



THE STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST
FUND BOARD MEETING – BURLINGTON, COLORADO
DECEMBER 10, 2019

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A meeting of The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund convened at 8:41 am on December 10, 2019 in the Heritage Hall of the Burlington Old Town Museum; 420 S. 14th St., Burlington, CO 80807:

Board Present In person: David Cockrell, Warren Dean, Pamela Denahy, Karma Giulianelli, Hollie Velasquez Horvath (Chair), Leticia Martinez, Turk Montepare, Jody Rogers (Secretary), Mo Siegel (Vice-Chair), Jahi Simbai, Linda Strand, Doug Vilsack (Deputy for Gibbs)
Via Zoom: Carrie Besnette Hauser, Mina Liebert

Board Absent Charles Garcia (Treasurer), Dan Gibbs, Leticia Martinez, Julie Thibodeau

Staff Present Tess Barton, Courtney Bennett, Matt Brady, Chris Castilian, Alex Castino, Andrea Conrad, Rosemary Dempsey, Lauren Lecy, Erika Meyer, Jackie Miller, Victoria Nava-Watson, Emily Orbanek, Josh Tenneson, Adrian Varney, Chris Yuan-Farrell

Staff Absent Eric Alexander, Madison Brannigan, Dylan Lewan

Public Present Brett Ackerman, Colorado Parks and Wildlife; David Blach, High Plains Event Center; Betsy Blecha, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commissioner; Chris Graff, Kit Carson County; Tom Hardy, Jeffco Open Space; James Keehne, City of Burlington City Administrator; Dan Prenzlou, Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Matt Robbins; Jeffco Open Space; Just Rutter, Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Jay Tutchton, Southern Plains Land Trust; Doug Vilsack; Department of Natural Resources; Ken Viken

Welcome and Introductions Mr. James Keehne, with the City of Burlington, welcomed the GOCO Board to Burlington for the meeting.

Board Member Updates Board Members provided updates on activities since the last board meeting.

Approval of the September 2019 Minutes *Mr. Siegel moved to approve the minutes from the September 2019 board meeting; Mr. Cockrell seconded. **Motion Carried Unanimously (14-0).** Mr. Garcia, Mr. Gibbs, Ms. Martinez, and Dr. Besnette Hauser were not present for the vote.*

Highlight Reel of Closed Projects Mr. Brady presented a highlight reel of local projects.

Fisher's Peak / Crazy French Ranch Resolution 2019-25 *Ms. Denahy moved to approve Resolution 2019-25 approving Outdoor Recreation Funding for Fisher's Peak up to \$9.75 million for use by CPW to acquire fee title ownership of property. Ms. Strand seconded. **Motion Carried Unanimously (14-0).** Mr. Garcia, Mr. Gibbs, Ms. Martinez, and Dr. Besnette Hauser were not present for the vote. (See Attachment 1).*

CPW Update Colorado Parks and Wildlife Director Dan Prenzlou thanked the GOCO Board for their approval of the additional \$9.75 million in funding for the Fisher's Peak property fee title acquisition, provided an overview of recent CPW activities, and discussed the June 2020 joint meeting between the CPW Commission and GOCO board.



Update to the Board Policies

*Mr. Brinkley moved to approve Resolution 2019-27 adopting the amendments to the GOCO Board Policies & Procedures as reviewed and presented by staff. Mr. Siegel seconded. **Motion Carried Unanimously (14-0).** Mr. Garcia, Mr. Gibbs, Ms. Liebert, and Ms. Martinez were not present for the vote. (See Attachment 2).*

Financial Update

Ms. Conrad presented the financial update.

Panel Discussion: Balancing Conservation & Recreation

Brett Ackerman (CPW), Tom Hoby (Jeffco Open Space), and Rebecca Jewett (Palmer Land Trust) spoke via a panel discussion on how to assess the benefits and challenges of allowing public access. Additionally, they offered insight on how to think about and define public access. Following brief opening statements, the board and panel participated in discussion centered on how to compare and assess, in a single grant cycle, land protection projects that include “boots on the ground” legal public access and projects lacking legal public access.

GenWild Campaign Results & FY21 Vision

Ms. Dempsey and the Suple Advertising (Suple) team provided an update on Generation Wild, the communications program that GOCO Board and staff have developed with partner Suple Advertising (Suple) for the past three years. The team shared additional third-phase results, discussed program vision (for 2020-2021), and recommend an FY 21 budget.

