
CONSTRUCTED OR IMPROVED

19,000

FY 2017-18
HOURS OF CYCA LABOR

13

FY 2017-18
ACRES OF TAMARISK REMOVED

22.4

FY 2017-18
MILES OF TRAIL
CONSTRUCTED OR MAINTAINED



WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

With help from a Wildlife Viewing grant from GOCO, the CPW Watchable Wildlife program establishes new wildlife viewing and education opportunities (such as the increasingly popular wildlife festivals) and works with partners to develop and improve existing viewing resources. This program continues to identify, develop and help establish wildlife viewing

opportunities on public lands, including CPW properties and state parks; develop and establish wildlife viewing opportunities in cooperation with landowners on private lands; and prepare and distribute informational materials on wildlife viewing techniques and opportunities.



COLORADO BIRDING TRAIL

The Northeast Region portion of the Colorado Birding Trail was finished in November of 2018. The trail is a statewide project also encompassing bird-viewing sites throughout the Northeast Region from the Rocky Mountains to the Eastern Plains and around the Denver Metro Area. The Birding Trail works to connect people to Colorado's outdoors by linking watchable wildlife recreation sites, both public and private, into a network of 180 partner sites and 35 Colorado Parks and Wildlife sites through designated driving routes. The routes are composed of multiple sites and when put together make up a unique trail. Visitors

can follow along the whole trail or choose which sites they would like to visit. While the focus of the Colorado Birding Trail is birds, other watchable wildlife highlighted in both the printed guides and website include amphibians, black-footed ferrets, and mountain goats. Currently, the Birding Trail website logs 50,000 visitors per year and 14,000 Northeast Region printed guides have been made available to the public for free through Colorado Parks and Wildlife and partner sites, connecting countless numbers of residents and visitors to Colorado's natural resources.

LAKE PUEBLO STATE PARK

Hundreds of people came out to view a variety of raptors on display at Lake Pueblo State Park's 22nd annual Pueblo Eagle Days festival in February. This event is sponsored by CPW and many partners, including the Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center of Pueblo, the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society, Black Hills Energy, CSU Pueblo Pursuits, Mountain Park Environmental Center and the Pueblo Zoo. Over two days, the crowds packed the Lake Pueblo Visitor Center auditorium for programs featuring a range of raptors and a performance by the U.S. Air Force falcons as they flew around the lake shore. The event witnesses the release of a rehabilitated raptor back into the wild.

NORTHWEST REGION

Every year, several local elementary schools in Mesa County Valley School District 51 take students on the Grand Mesa to snowshoe and learn about winter ecology, wildlife habitat, and plant and animal winter adaptations. Several hundred students participate in these field trips each year. CPW checks out the snowshoes to local schools. Snowshoes have been purchased with GOCO funds in past years. Each year, a few pairs are repaired and replaced. One local school has received their own grant to purchase additional snowshoes so every student and all adult parent volunteers have a pair to wear on the trip. This is an annual event for many of these schools, allowing some kids to attend multiple years during their elementary school tenure.



Grant Detail FY 2017-18

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

OUTDOOR RECREATION

- 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, 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.
- Protect crucial wildlife habitats through the acquisition of lands, leases or easements and restore critical areas.

The following tables contain information about GOCO reimbursements to CPW in FY 2017-18 organized by the structure outlined in the Colorado Constitution.

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	PRIOR YEAR REIMBURSEMENT (\$)	FY 2017-18 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
STATE PARKS PURPOSE: ESTABLISH AND IMPROVE STATE PARKS AND RECREATION				
13212	Barr Lake Nature Center	858,651	822,129	7,919
15171	Land Acquisitions	350,000	197,725	10,925
15200	Service Center at Staunton State Park	2,123,672	209,316	516,628
15201	Staunton Davis Dams Recreational Improvement	197,060	190,777	1,374
15202	Staunton State Park Phase 2 Development	3,237,669	2,318,358	915,873
15203	Rifle Gap Landscaping and Irrigation Conversion	179,550	179,550	0
15204	Steamboat Bridge Island Shade Shelters	198,450	198,181	0
15205	Yampa River Shade Shelters	296,504	133,092	0
15206	State Forest Vault Toilet Replacements	264,600	0	0
15207	Arkansas Headwaters Ruby Mountain Campground	772,800	576,006	15,489
15208	Yampa River Boat Ramp	212,872	212,872	0
15210	Colorado River SP Shade Shelter Upgrade	422,500	198,501	0
15212	John Martin State Park Fishing Pier Replacement	236,500	157,617	77,093
15213	Mancos State Park Entrance Facility	295,680	0	0
15214	Rifle Gap Water Treatment Plant Upgrade	472,500	109,483	37,381
15215	Steamboat Lake Water Infrastructure Refurbish	261,635	25,113	8,934
15216	Steamboat Lake Water Intake Reconstruction	281,197	162,588	18,549
15218	Boyd Lake State Park - Road Paving	904,659	45,852	810,757
15223	Fuels Mitigation Management Program	300,000	3,241	290,188
16171	Land Acquisitions	700,000	138,171	7,850
16200	John Martin Parking Lot and Road Improvement	725,000	0	0
16201	Mueller State Park Road Improvement	360,000	0	0
16202	Barr Lake State Park ADA Fishing Pier	250,000	0	0
16203	Boyd Lake State Park Water Tap Upgrade	483,000	251,544	3,487
16204	Crawford Clear Fork Campground Renovation	740,630	0	0
16205	Elkhead State Park Campground Development	1,500,000	0	285,758
16206	Arkansas Headwaters Placer Development Phase II	580,254	0	4,745
16207	Lake Pueblo Swim Beach Renovations	790,650	709,986	80,664
16208	Lory State Park Solider Canyon Group Picnic Area	600,000	0	128,191
16209	Cherry Creek Main Lift Station Replacement	351,750	0	9,177
16210	Steamboat Willow Creek Dam Tower Refurbishment	1,152,801	1,152,801	0
16223	Fuels Mitigation Management Program	300,000	8,019	180,816
17171	Land Acquisitions	700,000	0	0
17172	Capital Development Program - Management	603,000	0	603,000
17173	Natural Resources Management Program - Operating	1,092,500	0	1,092,500
17174	Invasive and Noxious Weed Management	400,000	0	311,424
17175	Cheyenne Mountain State Park RM	171,500	0	171,500
17176	Crawford State Park Recreational Management	36,500	0	36,500

