

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 2020-2021 Annual Report





# Letter from the Director

I am pleased to submit the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Annual Report for the 2020-21 fiscal year to the Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust. The outdoors and our state's amazing resources continue to be a respite, a focus of health and recreation and an inspiration to Coloradans and all who visit us. The value of GOCO's investments can be seen in the management and conservation of these resources and in our work to educate and inspire those who value Colorado's lands, waters and wildlife. While working to put some of the challenges of 2020 behind us, we found ourselves faced with new goals and new challenges in implementing the important work funded through the GOCO investment proposal.

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 to protect Colorado's native plant and animal species. GOCO funding helps CPW protect and maintain Colorado's beautiful landscapes for recreation, hunting, angling, and species conservation. In this report you will see specific examples of the way GOCO benefits Colorado, including:

- Operating support for Colorado's state parks, which hosted a record 19 million visitor days in FY 2020-21.
- Support for more than 290,000 volunteer hours at Colorado's wildlife areas and state parks.
- Funding for more than 80 miles of non-motorized trail development, maintenance, and planning projects.

With GOCO support, we are funding new Regional Partnership programs to advance efforts to equitably balance the needs for conservation and recreation in our state at a local level. Despite some remaining pandemic restrictions and limitations, we continued important partnerships and programs that expand education and opportunities for young people to envision a career in natural resources, and maintained a strong and dedicated volunteer base. Fishers Peak State Park opened in fall 2020, and currently offers hiker access to three trails and a scenic drive-in picnic area easily accessed from the parking lot. The park master planning process is in full swing, and since the fiscal year closed in June, our 43rd state park has been announced at Sweetwater Lake in Garfield County. The park is expected to open to public access in 2022 and be an iconic mountain destination for outdoor recreation.

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 habitat protection, resource stewardship, species conservation, and interpretive programs will help educate and train the next generation of natural resource stewards in Colorado. GOCO is a vital partner to CPW and makes many of the outdoor recreation and wildlife programs Coloradans count on possible, and we look forward to continued partnership over the coming years. Thank you for your continued support of Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Sincerely,



Dan Prenzl  
Director, Colorado Parks & 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 operating and management activities. GOCO investments also support statewide initiatives in species conservation efforts, habitat protection and enhancement, maintenance and development of trails, and infrastructure projects.

In 2015, the GOCO Board adopted a new five-year strategic plan to guide funding priorities through 2020, which was the basis of the 2020-21 fiscal year investments. The next investment proposal will be based on GOCO's new strategic plan adopted in 2021. The 2015 plan was 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 CPW are supported with GOCO funding. This annual report highlights the great things that CPW has been able to accomplish in state fiscal year 2020-21 with GOCO's help.

CPW receives minimal general tax support, and GOCO funding is vital to the ongoing mission of CPW and makes many of the accomplishments possible. At the end of this report, you will find financial tables detailing GOCO's support for CPW in FY 2020-21 organized by Constitutional purpose and grant. CPW leveraged GOCO funding to help protect our landscapes and native species, connect Coloradans to the outdoors, and inspire kids and families to get outside.

**\$17,624,959**

**FY 2020-21**  
INVESTMENT PLAN TOTAL  
AWARD FOR STATE PARKS

**\$20,189,089**

**FY 2020-21**  
INVESTMENT PLAN 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 GOCO and CPW. GOCO funding helps CPW protect new habitat and landscapes and maintain areas already under CPW's care.





# LAND AND WATER PROTECTION

10,400

FY 2020-21  
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
EASEMENT ACRES ACQUIRED

7,456

FY 2020-21  
WILDLIFE ACCESS  
EASEMENT ACRES  
ACQUIRED

\$ 2,686,744

FY 2020-21  
GOCO REIMBURSEMENTS  
FOR LAND ACQUISITION

In addition to managing Colorado’s wildlife and state park system, CPW is responsible for the acquisition, protection, and management of lands, water resources, and water rights in coordination with private landowners and local, state, federal, and non-governmental partners.

Colorado’s 66 million acres of land includes 11.5 million acres of agricultural lands, which sustains more than 36,000 ranches and farms. Without private landowner support, conservation of Colorado’s abundant wildlife habitat and access to world-class recreation opportunities would be severely limited. GOCO funding helps CPW leverage opportunities to protect these resources in perpetuity.

## GOCO-SUPPORTED PROJECTS IN FY 2020-21

*Highlight:*

### BOREAS PASS RANCH 1,659 ACRES

Through collaboration with GOCO, Colorado Open Lands, and the Boreas Pass Ranch, CPW helped establish a third-party conservation easement on the 1,291-acre ranch in 2021, creating important big game wildlife habitat and ecological connectivity within the South Park area. While Boreas Pass Ranch boasts sweeping views of aspen forests, meadows, and grasslands, the ranch also contains the Holthusen Gulch fen, which provides habitat for globally rare

plant communities and supports trout populations downstream in the Tarryall Creek. Hunters benefit from a public access easement, which provides for premier elk hunting. In addition to protecting the biodiversity of the Boreas Pass Ranch, the conservation easement ensures neighboring protected lands, including CPW’s Cline Ranch State Wildlife Area and the Pike National Forest, are further buffered from habitat fragmentation caused by development.



# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Colorado’s system of state parks and wildlife areas is more than 60 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 115 dams across the state. GOCO funding supports Capital Development program operations and is the primary funding source for many capital projects.

## PARKS LARGE CAPITAL LORY STATE PARK

Soldier Canyon Group Picnic Area Renovations, Phase I And II

\$1,083,000

Lory State Park is a popular park filled with a wide array of trail opportunities and is located just outside of the City of Fort Collins and Horsetooth Reservoir in Larimer County. The park’s rolling hills and scenic views make it a popular place to picnic and spend time with family and friends. The group picnic area, Soldier Canyon, is heavily used for visitor events, including weddings and large family gatherings, and was sorely in need of upgrades. CPW renovated the shade shelters and added amenities requested by the public including electric power, drinking water, space to prepare and warm food, a fire pit, and ADA accessible pathways. There is also a stage to accommodate small concerts and performances. All of these combined features provide a better experience for visitors to enjoy the surrounding scenic beauty.

## STAUNTON STATE PARK

Development, Phase 2B and Historical Structure Stabilization

\$2,164,795

This year, CPW completed two GOCO-funded projects within Staunton State Park. The park opened for day use in 2013, and CPW continues to add more amenities. Located in both Jefferson and Park Counties, the popularity of the park continues to grow, in large part due to its close proximity to the Denver Metropolitan Area. The park boasts montane forests, high grassy meadows and soaring granite cliffs over 10,000 feet in elevation. The first parcel of land was donated to then Colorado State Parks in 1986 by Frances Hornbrook Staunton and subsequent parcels of land were added over the years. Phase 2B worked on internal roads and parking lots in the park to create the new Middle Camp and Historic District Equestrian Parking lots. These lots have added more than 80 additional parking spaces, two vault toilets, and additional trail connections. The Historic Structure Stabilization project was able to address structural and roof stabilization of the Frances Staunton Cabin. This project was a joint effort between CPW, Friends of Staunton State Park, and the Colorado Historical Society. The Staunton Cabin is one of the most recognizable historic cabins at the park, but there are others. CPW will work into the future to further stabilize cabins within the historic district of the park.



\$15,683,903

FY 2020-2021

GOCO REIMBURSEMENTS FOR PARKS AND WILDLIFE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Staunton State Park’s Frances Staunton Cabin restoration.





**Roxborough State Park  
road paving project.**

**\$16,571,220**

**FY 2020-21**

TOTAL GOCO FUNDING AWARDED,  
SUPPORTING 14 STATE PARKS

**\$2,000,000**

**FY 2020-21**

TOTAL GOCO FUNDING AWARDED,  
SUPPORTING NUMEROUS WILDLIFE  
SMALL CAPITAL PROJECTS

©CPW

**ROXBOROUGH STATE PARK**

Road paving project

**\$1,363,000**

Roxborough State Park is one of the most popular day use parks in the state due to its stunning natural beauty, various rock formations, education and wildlife watching opportunities, and hiking trails. It is located within the Denver Metropolitan Area in Douglas County. Visitation continues to grow each year and CPW is making efforts to improve facilities to support increased demand. In 2010, a Management Plan update was completed and the

number one enhancement opportunity identified was to pave the entrance road. The former gravel road was exceeding industry standard thresholds related to paving. It required constant maintenance, was often in poor condition, and frequently garnered complaints from the public. This project improves the visitor's experience and will cut down on expenses related to staff time to complete road maintenance projects.