FY21 Generation Wild Budget

*Mr. Montepare moved the approval of the FY21 Generation Wild budget and recommended by staff; Ms. Giulianeli seconded. **Motion Carried Unanimously (13-0).** Mr. Garcia, Mr. Gibbs, Dr. Besnette Hauser, Ms. Liebert, and Ms. Martinez were not present for the vote.*

Strategic Plan Update

Staff presented a comprehensive update to the 2020 Strategic Planning Process, include a review of previous strategic planning processes, an in-depth review of staff’s work on current strategic discoveries around the 3 defined imperatives, and a timeline overview for the next few months of the strategic planning process.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Strand presented the recommended projects for approval included on the consent agenda. (See Attachment 3).

*Mr. Cockrell moved the approval of the Consent Agenda; Mr. Simbai seconded. **Motion Carried Unanimously (13-0).** Mr. Garcia, Mr. Gibbs, Dr. Besnette Hauser, Ms. Liebert, and Ms. Martinez were not present for the vote.*

Grantee Recognition

Members of the public who were awarded grants with the passage of the consent agenda spoke to the board about the impact of the awards.

The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund meeting adjourned at 4:34 pm on December 10, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

DocuSigned by:
Jody Rogers
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Jody Rogers, Board Secretary

**The State Board of the
Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund
Resolution 2019-25
December 10, 2019**

A Resolution Awarding Outdoor Recreation Funding for Fishers Peak

This Resolution is made in view of the following facts:

1. On June 14, 2018, the GOCO Board awarded \$7.52 million of Open Space funds to The Trust for Public Land (“TPL”), in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (“TNC”), for the acquisition of the Fishers Peak property (“Property”);
2. On September 12, 2019, Governor Polis signed an Executive Order to establish the Property as Colorado’s next state park;
3. On November 15, 2019, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (“CPW”) Commission approved the fee title acquisition of the Property by CPW from TPL and TNC;
4. On November 16, 2018, the CPW Commission voted to approve \$7 million in Habitat Stamp funds for the acquisition of the Property; and
5. CPW requests up to \$9.75 million of Outdoor Recreation purpose funding to complete the acquisition of the Property.

Accordingly, the board RESOLVES to:

1. Approve up to \$9.75 million of Outdoor Recreation purpose funds for use by CPW to acquire fee title ownership of the Property;
2. Continue to support CPW in the planning, development, and ongoing management of Colorado’s next state park at the Property;
3. Authorize and direct staff to take the following actions:
 - a. Provide the Joint Budget Committee with a copy of the proposed transfer of funds to CPW for the Committee’s review per standard operating procedure;
 - b. Administer the investment according to the conditions of the Memorandum of Agreement between GOCO and CPW dated December 13, 2018; and
 - c. Reimburse CPW for expenditures incurred for the investment approved by the GOCO Board;

4. Empower the GOCO Executive Director to make minor adjustments and additions in the funding awards, in consultation with the CPW Director.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund on December 10, 2019.

DocuSigned by:

Jody Rogers

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Jody Rogers, Board Secretary

**The State Board of the
Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund
Resolution 2019-27
December 10, 2019**

**A Resolution Regarding Amendments to the Policies & Procedures
of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund**

This Resolution is made in view of the following facts:

1. Article XXVII, Section 6(2)(b) grants the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund (the Board) the power “To promulgate rules and regulations as are necessary or expedient for the conduct of its affairs[...].”
2. Via Resolution 2016-22, the Board resolved to: “Adopt all Policies & Procedures of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund,” as reviewed at its meeting on October 7, 2016, as a comprehensive statement of its policies and related procedural documents referenced therein, with regards to the following categories of information:
 - a. Personnel and office administration;
 - b. Finance and accounting;
 - c. Competitive grant programs;
 - d. Colorado Parks and Wildlife.”
3. As a result of the 2017 *Investments in Colorado’s Great Outdoors* performance audit conducted by the Office of the State Auditor, the Board agreed to develop and adopt modifications to its policies or procedures related to the following recommendations (among others):
 - A. “Specify how the GOCO Board and its staff should determine when it is appropriate to categorize funding to the four purposes when the grant recipient is not specifically listed in the Constitution under the applicable purpose.”
 - B. “Clearly define acceptable uses of grant funds and how specific uses will be categorized under each funding purpose.”
 - C. “Establish guidelines for the categorization of its discretionary spending authorized by Article XXVII, Section 5(1)(b) of the Colorado Constitution.”
4. Via Resolution 2018-08, on March 15, 2018 the Board resolved to: “Update and adopt the *Policies & Procedures of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund.*”
5. Since the 2018 update to the *Policies & Procedures of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund*, the GOCO staff and Board have identified four additional updates necessary to refine signature authority delegation and discretionary authority.
6. The Board regularly considers changes to its policies and procedures that it considers necessary or expedient to the conduct of its affairs.