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	PRIOR YEAR REIMBURSEMENT (\$)	FY 2017-18 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
STATE PARKS PURPOSE: ESTABLISH AND IMPROVE STATE PARKS AND RECREATION				
17177	Golden Gate Canyon State Park RM	51,500	0	51,500
17178	John Martin Reservoir State Park Rec Mgmt	32,000	0	32,000
17179	Lathrop State Park Recreational Management	36,500	0	36,500
17180	Lone Mesa State Park Recreational Management	22,000	0	22,000
17181	Rifle Gap State Park Recreational Management	14,000	0	14,000
17182	St. Vrain State Park Recreational Management	87,500	0	87,500
17183	State Forest State Park Recreational Management	15,000	0	15,000
17184	Staunton State Park Recreational Management	92,500	0	92,500
17185	Sylvan Lake State Park Recreational Management	135,000	0	135,000
17186	Yampa River State Park Recreational Management	57,500	0	57,500
17195	Steamboat Lake State Park RM	170,000	0	170,000
17200	Sweitzer Swim Beach Redevelopment	353,000	0	0
17201	Lake Pueblo South Marina Paving Renovation	1,100,000	0	0
17202	Lathrop Day Use Improvements	462,000	0	0
17203	Colorado River Shade Shelter - Fruita	134,000	0	98,236
17204	Colorado River Boat Ramp Reconfiguration	198,000	0	0
17205	Staunton Phase 3 Development Design	1,000,000	0	0
17206	Chatfield Camper Services Building	1,363,700	0	52,143
17207	Sylvan Lake Spillway Replacement	4,466,734	0	499,072
17221	Trails in State Parks	500,000	0	210,362
17223	Fuels Mitigation Management Program	300,000	0	36,303
17225	Director's Innovation Fund	50,000	0	34,525
18196	Study of Influence of Rec Activity on Ungulates	100,000	0	0
18211	State Forest SP North Campground Master Plan	400,000	0	0
	Totals this section:	34,545,018	8,000,922	7,270,863

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	PRIOR YEAR REIMBURSEMENT (\$)	FY 2016-17 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
STATE PARKS PURPOSE: PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION				
17187	Public Information Program	296,000	0	296,000
17188	Environmental Education Program	290,000	0	202,472
17189	Volunteer Program	306,000	0	286,472
17190	Youth Programs	1,083,500	0	1,021,545
17226	2017 Outdoor Expo	15,000	1,838	12,609
17227	Emerging Leaders Program	5,000	750	3,800
	Totals this section:	1,995,500	2,588	1,822,898