**WILDLIFE LARGE CAPITAL**

**STALKER LAKE STATE WILDLIFE  
AREA (CHIEF CREEK)**

Dam repairs

**\$690,000**

Stalker Lake is a State Wildlife Area near the Wray Hatchery and the City of Wray in Yuma County. The dam's official name is Chief Creek. The reservoir is an excellent warm water fishery boasting record size largemouth bass and is truly a gem to the local community. The dam has been identified as one of CPW's highest ranked dams in need of repairs due to deterioration, age, and the potential damage that would be caused downstream if it were to fail. During this project, the dam's outlet piping, gate, and upstream slope concrete facing were repaired. While the reservoir was empty, CPW was also able to construct new fishing piers and additional aquatic habitat. All of these upgrades will make the dam safer and the reservoir an even better fishery in the future.

**WILDLIFE HATCHERY  
MODERNIZATION STUDY**

Phase II

**\$300,000**

CPW's hatchery system comprises 19 individual fish units across Colorado that breed, hatch, rear, and stock over 90 million fish per year. Of these 19 units, 15 operate as cold water facilities and many contribute to the vital work on threatened and endangered species recovery. The majority of these facilities are 70 to 100 years old; some are more than 100 years old. Fish hatchery technology and innovations have made many of CPW facilities antiquated and inefficient compared to modern, newly constructed fish rearing facilities. As facilities and the infrastructure become more and more outdated, maintaining them has become even more difficult and costly. When infrastructure components fail, the results can cause catastrophic fish mortalities, sometimes with significant economic loss. This is why CPW made it a goal to modernize one coldwater hatchery by 2025. In Phase II, CPW hired a consultant to provide a comprehensive infrastructure evaluation for the system. The final portion of the study, Phase III, is currently in process and will identify and design the first hatchery to be modernized.



©CPW



# 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. CPW 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.

**Black-footed ferret**



## BROWN-CAPPED ROSY-FINCH

The brown-capped rosy-finch is a small, hardy song bird that resides in high elevation alpine habitats where it nests in steep cliff faces and rocky talus slopes. Its range is predominantly restricted to Colorado, making it an alpine icon for the state. The brown-capped rosy-finch is a Tier 1 species in Colorado’s State Wildlife Action Plan, with climate change identified as the leading factor that could negatively impact the species. CPW collected information on current population status, nest site selection, and habitat use during the breeding season to gain a better understanding of the species in Colorado. The baseline data collected from the survey will help inform future monitoring techniques and identify conservation efforts that could be implemented as environmental changes become more pronounced and human use of the alpine increases.



## BLACK-FOOTED FERRET REINTRODUCTION

In 2013, Colorado began work with private landowners and agency partners to reintroduce the endangered black-footed ferret to Eastern Colorado. As of spring 2021, more than 450 ferrets have been released into six sites in five counties with additional sites in preparation. Outbreaks of sylvatic plague continue to pose the most significant risk to reintroduced ferrets leading CPW to make plague management a high priority at all the current and potential sites. CPW is also working with researchers to identify new methods for monitoring released populations, including the use of cameras and radio tracking.

## BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG MONITORING

Black-tailed prairie dogs provide important habitat for a variety of grassland species, including black-footed ferrets and burrowing owls. CPW monitors this habitat every four to five years using a range-wide protocol developed by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The work starts by analyzing aerial images to identify possible prairie dog colonies, then verifying that a subset of those colonies are truly prairie dogs. The effort in 2020 found a stable number of black-tailed prairie dog acres across the range in Colorado compared to 2016.





Female Canada lynx

## CANADA LYNX

Beginning in 1999 with GOCO funding, CPW initiated a reintroduction of this subalpine species to southwest Colorado. After declaring the reintroduction a success in 2010 based on a self-sustaining population, biologists began monitoring the species using non-invasive techniques so animals were no longer being captured and fitted with radio collars. Trail cameras and snow tracking efforts continue to be used to document occupancy in the region. Results thus far indicate a stable population. Information developed through on-going studies is also an important factor in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service development of the post-delisting monitoring plan for the species.

## EASTERN BLACK RAILS

CPW has documented that eastern black rails do, in fact, breed in the marshes in southeastern Colorado. Although CPW and the birding community have known for years that black rails are present in marshes along the lower Arkansas River drainage, no documentation was available of Colorado breeding in the form of a nest, chicks, or fledglings. Black rails

inhabit dense cattail and bulrush marshes and are often heard, but rarely seen. In the spring of 2020, Ross Wyatt, a biological technician working for CPW Bird Conservation Coordinator Liza Rossi, set up several camera trap arrays to capture the elusive birds on film. The ultimate objective was to document breeding through evidence of chicks or fledglings. The black rails rewarded those efforts, resulting in documentation of breeding through photos of both chicks and fledglings. Analysis of the photos is ongoing and will greatly improve the understanding of the seasonal timing of Colorado breeding, which will then inform habitat management in the marshes.

## GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE

To monitor population trends, staff counted birds on 139 leks across all seven populations in Colorado. CPW estimates a population size of approximately 3,500 birds, which is up 38 percent from last year. CPW continues collaborative projects working to reduce the effects of climate change by restoring and enhancing wet meadow habitats. These projects build resilience of priority brood rearing habitat for young sage-grouse. These projects in Gunnison Basin and three satellite populations, Crawford, Pinon Mesa, and San Miguel, include building small rock structures to increase wet meadow habitat.

## NATIVE BAT MONITORING

Colorado is home to at least 18 species of insectivorous bats, many of which are facing significant threats. To be better informed about



Pinyon jay fledglings

these vital creatures, CPW started monitoring their populations using an occupancy survey effort developed by the USGS called the North American Bat Monitoring Program. This work involves deploying acoustic monitoring equipment at randomized sites throughout the state, and continent, for a week each summer. During that time the detectors record ultrasonic calls made by any bats in the area. The recorded calls can be used to identify which species are active in each grid cell. CPW also continues to monitor for the arrival of White-nose Syndrome, the fungal disease impacting bats throughout North America.

## PINYON JAYS

Pinyon jays are thought to be declining range wide and in Colorado prior to 2019, little was known about their breeding status and habitat use. CPW partnered with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop standardized protocols to locate breeding colonies to document breeding distribution across the two states. CPW also developed methods to locate and revisit nests to evaluate productivity. Breeding

colony surveys conducted from 2019-2022 resulted in 23 breeding areas found, documented 304 active nests, and over 1400 previously active nests. Data collected are being analyzed to assess nests success, threats to nest success, site fidelity to breeding sites, and extent of breeding areas to inform habitat management. CPW continues to work with partners to apply learnings from our surveys to management across the range.





Monarch butterfly larvae

\$5,633,258  
FY 2020-21  
GOCO REIMBURSEMENTS  
FOR SPECIES CONSERVATION

© CPW

COLORADO NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM

The Colorado Natural Areas Program’s (CNAP) mission is to identify, designate, and help protect Colorado’s most significant natural places. There are 95 designated state natural areas across the state that hold or represent Colorado’s most rare and unique plant species, plant communities, insects, geologic features, fossils, and wildlife habitat. CNAP staff and their dedicated group of over 50 volunteer stewards monitor each natural area and collect important biological information. During FY 2020-21, staff and volunteers collectively completed over 70 field visits to state natural areas and documented

over 50 species of greatest conservation need listed in the State Wildlife Action Plan. The program is a key leader in the conservation of the 117 plant species of greatest conservation need, including over ten species listed as federally threatened or endangered. The program has developed numerous outreach materials in the last year including a story map<sup>1</sup> highlighting all 95 designated state natural areas and their outstanding natural features, as well as information about state natural areas that can be visited by the public<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup><https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/CNAP-Info.aspx>  
<sup>2</sup><https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/Visit-a-State-Natural-Area.aspx>

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

Thanks to continued support from 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:

- The development of Resource Stewardship Plans and resource management standards for each state park
- The development and management of GIS natural and cultural resource data
- Environmental and cultural resource reviews to promote resource conservation during capital projects
- Invasive species management, revegetation, and restoration
- Forest management
- Volunteer citizen science project management

During FY 2020-21, CPW’s Resource Stewardship Program utilized GOCO funds to accomplish many significant projects:

FISHERS PEAK STATE PARK

During FY 2020-21, the Resource Stewardship Program continued working with the CPW Master Planning team to bring public input, resource inventory, and research into the development of the new park. The Resource Stewardship Program has been highly involved in the design of Fishers Peak State Park to meet the goals of conservation and provision of recreation opportunities on the park. CPW staff provided natural and cultural resource data, analysis and interpretation of this data, and application of the information in the design of the park. Biological surveys include in-depth data collection on the spatial distribution of avian species on the property, specific breeding locations of raptor species, analysis of the use of forest habitats for wildlife breeding, and spatial distribution of reptiles and amphibians. Additionally, staff is performing cultural resource inventory work and is beginning paleontological surveys, geological surveys, and a geologic hazards assessment, including fault lines, landslide areas, and rock fall areas, for the property. CPW also

launched a partnership with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program to map the habitat of the endangered New Mexico meadow jumping mouse, survey for occupancy for the mouse in drainages where they have not previously been found, survey for the very rare plant Capulin goldenrod, and to perform acoustic surveys for bats.



