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FACTBOOK

GOCO'S INVESTMENT OF LOTTERY PROCEEDS



2010

Cover Photos:

Lynx

Photo courtesy of the Colorado Division of Wildlife

Girl Fishing at Molas Lake

San Juan Skyway Initiative, Montezuma, San Miguel,
Ouray and San Juan counties

Photo courtesy of Montezuma Land Conservancy

Holyoke Ballpark

Phillips County

Photo courtesy of The Holyoke Enterprise

Marjorie Perry Nature Preserve

Arapahoe County

Photo courtesy of the City of Greenwood Village

The **Great Outdoors Colorado** (GOCO) Trust Fund Board is responsible for keeping citizens, elected officials, and the media informed about how it meets its Constitutional mandate to help “preserve, protect, enhance and manage the state’s wildlife, park, river, trail and open space heritage” with Lottery dollars.

This publication is one of the reporting mechanisms developed to keep you aware of the GOCO Board’s activities. It highlights the questions most frequently asked about Lottery funds, and the Board’s process and authority.

The GOCO Board is interested in your questions, comments, critiques and project ideas. Contact GOCO at 303.863.7522 or at info@goco.org.

HOW LOTTERY PROCEEDS ARE DISTRIBUTED

The distribution of Colorado Lottery proceeds is set forth in Article XXVII of the Colorado Constitution—the Great Outdoors Colorado program—enacted by voters in 1992.





Despite the Amendment’s title, Great Outdoors Colorado receives only a portion of Lottery proceeds. In fact, three distinct and separate outdoor funds are designated in Article XXVII. Only one of these funds is overseen by the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Trust Fund Board, however. Additionally, a cap is placed on the total amount of funding GOCO receives each year; once that cap is reached, all additional proceeds are distributed to the Public School Capital Construction Assistance Fund.

Lottery proceeds are allocated as follows:

- 40% goes to the Conservation Trust Fund, which equaled \$47.8 million in FY 2009. These funds are distributed to local governments, and park and recreation districts on a per capita basis to use for parks, recreation and open space.
- 10% goes to Colorado State Parks—\$11.9 million in FY 2009—for State Park and outdoor recreation projects.
- Up to 50% goes to the GOCO Trust Fund, which is capped at \$35 million in 1992 dollars adjusted for inflation. In FY 2009, GOCO received \$54.3 million in Lottery proceeds.
- In FY 2009, \$5.5 million over the GOCO cap was distributed to the Public School Capital Construction Assistance Fund.

LOTTERY PROCEEDS DISTRIBUTED IN FY2009



-  CONSERVATION TRUST FUND
40% - \$47.8 Million
-  COLORADO STATE PARKS
10% - \$11.9 MILLION
-  GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO
UP TO 50% - \$54.3 MILLION
-  SCHOOL CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION FUND
\$5.5 MILLION

WHAT GOCO FUNDS

The Colorado Constitution requires GOCO to allocate its proceeds substantially equally over time to four areas:

WILDLIFE

“Investments in the wildlife resources of Colorado through the Colorado Division of Wildlife, including the protection and restoration of crucial wildlife habitats, appropriate programs for maintaining Colorado’s diverse wildlife heritage, wildlife watching, and educational programs about wildlife and wildlife environment.”

OUTDOOR RECREATION

“Investments in the outdoor recreation resources of Colorado through the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, including the State Parks system, trails, public information and environmental education resources, and water for recreational facilities.”

OPEN SPACE

“Competitive grants to the Colorado Divisions of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and Wildlife, and to counties, municipalities, or other political subdivisions of the state, or non-profit land conservation organizations, to identify, acquire, and manage open space and natural areas of statewide significance.”

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

“Competitive matching grants to local governments or other entities that are eligible for distributions from the Conservation Trust Fund, to acquire, develop, or manage open lands and parks.”



GOCO'S GRANT PROGRAMS

From its four funding areas and in close consultation with grantees and citizens, GOCO has developed a variety of grant programs:

- Legacy grants
- Local government park and outdoor recreation grants including Mini-grants for small communities
- Open space land conservation grants
- Outdoor recreation investments through Colorado State Parks
- Wildlife investments through the Division of Wildlife
- Trail grants
- Planning grants
- Conservation Excellence grants

APPLYING FOR A GOCO GRANT

Local Parks and Outdoor Recreation & Mini-Grants

Applications available at www.goco.org
Applications Due: March 2, 2010
Grant Awards made by GOCO Board: June 17, 2010

Planning Grants

Applications available by calling 303.863.7522
Applications Due: March 2, 2010
Grant Awards made by GOCO Board: June 17, 2010

Open Space Grants

Applications available at www.goco.org
Applications Due: February 22, 2010
Grant Awards made by GOCO Board: June 17, 2010

Conservation Excellence Grants

Applications available by calling 303.863.7522
Applications Due: March 8, 2010
Grant Awards made by GOCO Board: June 17, 2010

Complete information about GOCO's competitive grant programs and grant cycles is available at www.goco.org.