Accordingly, the board RESOLVES to:

1. Update and adopt the *Policies & Procedures of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund*, as reviewed at its meeting on December 10, 2019, including amendments to the following policies:
 - a. Policy 1.2 (Delegation of Authority to Sign Contracts);
 - b. Policy 1.3 (Delegation of Authority for Administration of Employee Plans and Programs);
 - c. Policy 2.4 (Transfer or Disbursement of Funds); and
 - d. Policy 2.11.E (Discretionary Authority & Direct Expenditures).

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund on December 10, 2019.

DocuSigned by:

Jody Rogers

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Jody Rogers, Board Secretary

**The State Board of the
Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund
Consent Agenda
December 10, 2019**

The items below are to be approved by consent. Board members reserve the right to pull any item off the consent agenda for full discussion.

1. Open Space Resolutions

| <u>Res. #</u> | <u>Project Titles & IDs</u> | <u>Abstentions</u> |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2019-23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heartland Ranch Preserve Expansion – Jagers Phase I; Bent County, District 4 / Grant #20101 • Ridgway Inholding; Eagle County, District 3 / Grant #20102 • Morimitsu Farm/Historic Splendid Valley; Adams County, District 6 / Grant #20105 • Homestead Ranch Preserve; Pitkin County, District 3 / Grant #20107 | None |
| 2019-24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conejos Ranchland Initiative – Preserving Working Wet Meadows; Conejos County, District 3 / Grant #20103 • Taylor-Oswald Ranch Conservation Easement; Fremont County, District 5 / Grant #20104 • E Bar Ranch Conservation Legacy; Elbert County, District 4 / Grant #20106 | Jody Rogers |

2. Youth Corps Grants Resolution

| <u>Res. #</u> | <u>Allocations:</u> | <u>Abstentions</u> |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2019-26 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To exercise its discretionary authority and invest \$500,000 to the projects identified in the attached “Youth Corps List of Projects Recommended for Funding,” allocating \$250,000 from the local government purpose and \$250,000 from the open space purpose. • To allocate \$60,000 of the total as a direct expenditure to CYCA made retroactive to August 1, to reimburse CYCA for administrative costs associated with the application process for the FY 20 cycle. | None |

3. ReStORE Memo

Abstentions
None

4. Grant Extension Memo

| | <u>Grant #</u> | <u>Project Titles & Type</u> | <u>Abstentions</u> |
|----|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| a. | 15381 - OS | Elizabeth Trail System; Elbert County, CD 3 (Paths to Parks Grant) | None |
| b. | 17017 - LG | Arickaree School Playground; Washington County, CD 4 (School Yard Initiative) | |
| c. | 17054 - LG | Peaks to Plains Trail - Mouth of Clear Creek Canyon Segment; Jefferson County, CD 1,2,7 (LPOR) | |

5. Project Modification Memo

Abstentions
None

**The State Board of the
Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund
Resolution 2019-23
December 10, 2019**

A Resolution Awarding Grants to Open Space Projects

This Resolution is made in view of the following facts:

1. For fiscal year 2020, the board authorized funding of up to \$5,000,000 for regular open space grants from the open space purpose.
2. For the fall 2019 open space grant cycle, GOCO received 16 applications requesting \$11,782,986 in GOCO funding.
3. On November 19, 2019, the Programs Committee recommended to award funding in the amount of \$5,000,000 to fully fund the top six projects and partially fund the seventh project.

Accordingly, the board RESOLVES to:

1. Award \$2,450,000 to fully fund the following projects:
 - a. Heartland Ranch Preserve Expansion – Jagers Phase I
 - b. Ridgway Inholding
 - c. Morimitsu Farm/Historic Splendid Valley

Award \$854,014 to partially fund the following project:

- d. Homestead Ranch Preserve

as described in the attached “Open Space Funding Summary List.”

2. Finance these awards with an allocation of \$3,304,014 from the open space purpose.
3. Authorize the executive director to make minor adjustments in recommended funding levels if a project cannot proceed as anticipated. In the event significant funding changes are necessary as these projects progress, the executive director will consult with the board for further direction.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund on December 10, 2019.