Nesting Flammulated owl at Fishers Peak State Park.

© CPW



**STEAMBOAT LAKE,  
PEARL LAKE, AND  
GOLDEN GATE CANYON  
STATE PARKS**

CPW staff are continuing to create park management plans. These plans incorporate resource data from resource stewardship plans, visitation information, and park operations to formulate a comprehensive path for the future of these properties that balances the provision of recreation opportunities with the conservation of each parks natural and cultural resources. Each of these parks contain valuable cultural resources. Additionally, Steamboat Lake State Park contains the rare plant Rabbit Ears gilia, nesting greater sandhill cranes, valuable migration corridors, and 96 species of birds were documented in the park. Steamboat Lake has a long history of supporting nesting raptors, including bald eagles, Cooper’s hawk, long-eared owl, and osprey, and has 63 species of butterflies documented within the park. Pearl Lake State Park has valuable willow carr habitat, boreal toad habitat, greater sandhill cranes, and excellent vegetative conditions. Golden Gate Canyon State Park is home to many cliff-nesting raptors, excellent perennially riparian habitats, several fish species, and habitat for the endangered species Preble’s meadow jumping mouse.

**GOLDEN GATE CANYON  
STATE PARK**

The 2020-21 fiscal year marked the second phase of the Golden Gate Canyon/Green Ranch wildlife distribution study. In this phase, wildlife camera traps were deployed and a bird survey was performed. The Green Ranch parcel of this state park has traditionally been managed for local hunting opportunities. Future plans for this parcel will be established as part of the management plan currently under development. This project aims to establish statistically valid wildlife distribution information for the parcel to provide future analysis of how trails may influence wildlife distribution on the property.

**MUELLER STATE PARK**

The Resource Stewardship Program covers many topic areas for resource management at state parks. At Mueller State Park, the program adapted its bird survey and monitoring protocol to investigate how forest management projects effect avian species distribution. Surveys for birds were performed before and after forest management projects to monitor how these projects may influence birds over time.

**KESTREL NEST BOX PILOT  
PROJECT**

Chatfield, Cherry Creek, and St. Vrain State Parks served as the locations to pilot the installation of nest boxes for American kestrels, a small falcon native to Colorado. This species is on the decline across the U.S. This pilot project’s goal is to increase nesting habitat in state parks by providing nest boxes. During this pilot, kestrel nestlings were banded by the Colorado Avian Research Institute.



American Kestrel Nest Box project.  
Banded nestlings at Chatfield State Park.

**RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP  
PLANNING**

The first step in building a Resource Stewardship Plan for a state park is the collection and creation of data specific to each state park property. During the past fiscal year, inventory projects were performed at Fishers Peak, Ridgway, Chatfield, Cherry Creek, Elkhead Reservoir, Golden Gate Canyon, John Martin Reservoir, and Mueller State Parks. These inventories include breeding bird surveys, geologic mapping, paleontology surveys, raptor surveys, reptile and amphibian surveys, vegetation surveys, and vegetation monitoring.

At the new Fishers Peak State Park, species specific surveys were performed to identify breeding habitats for forest and cliff nesting raptors. Special findings included nesting golden eagles, the Colorado rare Mexican whip-poor-will, and nests for secretive forest raptors were discovered. Surveys for reptiles and amphibians were also performed and song meters were deployed to record amphibian calls and songs.

**VOLUNTEER CITIZEN SCIENCE**

Citizen science is a critical tool for providing consistent real-time natural resource data and monitoring for use in park management decisions. The Resource Stewardship Program manages projects across the state park system. In the last year, citizen scientists provided observation and location data on reptiles, amphibians, pollinators and other invertebrates, rare plants, breeding birds, and nesting raptors. In FY 2020-21, the raptor monitoring program expanded to 42 parks and has over 200 participant volunteers. Additionally, the program has expanded the iNaturalist State Park NatureFinder project, which has passed 40,000 observations, 3,600 species, and 3,000 participants. Over 1,400 observations have been made of 685 species at Fishers Peak State Park alone. To address COVID-19 and the difficulties in managing volunteers during this time, the program continued to interact with the public through websites with online tutorials, virtual trainings, and volunteer resources to support these important citizen science projects. The annual raptor monitoring meeting was held virtually with over 100 volunteers in attendance.



COLORADO CONSERVATION  
DATA EXPLORER

The Resource Stewardship Program led agency efforts in collaborating with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program for development of the Colorado Conservation Data Explorer (CODEX). This web-mapping tool will allow users easy access to comprehensive spatial data related to habitats, occurrences of wildlife and rare plants, and other important natural resources. CODEX provides a critical decision support tool in advancing efforts to ensure that future development happens in ways that can maintain Colorado’s rich wildlife and natural heritage. The tool will officially launch in FY 2021-22.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

The program’s forest management efforts responded to changing conditions in the state and successfully coordinated with partners to obtain funding and perform forest management projects in key areas to keep parks open and safe. Forest type mapping occurred at Fishers Peak State Park and forest management plans were initiated at Fishers Peak, Lone Mesa and Ridgway State Parks. Priority forest management projects were implemented on 8 acres at Jackson Lake State Park, 19 acres at Lake Pueblo State Park, 20 acres at Roxborough State Park, 27 acres at Pearl Lake State Park, and 106 acres at Vega State Park. Significant amounts of slash pile burning occurred on Golden Gate Canyon State Park and Lory State Park over the winter. Continuing to invest in these forest management activities helps improve the resilience of state park areas to recover from the effects of wildfires, insects, and diseases and helps reduce the risk of wildfire to communities within the vicinity of many state parks.

The Sylvan Fire in Eagle County started on June 20, 2021, sparked by lightning and burned over 3,700 acres southwest of Sylvan Lake State Park. Firefighters were able to utilize a previous GOCO-funded forest management treatment to anchor two “backfires.” As defined by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, a backfire is a fire set along the inner edge of a fire line to consume the fuel in the path of a wildfire or change the direction of force of the fire’s convection column. This strategy resulted in a low- to moderate-severity burn (see brown and red trees in photo), which was able to assist in preventing severe wildfire impacts to a key part of the park. The treatment area was originally cut in 2010 by the Western Conservation Corps and expanded upon in 2013 through collaboration with the Colorado State Forest Service. Aspen and native grass, and forbs have already begun to colonize the areas burned by the backfire operations.





# Connect:

## CITIZENS, PARTNERS, LANDS

*Connecting all Coloradans to the outdoors. GOCO funding helps CPW manage and maintain 43 state parks and more than 350 state wildlife areas across the state. More than 3,500 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.*

