



CPW DIRECTOR'S **INNOVATION FUND PROGRAM**

The **Director's Innovation Fund**, created collaboratively between Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), is designed to highlight and elevate unique, one-time projects that complement CPW's and GOCO's respective missions.

Requests up to \$25,000 will be considered and reviewed jointly by GOCO and CPW staff. The CPW Director will have final approval before projects are presented to the GOCO Board for funding approval.

Proposed projects must reflect one or more of GOCO's program values as identified in our [2020 strategic plan](#) and outlined later in this document. Although preferred, it is not expected that every project will integrate multiple program values. Projects that demonstrate several values, as well as projects that embody a singular value, can each have meaningful impacts and significant merit.

The Director's Innovation Fund is open to all CPW staff for parks or wildlife purpose projects. The Innovation Fund is intended for creative, one-time projects that are not funded annually through GOCO or other sources. Additionally, funding cannot be substituted or redirected for previously allocated funds. Projects involving trails, restoration, education and other GOCO funded program areas will be held to a higher standard in the review process. Applicants are welcome to discuss projects with GOCO staff at any point during the application period. If you plan to request more than \$25,000, you must discuss your project with GOCO prior to submitting.

ABOUT US: GOCO invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's parks, trails, wildlife, rivers, and open spaces. Our independent board awards competitive grants to local governments and land trusts and makes investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Created by voters in 1992, GOCO has committed more than \$1.4 billion in lottery proceeds to more than 5,600 projects in all 64 counties without any tax dollar support. For more information, please visit www.GOCO.org.



General Guidance and Grant Information

PROJECT SCOPE: Projects aligning with GOCO's values listed below are eligible for funding. Possible projects may involve but are not limited to: stewardship; education; hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation and wildlife activities; community engagement; contracted planning; small construction that has not been submitted through internal CPW processes; and innovative programming or design concepting.

APPLYING: Applications must be submitted to GOCO no later than 5:00 p.m., March 17, 2023. Grants must be submitted via email to GOCO's Parks and Wildlife Program Officer, Adrian Varney, at avarney@goco.org. Grant awards will be made on June 14, 2023. Draft applications may be submitted for pre-review by GOCO until March 1, 2023 (draft applications are not required).

PROGRAM VALUES: Projects should encompass one or more of GOCO's program values as identified in our [2020 strategic plan](#) :

Resource conservation | We value strategic land conservation and resource protection work.

Outdoor stewardship | We support sustainability of and improvements to the state's natural and recreational resources.

Community vitality | We invest in conservation and outdoor recreation efforts that support communities and quality of life.

Equitable access | We partner with communities to break down barriers to the outdoors.

Youth connections | We believe children and their families deserve opportunities to get outside and experience all the benefits of doing so.

FUNDS AVAILABLE: Up to \$150,000 is available to award in the 2023 CPW Director's Innovation Fund. Requests will be accepted up to \$25,000. If funding over \$25,000 is warranted, please reach out GOCO staff to discuss before submittal.

MATCH REQUIREMENTS: The CPW Director's Innovation Fund requires a minimum match of 10% of total project cost. Eligible match can include: staff time; volunteer time; in-kind donations; or other CPW funds. GOCO will not fund more than 90% of the total project cost.

SCORING: Applications will be reviewed and scored jointly by GOCO and CPW staff who will then provide a slate of recommended projects to the CPW Director for preliminary approval. These projects will then be presented for final approval to the GOCO Board in June.



TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION: Funds must be expended within three years of the award month, June 30, 2026. The primary project applicant must provide a grant report including photos when applicable, once the project is finalized, that provides a sufficient and detailed evaluation of the project.

REIMBURSEMENT GRANTS: Like CPW's annual investment dollars from GOCO, awards will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis. GOCO and CPW finance staff will work together to set up appropriate billing codes after awards have been made by the GOCO Board.