WHAT GOCO GRANTS & INVESTMENTS ACCOMPLISHED IN FY2009

In Fiscal Year 2009, the Great Outdoors Colorado Board awarded \$38.9 million for 195 projects in 44 counties. The grants awarded provide communities with an opportunity to make smart investments that build Colorado's recreational and economic assets. Projects preserve land including wildlife habitat, provide new and enhanced community outdoor recreation areas, protect species, improve existing facilities at state parks, and expand the state's trail system. GOCO grants awarded in FY 2009 are helping to:

- protect more than 67,000 acres of open space in perpetuity including land along river corridors and in mountain valleys, land for wildlife habitat, agricultural land, and land in the heart of cities.
- create or enhance 58 community parks and outdoor recreation areas including skate parks, ballfields and playgrounds. Fourteen of these grants were to small communities to assist them with projects that cost \$60,000 or less.
- construct, maintain, plan and design trails. GOCO offered a special opportunity for larger trail projects in FY 2009 providing \$3.5 million for seven projects with the largest grant being \$750,000. It also continued its partnership with the State Trails Program providing funding for an additional 16 trail projects.

- support the Colorado Division of Wildlife by funding 13 projects for non-game species and habitat protection, and provide opportunities for Coloradans to watch and learn about the state's outstanding wildlife.
- support Colorado State Parks by funding 78 projects to enhance its facilities, provide quality experience for visitors, expand environmental education opportunities, and as previously mentioned, support the State Trails Program.
- advance eight efforts that help communities produce plans to protect and enhance open space, wildlife habitat and parks.

GOCO continues to keep its administrative expenses low, including its operating expenses, Board expenses and capital investments. Throughout GOCO's 16 fiscal years, these expenses have totaled 3.56% of total revenues—substantially less than interest earned on cash dollars.

HOW THE GOCO BOARD IS ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PUBLIC

The Board takes seriously the enormous responsibility the citizens have given it to allocate these public funds and works hard to be an accountable organization. The Board:

- has adopted bylaws.
- has adopted the State Code of Ethics.
- has adopted the Colorado Open Meetings Law.
- is subject to an annual audit by the State Auditor presented to the Legislative Audit Committee.
- must provide an annual report to the Governor, Colorado General Assembly and Colorado citizens.
- regularly conducts stakeholder meetings with citizens who represent organizations with involvement or expertise in each of GOCO's funding categories to set grant award criteria.
- has conducted five extensive public hearing processes in conjunction with formulating four strategic plans and one rule-making.
- holds one-half of all Board meetings outside the Denver metro area.
- commissioned four statewide surveys to identify citizen priorities for use of Lottery proceeds and to gain a better understanding of Coloradans' preferences for open space, parks, outdoor recreation and wildlife.

- commissioned three surveys of eligible grant recipients to assess the grant process and where additional technical assistance should be provided.
- holds grant writing workshops twice a year throughout the state.

WHAT GOCO CAN'T DO

- The Board does not have the power to regulate. It only makes grants to willing recipients.
- The Board itself does not have the authority to acquire any interest in real property. The Board makes grants to eligible agencies and organizations to acquire interest in real property.
- The Board does not have the power of eminent domain. GOCO dollars cannot be used to acquire real property by condemnations.
- The Board cannot have an effect on Colorado water law. However, it can make grants to purchase water for recreational purposes or for aquatic habitat restoration or enhancement pursuant to Colorado water law.

GOCO BOARD STRUCTURE & MEMBERS

The structure of the 17-member GOCO Board is designed to provide representation to all parts of the state based on population:

- There must be two members from each congressional district.
- No two members from one congressional district can be from the same political party.
- One member of the Board must represent agricultural interests.
- Two members must live west of the Continental Divide.
- The Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and a representative from the Colorado State Parks Board and from the Wildlife Commission are members.

The Board is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate.

Congressional District 1
Peggy Montaño (D), Denver
James Smith (U), Denver

Congressional District 2
Christian Meyer (R), Erie
Matt Sugar (D), Winter Park

Congressional District 3
James Lochhead (D), Glenwood Springs
Karla Shriver (R), Monte Vista

Congressional District 4
State Senator Ken Kester (R), Las Animas
Philip James (U), Fort Collins

Congressional District 5
Heather Carroll (D), Colorado Springs
Kae Rader (U), Colorado Springs

Congressional District 6
Timothy Daly (D), Evergreen
Thomas Swanson (R), Evergreen

Congressional District 7
Norma Anderson (R), Lakewood
James Spaanstra (D), Lakewood

Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Jim Martin

Colorado Wildlife Commission
Robert Streeter

Colorado State Parks Board
James Pribyl

GOCO Executive Director
Lise Aangeenbrug