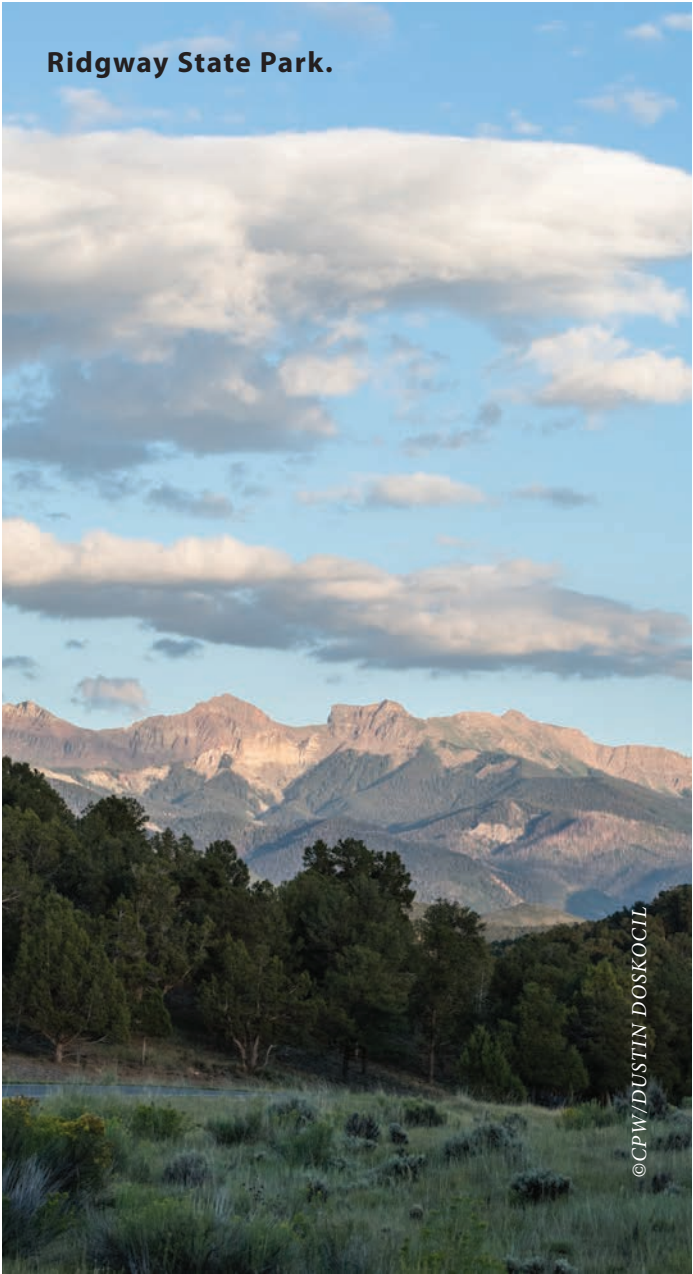




# STATE PARK OPERATIONS

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 all of Colorado’s 43 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.



19,298,911

FY 2020-21  
STATE PARKS VISITATION

\$2,750,000

FY 2020-21  
GOCO REIMBURSEMENT  
FOR PARK OPERATIONS



# VOLUNTEERS

Volunteerism is a cost-effective way to help manage Colorado's natural resources while cultivating stewardship and building stronger connections between CPW and local communities. The CPW Volunteer Program provides recruitment, screening, training, retention, support, and resources for state parks, wildlife areas, hatcheries, educational programs, and administrative offices across the state. Although FY 2020-21 had limitations due to social distancing

and public health requirements, moving some activities to virtual events, volunteers remained committed to CPW. The statewide volunteer program funded 14 volunteer projects at State Wildlife Areas, from habitat improvements to fire mitigation, to building a wheelchair-accessible fishing pier and hunting blind. CPW also launched a new volunteer database that will enhance and expand volunteer engagement through new features.

## Highlight:

### FLOAT-ELLA AT STEAMBOAT LAKE STATE PARK

Steamboat Lake volunteers got creative with how to interact safely with the public in summer 2020. "Float-ella," as staff called it, was a socially distanced floating concert that featured volunteers John Jump and Shawn David Allen. Guests of the park enjoyed the entertainment from shore as John and Shawn floated past playing music. Volunteers also led a painting party in the park.



**291,829**

**FY 2020-21**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS

**140**

**FY 2020-21**  
FTE EQUIVALENT OF VOLUNTEER  
HOURS

**3,554**

**FY 2020-21**  
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

**\$8,845,337**

**FY 2020-21**  
VOLUNTEER VALUE

## FRANTZ LAKE STATE WILDLIFE AREA

In June 2021, GOCO funds were used for a tree planting project on the Frantz Lake State Wildlife Area located near Salida. The "Gunclub" portion of the property was used as a local shooting range until the late 1990's, and was rehabilitated and traded to the Colorado Division of Wildlife in the early 2000's. In 2018, CPW removed invasive Russian olive trees and began replacing them with fruit trees. To date, volunteers have planted approximately 30 fruit trees in the area. All trees are wrapped with protective fencing for beaver and deer protection, staked for support, and mulch was applied to the bases. The trees provide a food source for a variety of wildlife species, such as pollinators, birds, deer, and rodents. They are also adjacent to a public trail and provide a visual and sound barrier from traffic on the adjacent county road. The project allowed for volunteers to engage in a valuable experience that will benefit a connected trail between Salida and the state wildlife area.

## PHOTO CONTEST

In the fall of 2020, CPW ran a photo contest on the volunteer Facebook group. The contest's theme was the season of autumn. The winner was Scott Jewell for his photo of a bull moose in State Forest State Park. The runner-up was Rose DiCenso with her photo of aspens glowing in water's reflection.

**“I recognized an opportunity close to home to study nesting birds and band nestlings. Monitoring bird boxes is fun! It is also exercise and gets people outside into natural areas. [It also] teaches people, especially children, and generates interest in birds and natural ecosystems.”**

—David Elwonger, Volunteer





# TRAILS

GOCO’s continued partnership with the CPW Recreational Trails Program was especially important during FY 2020-21. COVID-19 had a significant impact on grantees as trail crews had to quickly adapt to social distancing requirements and adjust timelines in the middle of projects. GOCO worked quickly with CPW to provide

additional support and approve grant extensions as needed.

In FY 2020-21, the projects funded by GOCO include planning and development, trail maintenance and reroutes and new construction on state and federal lands.

## CPW PARTNERS COMPLETED NINE GOCO FUNDED TRAIL PROJECTS IN FY 2020-21:

### METHODIST MOUNTAIN TRAIL (SALIDA MOUNTAIN TRAILS)

\$269,951  
*Chaffee County*

### LUNCH LOOP CONNECTOR TRAIL (CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION)

\$400,000  
*Mesa County*

### STAGE AND RAIL TRAIL (CHAFFEE COUNTY)

\$205,400  
*Chaffee County*

### PALISADE PLUNGE (MESA COUNTY)

\$527,000  
*Mesa County*

### DIVIDE RANGER DISTRICT TRAIL CREWS (SW CONSERVATION CORPS)

\$45,000  
*Montezuma County*

### OVERLAND TRAIL RECREATION AREA (CITY OF STERLING)

\$96,949  
*Logan County*

### BOGGY DRAW TRAIL EXPANSION (USFS DOLORES RD)

\$35,610  
*Mesa County*

### LA VETA TRAILS MASTER PLAN (LA VETA TRAILS)

\$38,000  
*Huerfano County*

### PIONEER’S REDEFINED MASTER PLAN (MONTROSE WEST RECREATION)

\$45,000  
*Montrose County*



### Highlight:

## PALISADE PLUNGE TRAIL PHASE I- MESA COUNTY

Mesa County and its partners were the recipients of a construction grant for trail work. The Palisade Plunge Trail is a planned effort to expand the recreational opportunities of the already known hiking and mountain bike destination. The community is making the transition away from extractive industries as the primary driver of the area’s economy and trails provide economic benefit by increasing tourism to the area. The newly constructed trail traverses Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Town of Palisade, and City of Grand Junction lands that were previously inaccessible to the public..

Construction began in July 2019, and was completed in September 2020. Phase 1 included 16.7 miles of new trail going from Hwy. 6 up to Lands End Road on the face of the Grand Mesa. This grant utilized conservation corps to construct the trail using picks, shovels, and rock hammers. The crews also constructed retaining walls using rock cut off from the existing areas. This trail will utilize part of the Mesa Top Trail, which connects to the Flowing Park Trail, Deep Creek Trail, and other USFS trails. The end of the trail offers connection opportunities to the city and other amenities and recreational opportunities.





**9**

**FY 2020-21**

**GOCO-FUNDED TRAIL PROJECTS COMPLETE**

**59 MILES**

**FY 2020-21**

**TRAIL MAINTENANCE  
AND RECONSTRUCTION**

©CPW

**LUNCH LOOP CONNECTOR TRAIL- CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION**

This Colorado the Beautiful construction grant funded a new 1.5-mile trail connecting the Colorado Riverfront Trail to the Lunch Loop Connector Trail System in Grand Junction. With the recent completion, outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and abilities will enjoy a safe and almost seamless outdoor linear park that connects Las Colonias, the Audubon Trail, Connected Lakes, downtown Grand Junction, the Lunch Loops and Three Sisters Open Space. The project included the construction of concrete trail, two bridges, and four low water crossings. This project links Grand Valley residents to 75 miles of single track trail systems that previously were accessed via automobile only due to safety concerns along Monument Road. The low

water crossings and culverts were designed to allow small storm events to be carried under the trail, while allowing large flood events to proceed uninhibited over the top of the trail. Features such as 5-inch thick concrete, retaining walls and bridge abutments will provide long lasting all-weather surfaces that can also sustain maintenance and emergency vehicles.

The trail is already experiencing a high rate of utilization from hikers, trail runners and mountain bikers. Amenities include dedicated trailer, vendor and food truck parking, a paved section for handicap access, signage and shelters.