ADVICE FOR STRONG APPLICATIONS: The Director's Innovation Fund is a highly competitive process. Qualities and aspects that have historically been successful include, but are not limited to:

- CPW promotion and public education - projects that weave together CPW's broad mission to further educate Colorado residents and visitors about the agency's work. i.e. - CPW Podcast;
- Partnerships – partnerships can take many forms, from monetary or in-kind contributions to volunteer support to inter-agency collaboration. Please consider reaching out to the relevant regional or statewide environmental, hunting or fishing education staff within CPW. i.e. - AHRA Collaborative Ranger Program
- Community Driven – when partners work together with community members in project visioning and design resulting in unheard voices being elevated, outdoor connections are more impactful and communities become more cohesive and inclusive. i.e. – Yampa River State Park Ice Rink;
- Pilot Ideas, Shovel Readiness, or Consultant input for innovative ideas;
- One-time investments or projects with longer-term financial sustainability plans. i.e. - Outdoor Wilderness Lab;
- Statewide implications – projects that are replicable and have the potential to benefit other regions or branches of the agency. Consider including comments from CPW staff from other locations that might also benefit from the success of this project. i.e. – CCSP Shower Payment Modernization and Dark Skies Initiatives;
- Fully fleshed-out budgets convey intentionality, planning, and forethought.

Staff Contacts

Adrian Varney
Parks and Wildlife
Program Officer
303.226.4515
avarney@goco.org

Dan Zimmerer
Parks and Wildlife
Partnership Manager
720.601.5625
dzimmerer@goco.org



CPW DIRECTOR'S INNOVATION FUND
APPLICATION

Checklist

- Project Summary Information form
- Responses to Proposal Narrative prompts (please limit narrative responses to 4 pages)
- Budget*
- Letter of support from Regional or Branch Manager and/or Deputy
- Indication of support (e.g. letters of support from partners, community members, customers, volunteers, etc.) 5 maximum
- Applicants may consider providing the following attachments:
 - Maps
 - Diagrams
 - Planning documents
 - Photos

* Please use the template or form provided on the [Director's Innovation Fund page](#).



Project Summary Information

Project Title:

CPW Branch or Region:

State Park or Wildlife Area (if applicable):

Applicant/Primary Contact Name & Title:

Telephone & Email:

Partner Organization (if applicable):

Partner Name (if applicable):

Amount Requested:

Estimated Total Project Cost:

Estimated Total Match:

Brief Project Description (limit to space provided, below):



Proposal Narrative

Answer the following prompts: 4 pages maximum, 12-point type, 1-inch margins.

PROJECT VISION: Describe the proposed project or program. Why is it important to the region or branch and CPW? Why is this project important to CPW's current and future users? Who is this project/program impacting – non-traditional, park visitors, youth, urban/rural population, staff, wildlife, habitat – and how does it benefit that population? Will this project address any unmet needs? Discuss how the project will be managed and implemented.

PARTNERSHIPS, SUPPORT, AND MATCHING FUNDS: Discuss partnerships – internal and external – established for this project and the contributions of that partnership. Discuss the agency's support for this project. Why was this project or program not funded through annual funding cycles or internal opportunities, like small construction?

BUDGET DESCRIPTION: Provide a detailed budget that accurately reflects the project's anticipated costs. Provide a brief description of each budget line item. The [budget form](#) is attached to this application. Information should be consistent with the answers presented throughout the Proposal Narrative.

By signing below, the applicant certifies all the information presented throughout the application is true and accurate and will provide further information, if necessary, to GOCO upon request.

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____



Budget Form Instructions

Please use the GOCO budget form that accompanies this grant application. Also included in this application is a sample budget form for your reference.

The budget should contain only eligible project costs. Costs that are deemed ineligible may not be covered by GOCO or used as match. Below you will find examples of eligible and ineligible costs. Please keep in mind this list is not all-inclusive. If you have questions about eligibility, please contact Adrian at avarney@goco.org or 303.226.4515.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS: Infrastructure to complete the project; associated amenities and necessary materials for project or program implementation; planning, design, and construction costs.

ELIGIBLE IN-KIND MATCH: Discounts for or donations of any of the above eligible project costs; staff time from the project applicant or volunteer time from partners; use of CPW-owned equipment to construct or complete a project.

INELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS/ IN-KIND MATCH: Funds expended prior to application period; costs associated with real estate transactions; CPW cash originally from GOCO funded program i.e. – SOLE; the Youth Intern Program etc.