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	PRIOR YEAR REIMBURSEMENT (\$)	FY 2016-17 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
STATE PARKS PURPOSE: TRAILS AND RIVER GREENWAYS				
14221	Trails in State Parks	500,000	443,919	6,375
14231	Columbia Trail Phase 1	200,000	106,605	93,395
14232	WRV 2016 Stewardship	139,877	99,782	40,095
14233	SLV Stone Quarry	79,476	78,109	0
14237	Rito Seco Park	31,500	30,385	0
14238	Bridgeport Underpass	35,765	33,979	0
14239	Scraggy Trail	96,562	96,433	0
15221	Trails in State Parks	500,000	246,881	162,463
15231	Regional 14er Maintenance	200,000	19,969	105,085
15232	WRV 2017 Trails Projects	27,300	0	10,500
15233	Niwot Trails Improvement Project	110,000	0	0
15234	Cascade Creek Trail	82,864	23,526	7,800
15235	Toll Trail Plan Project	41,058	0	0
15236	New Castle LoVa Trail	43,778	0	43,022
15237	Clear Creek Greenway	45,000	0	45,000
16221	Trails in State Parks	500,000	33,043	219,776
16231	Mt. Columbia Trail Phase 2	130,009	0	4,120
16232	WRV 2018 Trails Projects	136,811	0	0
16233	Magic Meadows Trail	90,800	0	23,100
16234	Buffalo Pass Trail	23,506	0	7,470
16235	Uncompahgre Single-Track Plan	45,000	0	45,000
16236	Replace Gunsight Bridge	17,850	0	17,850
16237	Grand County Master Trails Plan	20,000	0	0
16238	Poudre Nature Trails	186,024	0	0
17191	State Trails Program - Operating	239,000	0	211,561
17228	Feasibility Study Future Trail Development	400,000	0	0
17229	Trail Mapping Application	1,000,000	0	97,351
17231	Mt. Elbert Realignment, Phase 2	250,000	0	0
17232	Salida District Trail Maintenance	80,000	0	0
17233	Kiowa Park Trail	17,564	0	0
17234	LOVA Canyon Creek Plan	45,000	0	0
17235	Waldo Canyon Trail	45,000	0	0
17236	Alma Riverwalk Design	35,000	0	0
17237	Boulder Area Trails Mobile Application	31,500	0	0
17238	Shavano Gateway Cultural Resource Clearance	20,326	0	0
17239	Georgetown Greenway Trail	45,000	0	0
17240	Loop to Gateway Trail	45,000	0	0
17241	North Fruita Desert Trails Master Plan	35,610	0	0
18230	Colorado The Beautiful Trails Grant Program	6,439,724	0	0
Totals this section:		12,011,904	1,212,631	1,139,963

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	PRIOR YEAR REIMBURSEMENT (\$)	FY 2016-17 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
STATE PARKS PURPOSE: WATER FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES				
15194	Water Acquisitions and Leases	360,000	99,620	212,423
16194	Water Acquisitions and Leases	460,000	0	0
17193	Water Program Operations	150,000	0	139,410
	Totals this section:	970,000	99,620	351,833
	Grand total, State Parks Purpose:	49,522,422	9,315,761	10,585,557

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	PRIOR YEAR REIMBURSEMENT (\$)	FY 2016-17 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
WILDLIFE PURPOSE: HABITAT MANAGEMENT				
15150	Acquire High Priority Habitat - Capital	3,592,500	570,977	300,000
15153	Wetlands Conservation - Capital	700,000	465,713	234,287
16150	Acquire High Priority Habitat - Capital	4,800,000	0	0
16153	Wetlands Conservation - Capital	2,833,085	271,560	593,222
17150	Acquire High Priority Habitat - Capital	4,800,000	0	0
17151	Acquire High Priority Habitat - Operations	593,000	0	591,000
17152	Enhance Habitat on Lands and Water	700,000	0	700,000
17153	Wetlands Conservation - Capital	1,000,000	0	70,541
17154	GIS Habitat Information	475,000	0	473,968
17166	Wildlife Habitat Acquisition	256,962	256,962	0
17167	Statewide Dam Maintenance	400,000	0	221,575
17168	Rito Hondo Dam Rehabilitation Phase 1	500,000	0	0
17169	Spring Creek Reservoir Dam Project Phase 1	520,000	0	427,757
18255	Mt. Shavano Div Structure Redev Engineering Study	200,000	0	0
18256	Hatchery Modernization Plan Phase 1	50,000	0	0
	Totals this section:	21,420,547	1,565,212	3,612,350

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	PRIOR YEAR REIMBURSEMENT (\$)	FY 2016-17 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
WILDLIFE PURPOSE: SPECIES PROTECTION				
17155	Propagation of Aquatic Species at Risk	575,000	0	575,000
17156	Native Species Protection	3,390,000	0	3,390,000
17157	Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery	500,000	0	500,000
18257	Study of Influence of Rec Activity on Ungulates	100,000	0	0
	Totals this section:	4,565,000	0	4,465,000

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	PRIOR YEAR REIMBURSEMENT (\$)	FY 2016-17 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
WILDLIFE PURPOSE: WILDLIFE EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENT				
17158	Youth Programs	1,021,317	0	932,027
17159	Education and Volunteer Program	350,183	0	349,622
17160	Angler Education	161,000	0	161,000
17163	Director's Innovation Fund	50,000	4,861	14,937
17164	2017 Outdoor Expo	15,000	0	8,223
17165	Emerging Leaders Program	5,000	750	0
	Totals this section:	1,602,500	5,611	1,465,809

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	PRIOR YEAR REIMBURSEMENT (\$)	FY 2016-17 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
WILDLIFE PURPOSE: WILDLIFE VIEWING				
15161	Wildlife Viewing - Capital	27,000	0	0
16161	Wildlife Viewing - Capital	27,000	0	0
17162	Wildlife Viewing - Program Operations	200,000	0	104,694
	Totals this section:	254,000	0	104,694
	Grand total, Wildlife Purpose:	27,842,047	1,570,823	9,647,853





EXTRA PHOTOS FY 17-18



CPW Mission

The mission of Colorado Parks and Wildlife is to perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state, to provide a quality state parks system, and to provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado's natural resources.

GOCO's Mission

To help preserve, protect, enhance and manage the state's wildlife, park, river, trail and open space heritage.



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