**24 MILES**

**FY 2020-21**

**NEW TRAIL CONSTRUCTION**

**\$2,757,157**

**FY 2020-21**

**GOCO REIMBURSEMENT FOR  
THE TRAILS PROGRAM**

©CPW



# Inspire

KIDS, FAMILIES, FUTURE STEWARDS

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





# OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

With GOCO support, CPW 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.



©CPW/WAYN D. LEWIS

## *Highlight:*

### **ANGLER EDUCATION**

CPW's Angler Education program continued to promote fishing statewide. Although COVID-19 required limitations on events and group size, CPW continued to reach new anglers through clinics, free rod giveaways, contests, and partnerships. Over \$55,000 worth of rods and reels were given away at fishing clinics statewide. The Take a Friend Fishing contest is entering its third year and entry numbers have equaled or surpassed the previous two years, with eight months remaining in the contest. New and reinvigorated partnerships with Lincoln Hills Cares, Latino Outdoors, Outdoor Afro, Outdoor Buddies, Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK), Denver Parks and Recreation, Colorado Treks, and the American Indian Academy of Denver helped reach a more diverse audience and further equity in the outdoors.

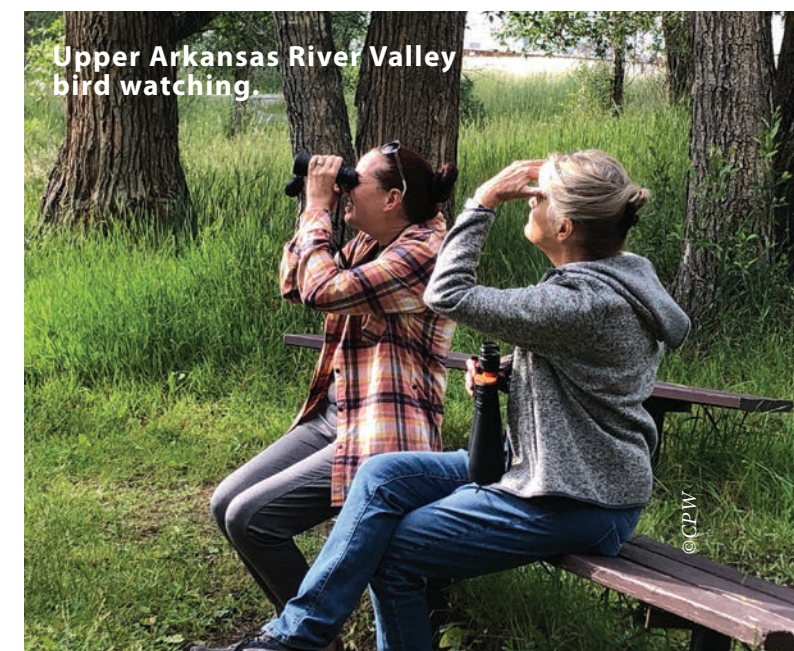
## *Highlight:*

### **TEACHING ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE NATURALLY (T.E.N.)**

The Southeast Region held two T.E.N. trainings for teachers in summer 2021. The Pueblo class, the Power of T.E.N., focused on powerful things in nature including wildlife, conservation, recreation, and energy. Teachers were exposed to several outdoor learning locations including Pueblo Lake State Park, Pueblo Zoo, Nature & Wildlife Discovery Center Mountain Campus, and the first official recreation park in the nation located in Beulah. The second class, Wild About Wings, was held in the Upper Arkansas River Valley with the focus on winged things in natural resources such as drones, raptors, pollinators, birds, and bats. The physics of flight, archery, and fly fishing were also worked into one afternoon. Though classes were smaller this year due to continuing COVID-19 concerns, 30 teachers gained valuable knowledge to take back to their classrooms through these two classes.

In a program called 'Human/Habitat Interactions,' teachers in the Southwest Region explored social and ecological considerations regarding human uses of land that are in conflict with one another and with wildlife habitat needs. Throughout the day, the group was joined by field experts and applied Project WILD lesson plans to evaluate different points of view that may arise regarding land-use issues. This special learning opportunity also included an embracing of 'winter wonder' on the Grand Mesa with a snowshoe nature hike, guided by Dr. Bruce Bauerle.

Southeast CPW staff continue to support the Get Outdoors Leadville Rockies Rock camps by running multiple fishing clinics in July and August and using GOCO fishing poles. Salida staff also held a fishing clinic for students with special needs at Franz Lake State Wildlife Area and handed out GOCO fishing poles.



Upper Arkansas River Valley  
bird watching.

©CPW



**Highlight:**

**CERTIFIED INTERPRETIVE GUIDE TRAINING**

In August 2020, the Statewide Interpretation Program provided a socially-distanced Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) certification training for 11 Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) Urban Rangers. This professional certification teaches the foundational skills for creating meaningful experiences and providing

quality educational programs that connect people to Colorado’s outdoors. The CIG certification is an internationally and nationally recognized accreditation for educational professionals in parks, zoos, aquariums, museums and other non-formal settings.

**Highlight:**

**AGENTS OF DISCOVERY**



There are 13 state parks that offer educational augmented reality experiences through smartphone technology. Customers can download the free Agents of Discovery app from the App and Play stores and test their outdoor knowledge at

Barr Lake, Chatfield, Cherry Creek, Cheyenne Mountain, Crawford, Eleven Mile, Lake Pueblo, Mancos, Ridgway, St. Vrain, Staunton, Steamboat Lake, and Trinidad Lake State Parks. Agents

of Discovery provides place-based, educational “missions” that are self-directed, needing no CPW staff, and that not only support social distancing protocols, but can provide essential resource management information on a broader scale than scheduled programs. Once missions are completed, reward items can be received such as stickers, virtual badges, and more. Staff are currently working on an at-home CPW Mission that can be accessed virtually.

**Highlight:**

**NATIVE EDUCATION EVENT AT LATHROP STATE PARK**

On the evening of July 30th, 2021 Lathrop State Park was honored to host Diné Hataalii (Navajo singer, healer, holder of ancestral knowledge) Ravis Henry, who serves as an Interpretive Ranger and Community Outreach Coordinator for the Canyon de Chelly National Monument, and his partner Lynnelle.

Ravis quietly and reverently stood before the audience at the Amphitheater and for five minutes introduced himself and his ancestral clans in Diné Bizaad (the Navajo language). When finished, he translated for the rapt audience the wealth of historical and ancestral knowledge contained in the telling of clan identity. Ravis then recounted the resiliency of the Dine’ people by describing the 300 mile plus march, known as The Long Walk from northeastern Arizona to Ft. Sumner,

New Mexico, endured by men, women and children in the winter of 1864. He then painted the dramatic scene when four years later in 1868, the Dine’ were allowed to return to their homeland in the Four Corners area and sang a song.

Saturday morning Ravis held a silversmithing workshop for children at the Visitor Center. Ravis provided bands of nickel silver and copper for the children to stamp their own unique designs with silver stamps he brought. Then one by one he filed and hammered their creations into a personalized bracelet all while sharing more history and culture of the Diné. The feedback from campers, visitors and community members was overwhelmingly enthusiastic with requests to schedule a return visit for Ravis and Lynnelle in summer 2022.



Silversmithing workshop for children during the native education event at Lathrop State Park.

©CPW



Making s'mores at OWLoween, an event held at Highline Lake State Park.

©CPW

**Highlight:**

**OWLOWEEN AT HIGHLINE LAKE STATE PARK**

On October 31, 2020 CPW hosted an OWLoween event at Highline Lake State Park. This socially distanced outdoor event was one of the only “Halloween” themed events hosted in the Grand Valley in 2020. The local community members that attended with their children were very excited to have planned fun and educational activities for kids to participate in.

Activities were Halloween themed and included archery, a self-guided owl activity, presentations on bats of the Grand Valley and owls of Highline Lake State Park, and a s'mores station. A local neighbor of the park brought horses, and hosted carriage rides for visitors. It was so fun to see kids in their Halloween costumes, learning about the biological aspects of some “not-so-spooky” critters that make Colorado home. CPW staff and volunteers came together to make this event a huge success.



# SCHOOLS AND OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

The mission of the Schools and Outdoor Learning Environments (SOLE) program is to connect schools with CPW and its network of partners to increase youth and family interest in the outdoors. The program supports 4th grade classrooms by providing funding for field trip activities; developing in-class programs, curriculum support, and professional development for teachers and partners; and facilitating opportunities for students and their families to engage with partner programs and opportunities to recreate outdoors. Although FY

2020-21 looked different than other years, due to schools being virtual and increased public health and social distancing requirements, the SOLE program made an impact statewide. Events included 5 family fun days, 8 school visits to nearby State Parks or Wildlife Areas, 4 family workshops, the SOLE art contest with 90 students participating, and 4 new virtual program options developed and facilitated with schools and families.



“Thank you for such a wonderful workshop/retreat. It has revitalized me and I feel ready to go into the next year!”

“The most valuable part of the workshop was trying the activities as a student and thinking of ways to implement them.”

-Quotes from Teacher Workshop participants

“We absolutely loved this program! We were very impressed with how well it was organized, as well as the clear email communication prior to the event. We drove in [to Denver] from Colorado Springs and it made for a super fun family day outing. This was our first time fishing and we truly appreciated all of the kind and knowledgeable volunteers who were scattered all around the lake to help out and offer tips and tricks. The kids did not want to leave and are already asking when we can go fishing again. It was incredibly sweet and generous of you to provide lunch and we loved all the fun giveaways & treats. It’s like you thought of everything! A BIG THANK YOU to Makenzie and her wonderful Team! What a great day!”

-Quote from a Family Workshop participant



## FAMILY WORKSHOPS

Research shows for students to find lifelong connections with the outdoors, families and caregivers must also be involved. This year, four workshops were provided to SOLE families providing opportunities for fishing, nature hikes, paddle sports, and watershed explorations. 24 families had fun in the outdoors, and met a number of CPW partners including River Watch, Nature’s Educators and Poudre Valley Learning Center.

## FIELD TRIPS / VIRTUAL TRIPS

Eight schools went on a total of 13 in-person field trips during the school year. CPW also provided schools with resources and connections to partner organizations so that they could find virtual field trip options that would better meet the health guidelines they were following as a school district.

## TEACHER WORKSHOPS

One way to increase the connection to the outdoors being made in the classroom is to provide learning opportunities for teachers. Through outdoor explorations, teachers develop new connections for teaching the standards and confidence in getting students outdoors. This year, 7 teachers joined SOLE staff at Castlewood Canyon State Park to learn more about exploring nature through math. They even had a chance to try out rock climbing!

## IN-CLASS PROGRAMS / VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

While there was a decrease in the number of in-class programs CPW could provide to schools, SOLE still reached over 200 students in 10 classes at two schools by moving our in-class program outdoors. Staff also adapted two of these programs, Adaptations and Cookie Mining to an online platform to virtually interact with approximately 880 students in 44 classes across 18 schools.



FAMILY NATURE NIGHTS / FAMILY FUN DAYS

Due to health guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic, SOLE was unable to provide any Family Nature Nights for our schools. To fill this void, the team piloted a new event to not only engage with families and caregivers, but to also build connections with local state parks. These Family Fun Days took place at 4 different state parks or state wildlife areas around the state, and 1

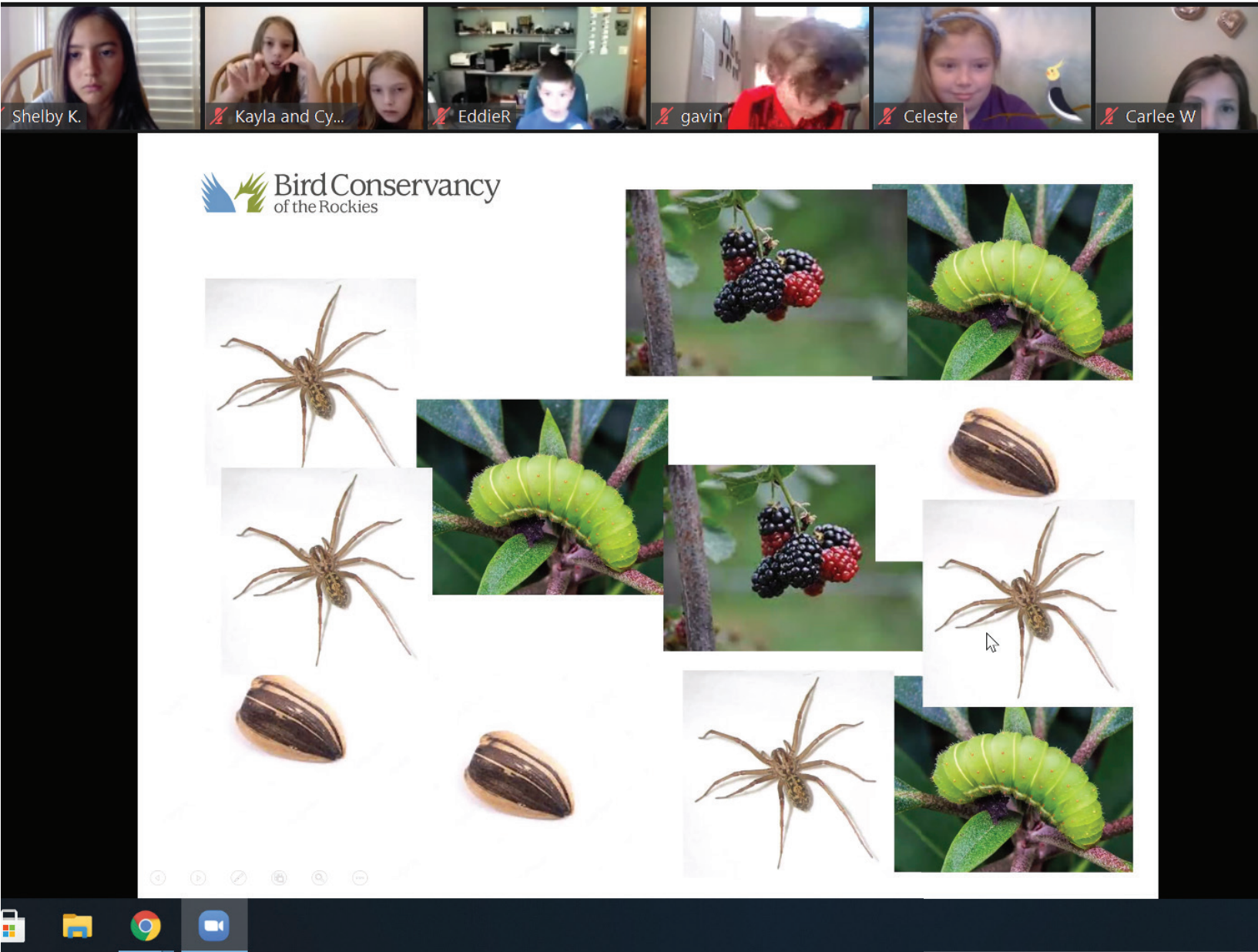
on a field right next to a school. Staff engaged 8 schools at these events. Partners provided interactive activities, and the SOLE program provided park information, introductory outdoor activities, snacks, and outdoor gear essentials to attending families such as wildlife ID pocket guides to help send families on their way to have a great time exploring a state park, for free, on their own.

NEW VIRTUAL RESOURCES

**Virtual Book Club:** Due to the changing health situation, CPW offered this entirely virtual event to gather SOLE families around the state together to discuss a grade-level appropriate book on a topic related to wildlife or natural resources, such as fire ecology, dinosaurs and fossils, nocturnal animals, and bees and pollinators. Families were mailed the book and an interactive activity related to the book was done during the Zoom meeting.

**Colorado Critter Challenge:** Like March Madness, students learned about how adaptations can help a species survive an environmental disturbance through a bracket styled game based on the flooding event that occurred in Eldorado Canyon State Park in 2013. Nine classrooms participated in this virtual activity with close to 180 students playing.

**History Happened + curriculum:** SOLE developed a video series with accompanying teacher guide for students to explore the history of different wildlife species and natural resources in Colorado. Through the video, students learned about human impacts and relevant legislation that regulated its use or conservation, spanning from pre-settlement to today.



52  
FY 2020-21  
PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS IN  
36 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

OVER 1,000  
FY 2020-21  
STUDENTS IN TEN 4TH GRADE  
CLASSROOMS PARTICIPATED  
IN SOLE-LED IN-CLASS  
PROGRAMMING



# YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The purpose of the CPW Youth Internship Program (YIP) is to employ and expose youth to natural resource careers and recruit new and diverse talent into the CPW workforce. YIP internships are designed to engage and mentor youth; provide practical experiences, skills, and opportunities; facilitate networking opportunities with CPW professionals; and provide exposure to various CPW career paths.

The YIP program places interns in a variety of positions throughout CPW. In FY 2020-21, YIP interns assisted CPW program areas including aquatic biology, wildlife biology, fish hatcheries, engineering, GIS, administrative support, education and interpretation, as well as assisting in 35 state parks with law enforcement, visitor services, operations, and interpretation.



“Over the course of the internship I worked alongside office staff, district wildlife managers,wildlife biologists, and property technicians.The exposure and experience I gained by working alongside such varied staff allowed me to learn an immense amount about how this agency works together to manage wildlife for Colorado’s citizens. ”

“I feel every single day the work I was assigned was vital knowledge that would help me along my career path in the future. I thoroughly enjoyed participating in park patrols and using snowmobiles/ohv. Not many other agencies have these opportunities for interns to jump along. ”

Intern Demetria McDowell assisting with a bear relocation effort.





# COLORADO YOUTH CORPS ASSOCIATION

Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA), a network of locally run Youth Corps, recently completed its 21st season of partnership with CPW. Youth Corps crews made substantial contributions to state parks, wildlife areas, and fish hatcheries. Youth Corps crews consist

**Highlight:**

CYCA crews removed 3.7 miles of obsolete fences on the Oak Ridge State Wildlife Area to increase habitat effectiveness and permeability for wildlife and reduce wildlife collision and entanglement hazard. Removed fencing included old, yet mostly standing, woven wire topped by two strands of barbed wire, one of the most lethal and difficult to navigate fence configurations for wildlife. The work focused on productive mixed sagebrush and mountain shrub habitat in an area with some of the most heavily used elk and mule deer winter range in all of Colorado. The project also benefited Columbian sharp-tailed grouse as portions of the project were within 1/2 mile of an active lek.

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

“The crew leader and crew did a good job cutting weeds in rugged riparian areas where spraying would be difficult. This work should reduce the amount of noxious weeds significantly in this critical wildlife habitat for years to come.”

-CPW staff

**14,000 HOURS**  
FY 2020-21  
OF CYCA LABOR

**6.8 MILES**  
FY 2020-21  
OF TRAIL  
CONSTRUCTED,  
MAINTAINED  
OR CLEARED

**2,590**  
FY 2020-21  
INVASIVE  
TREES  
REMOVED

**24.6 MILES**  
FY 2020-21  
OF FENCE  
CONSTRUCTED,  
REPAIRED  
OR REMOVED

**15.1 ACRES**  
FY 2020-21  
OF FIRE  
MITIGATION  
COMPLETED





# WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

The CPW Watchable Wildlife Program establishes new wildlife viewing and education opportunities 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

## JULY 2020, VEGA MOOSE FESTIVAL AT VEGA STATE PARK

This was a small event considering COVID-19 protocols, however CPW received great feedback from the attendees. The weather was not very cooperative that day, requiring a transition from a completely outdoor event to a covered, well-ventilated open shop that protected visitors engaged in moose-related activities from the rain. Visitors learned about moose safety, where to see moose on the Grand Mesa, how CPW manages moose populations, and kids were able to take home pre-packaged “moose antler hat” kits to make at home. The brave participants that ventured outside were able to participate in a scavenger hunt and earned a moose beanie for their efforts.

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.

## MOOSE FEST AT STATE FOREST STATE PARK

CPW also attempted to host the annual State Forest State Park Moose Fest in August 2020 with COVID-19 protocols. However, the Cameron Peak fire closed the highway accessing the Moose Visitor Center so only local campers were able to attend the event. There were a few visitors that learned about moose biology and behavior with Mr. Moose during “Interview with a Moose”. The kids really enjoyed “talking” with the moose and he is great at posing in photos.

## SIGNAGE INSTALLATION AT PARACHUTE POND STATE WILDLIFE AREA

New interpretive and wildlife viewing signage was installed at Parachute Pond State Wildlife Area in July 2020. The existing signage had faded to the point of being unreadable. Three new signs were installed on the property: fish of Parachute Pond on the fishing pier, birds of the area, and riparian habitat. The signs have been well received by visitors and are a welcome update to the property.

# REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND RESTORE



New interpretive and wildlife signage at Parachute Ponds State Wildlife Area.



Moose Fest at State Forest State Park, August 2020.

## COLORADO OUTDOOR REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

CPW and GOCO are collaborating to fund new and existing coalitions to join a statewide initiative working to ensure that Colorado’s land, water, and wildlife thrive while also providing for equitable access to quality outdoor recreation experiences. Funding will support new and existing coalitions that meet criteria under a state-level vision and advance the development of local and regional planning elements to inform a Statewide Conservation and Recreation Plan. The first round of partnerships have been announced and includes seven coalitions across the state.

## RESTORE PROGRAM

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), CPW, the Gates Family Foundation and GOCO worked collaboratively over the past two years to co-create a Colorado-focused habitat restoration program and \$250,000 of GOCO wildlife purpose funds were provided to support the program. RESTORE Colorado funds at-scale habitat restoration and stewardship projects on public and private conservation lands in Colorado that have the greatest benefit for wildlife and local communities.



# Grant Detail FY 2020-21

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 2020-21 organized by the structure outlined in the Colorado Constitution.

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2020-21 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
STATE PARKS PURPOSE: ESTABLISH AND IMPROVE STATE PARKS AND RECREATION				
16204	Crawford State Park- Clear Fork Campground Renovation	740,630	-	-
16206	Arkansas Headwaters - Placer Development Phase II	580,254	559,315	-
16209	Cherry Creek State Park - Main Lift Station Replacement	351,750	280,462	71,288
16223	Fuels Mitigation Management Program	300,000	300,000	-
17171	Land Acquisitions	700,000	17,001	680,608
17200	Swietzer Swim Beach Redevelopment	353,000	307,524	45,368
17201	Lake Pueblo South Marina Paving Renovation	1,100,000	1,100,000	-
17202	Lathrop Day Use Improvements	462,000	306,302	155,699
17203	Colorado River Shade Shelter - Fruita	134,000	98,236	-
17204	Colorado River Boat Ramp Reconfiguration	198,000	195,997	-
17205	Staunton Phase 3 Development Design	1,000,000	983,551	-
17206	Chatfield Camper Services Building	1,363,700	1,363,700	-
17207	Sylvan Lake Spillway Replacement	4,466,734	4,466,734	-
17221	Trails in State Parks	500,000	485,876	2,420
17223	Fuels Mitigation Management Program	300,000	282,254	17,746
17225	Director’s Innovation Fund	50,000	41,876	-
18171	Land Acquisition and Leases	700,000	-	198,309
18196	Study of Influence of Rec Activity on Ungulates	160,000	160,000	-
18200	Eldorado Canyon State Park Entrance Station Relo	650,000	134,599	31,663
18202	Highline State Park Infrastructure Improvements	870,000	41,232	-
18203	Lake Pueblo State Park Road Paving Phase 4	1,130,000	438,702	-
18204	Ridgway State Park Marina Phase 1	220,000	94,933	117,434
18205	Rifle Gap State Park Lakeview Campground Shade Shelters	343,000	119,500	-
18208	Staunton State Park Historic Structure Stabilization- Phase 3	70,000	800	50,769
18209	Staunton State Park Elk Falls Dam Report and Design	450,000	-	66,868
18210	Sweitzer State Park Water System Replacement	200,000	-	29,895
18211	State Forest SP North Campground Master Plan	400,000	198,831	110,747
18223	Fuels Mitigation Management Program	300,000	-	205,028
18225	Directors Innovation Fund	75,000	64,165	2,608
18240	Envision Recreation in Balance	99,367	20,928	63,196
19171	Land Acquisition and Leases	700,000	-	-
19172	Capital Development Program	1,020,000	1,020,000	-
19173	Natural Resource Management Program	1,092,500	1,092,500	-
19174	Invasive and Noxious Weed Management Program	400,000	297,158	-
19175	Recreation Management on State Parks	2,200,000	2,200,000	-
19200	Park Improvements	8,352,917	2,935,546	2,359,770
19201	Park Improvements 2	3,942,000	528,115	754,451



GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2020-21 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
STATE PARKS PURPOSE: ESTABLISH AND IMPROVE STATE PARKS AND RECREATION				
19223	Fuels Mitigation Management Program	300,000	-	13,930
19225	Director’s Innovation Fund	76,517	51,167	6,765
20171	Land Acquisition and Leases	700,000	-	-
20172	Capital Development Program	1,020,000	-	1,016,813
20173	Natural Resource Management Program	1,092,500	-	1,092,500
20174	Invasive and Noxious Weed Management Program	400,000	-	283,789
20175	Recreation Management on State Parks	2,750,000	-	2,750,000
20199	Fishers Peak	9,750,000	9,750,000	-
20200	Park Improvements	6,991,024	-	1,302,209
20223	Fuels Mitigation Management Program	300,000	-	4,999
20225	Director’s Innovation Fund	75,000	-	30,493
	Totals this section:	59,429,893	29,937,002	11,465,366

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2020-21 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
STATE PARKS PURPOSE: PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION				
17226	2017 Outdoor Expo	15,000	14,961	-
19187	Public Information Program	296,000	296,000	-
19188	Environmental Education and Youth Programs	1,373,500	1,222,667	-
19189	Volunteer Program	306,000	206,714	-
20187	Public Information Program	296,000	-	296,000
20188	Environmental Education and Youth Programs	1,373,500	-	1,098,143
20189	Volunteer Program	306,000	-	222,563
	Totals this section:	3,966,000	1,740,342	1,616,706

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2020-21 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
STATE PARKS PURPOSE: TRAILS AND RIVER GREENWAYS				
16231	Mt. Columbia Trail, Phase 2 6/30/20	130,009	130,009	-
16232	2018 Trails Projects 6/30/20	136,811	136,811	-
16233	Magic Meadows Trail 6/30/20	90,800	63,327	-
16238	Poudre Nature Trails 6/30/20	186,024	186,024	-
17229	Trail Mapping Application	1,000,000	630,961	180,491
17231	Mt. Elbert Realignment, Phase II	250,000	918	249,048

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2020-21 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
STATE PARKS PURPOSE: TRAILS AND RIVER GREENWAYS				
17232	Salida District Trail Maintenance	80,000	79,901	-
17233	Kiowa Park Trail	17,564	17,564	-
17234	Lower Valley-Canyon Creek Plan	45,000	-	45,000
17235	Waldo Canyon Trail	45,000	45,000	-
17236	Alma Riverwalk Design	35,000	35,000	-
17237	Boulder Area Trails Mobile Application	31,500	31,500	-
17239	Georgetown Greenway Trail	45,000	44,954	-
17240	Loop to Gateway Trail	45,000	2,936	-
18192	Trails Grant Program	1,000,000	471,005	263,612
18221	Trails in State Parks	500,000	363,186	74,730
18230	Colorado The Beautiful Trails Grant Program	2,988,006	21,033	195,585
18231	Lunch Loop Connector Trail	400,000	400,000	-
18232	Lower Valley-Canyon Creek Trail	500,000	-	52,934
18233	Legacy Loop-Rock Island Trail	500,000	-	-
18234	Great Western Trail	250,000	-	197,500
18235	Methodist Mountain Trail	269,951	167,774	102,177
18236	Fremont Pass Rec Pathway	600,000	-	450,000
18237	Peaks to Plains Trail	500,000	-	-
18238	Stage and Rail Trail	205,400	193,941	11,415
18239	Palisade Plunge Phase 1	527,000	496,662	25,841
19191	State Trails Program - Operating	370,935	370,935	-
19192	Trails Grant Program - Capital	1,000,000	10,261	290,553
19221	Trails in State Parks	500,000	61,146	66,950
20191	State Trails Program	370,935	-	370,935
20192	Trails Grants Program	1,000,000	-	49,886
20221	Trails in State Parks	500,000	-	130,502
	Totals this section:	14,119,935	3,960,848	2,757,157

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2020-21 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
STATE PARKS PURPOSE: WATER FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES				
19193	Water Program	150,000	150,000	-
19194	Water Acquisitions and Leases	300,000	199,936	50,159
20193	Water Program	150,000	-	100,201
20194	Water Acquisitions and Leases	300,000	-	112,146
	Totals this section:	900,000	349,936	262,505
	Grand total, State Parks Purpose:	78,415,828	35,988,128	16,101,734



GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2020-21 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
WILDLIFE PURPOSE: HABITAT MANAGEMENT				
16153	Wetlands Conservation - Capital	2,833,085	2,477,969	333,934
17150	Acquire High Priority Habitat - Capital *	4,800,000	4,005,522	1,114,478
17153	Wetlands Conservation - Capital	1,000,000	925,510	62,340
17167	Statewide Dam Maintenance	400,000	387,976	-
17168	Rito Hondo Dam Rehabilitation Phase 1	500,000	499,967	-
17169	Spring Creek Reservoir Dam Project Phase 1	520,000	427,757	-
18153	Wetlands Conservation	1,500,000	87,923	1,041,631
18166	Alberta Park Dam Phase 2	500,000	177,443	261,116
18167	Statewide Dam Maintenance	400,000	82,877	155,351
18168	Rito Hondo Dam Rehab Phase 2	300,000	300,000	-
18169	Chief Creek Dam Repairs	500,000	93,135	406,865
18250	Haviland Lake Dam Rehab	500,000	500,000	-
18251	Tarryall SWA Dam Study and Design	400,000	54,275	130,660
18252	Wildlife Small Capital	2,000,000	1,410,968	480,684
18253	Habitat Improvement	800,000	255,740	178,461
18254	Wildlife Crossings	1,000,000	125,589	185,869
18255	Mt. Shavano Structure Engineering Study	200,000	186,686	13,314
18256	Hatchery Modernization Plan Phase 1	50,000	49,973	-
19150	Acquire High Priority Habitat - Capital	850,000	-	823,000
19151	Acquire High Priority Habitat - Operations	693,000	693,000	-
19152	Enhance Habitat on Lands and Waters	1,000,000	1,000,000	-
19153	Wetlands Conservation	1,500,000	78,436	412,033
19154	GIS Habitat Information	475,000	448,369	-
19167	Statewide Dam Maintenance	600,000	42,093	556,461
19169	Spring Creek Dam Phase 2	1,070,000	1,821	77,359
19252	Wildlife Small Capital	2,000,000	2,000,000	-
19253	Aquatic Habitat Improvement	2,000,000	-	231,517
19258	Equipment for Habitat Protection and Restoration	1,000,000	944,612	55,388
19259	Fort Collins Service Center	2,500,000	15,782	88,805
19260	Fuels Mitigation	1,000,000	-	-
19261	Hatchery Study Phase 2	300,000	14,084	285,916
20150	Acquire High Priority Habitat - Capital	3,848,589	-	190,349
20151	Acquire High Priority Habitat - Operations	693,000	-	568,399
20152	Enhance Habitat on Lands and Waters	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
20153	Wetlands Conservation	1,100,000	-	308,240
20154	GIS Habitat Information	475,000	-	435,265
20250	Protection and Restoration of Wildlife Habitat	3,600,000	1,736	1,197,012
20252	Wildlife Small Capital	2,000,000	-	1,947,832
	Totals this section:	45,907,674	17,289,243	12,542,281

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2020-21 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
WILDLIFE PURPOSE: SPECIES PROTECTION				
18257	Study of Influence of Rec Activity on Ungulates	160,000	160,000	-
19155	Propagation of Aquatic Species at Risk	575,000	562,873	-
19156	Native Species Protection	4,480,000	4,480,000	-
19157	Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery	610,000	610,000	-
20155	Propagation of Aquatic Species at Risk	575,000	-	543,258
20156	Native Species Protection	4,480,000	-	4,480,000
20157	Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery	610,000	-	610,000
	Totals this section:	11,490,000	5,812,873	5,633,258

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2020-21 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
WILDLIFE PURPOSE: WILDLIFE EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENT				
17163	Director’s Innovation Fund	50,000	39,344	365
17164	2017 Outdoor Expo	15,000	15,000	-
18163	Director’s Innovation Fund	75,000	58,588	4,769
19158	Youth Programs	1,021,317	1,021,317	-
19159	Education and Volunteer Programs	400,183	399,668	-
19160	Angler Education	161,000	161,000	-
19163	Wildlife Director’s Innovation Fund	73,483	48,271	20,000
19262	Internal Shooting Range Program	373,000	109,176	82,158
20158	Youth Programs	1,021,317	-	874,575
20159	Education and Volunteer Programs	400,183	-	364,976
20160	Angler Education	161,000	-	135,846
20163	Wildlife Director’s Innovation Fund	75,000	-	37,864
	Totals this section:	3,826,483	1,852,364	1,520,552

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2020-21 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
WILDLIFE PURPOSE: WILDLIFE VIEWING				
19162	Wildlife Viewing	150,000	99,515	-
20162	Wildlife Viewing	150,000	-	84,283
	Totals this section:	300,000	99,515	84,283
	Grand total, Wildlife Purpose:	61,524,157	25,053,995	19,780,373



GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2020-21 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND RESTORE				
21049	Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships (comp)	320,000.00		-
21249	Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiatives	160,000.00		-
21298	RESTORE Program	250,000.00		-
21299	Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiatives	160,000.00		-
Totals this section:		890,000		-





# 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.



6060 Broadway  
Denver, Co 80216  
[cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us)