DocuSigned by:

Jody Rogers

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Jody Rogers, Board Secretary

**The State Board of the
Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund
Resolution 2019-24
December 10, 2019**

A Resolution Awarding Grants to Open Space Projects

This Resolution is made in view of the following facts:

1. For fiscal year 2020, the board authorized funding of up to \$5,000,000 for regular open space grants from the open space purpose.
2. For the fall 2019 open space grant cycle, GOCO received 16 applications requesting \$11,782,986 in GOCO funding.
3. Certain grant applications involve the acquisition of fee title or conservation easements over multiple properties. In the event any of the originally identified property interests cannot be closed, the grantees may wish to propose substitution properties to be funded under the grant.
4. On November 19, 2019, the Programs Committee recommended to award funding in the amount of \$5,000,000 to fully fund the top six projects and partially fund the seventh project.

Accordingly, the board RESOLVES to:

1. Award \$1,695,986 to fully fund the following projects:
 - a. Conejos Ranchland Initiative – Preserving Working Wet Meadows
 - b. Taylor-Oswald Ranch Conservation Easement
 - c. E Bar Ranch Conservation Legacyas described in the attached “Open Space Funding Summary List.”
2. Finance these awards with an allocation of \$1,695,986 from the open space purpose.
3. Permit the grantee for the following project to propose substitution properties under GOCO’s procedure for *Property Substitution for Land Acquisitions Prior to Closing*:
 - a. Conejos Ranchland Initiative – Preserving Working Wet Meadows
4. Authorize the executive director to make minor adjustments in recommended funding levels if a project cannot proceed as anticipated. In the event significant funding changes are necessary as these projects progress, the executive director will consult with the board for further direction.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund on December 10, 2019.

DocuSigned by:

Jody Rogers

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Jody Rogers, Board Secretary

Open Space Funding Summary List[Projects Recommended for Funding](#)

November 12, 2019

| Rank | Overall Score | GOCO Score | Rev. Avg. | Applicant | Project Title | County | Congressional District | Request Amount | Recommended Amount | Total Project Cost |
|------|---------------|------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 93.00 | 95.00 | 91.00 | Southern Plains Land Trust | Heartland Ranch Preserve Expansion – Jagers Phase 1 | Bent | 4 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$3,087,659 |
| 2 | 91.50 | 92.00 | 91.00 | Eagle Valley Land Trust | Ridgway Inholding | Eagle | 3 | \$700,000 | \$700,000 | \$2,130,613 |
| 3 | 90.50 | 93.00 | 88.00 | Colorado Open Lands | Conejos Ranchland Initiative - Preserving Working Wet Meadows | Conejos | 3 | \$925,986 | \$925,986 | \$1,853,772 |
| 4 | 89.50 | 87.00 | 92.00 | San Isabel Land Protection Trust | Taylor-Oswald Ranch Conservation Easement | Fremont | 5 | \$525,000 | \$525,000 | \$1,574,500 |
| 5 | 89.00 | 91.00 | 87.00 | The Conservation Fund | Morimitsu Farm/Historic Splendid Valley | Adams | 6 | \$750,000 | \$750,000 | \$1,975,000 |
| 6 | 88.50 | 89.00 | 88.00 | Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust | E Bar Ranch Conservation Legacy | Elbert | 4 | \$245,000 | \$245,000 | \$745,000 |
| 7 | 87.50 | 88.00 | 87.00 | Pitkin County | Homestead Ranch Preserve | Pitkin | 3 | \$1,000,000 | \$854,014 | \$5,047,000 |
| | | | | | | | | \$5,145,986 | \$5,000,000 | \$16,413,544 |

**The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund
Resolution 2019-26
December 10, 2019**

A Resolution Concerning a Discretionary Investment in the Youth Corps Initiative

This Resolution is made in view of the following facts:

1. The board established the Youth Corps Initiative in 2011 to support projects that employ young adults on projects that further GOCO's constitutional mission. The purpose of the funding partnership was to both complete conservation service projects of interest to GOCO and provide employment, training, and education opportunities to youth and young adults in Colorado.
2. GOCO Board Policy 2.11(E) establishes that, through its discretionary authority, the board may "make other expenditures which it considers necessary and proper to the accomplishments of the purposes of" Article XXVII;
3. GOCO does not currently recognize Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) Article XXVII as an entity eligible to receive GOCO funding under any funding category;
4. The board allocated \$500,000 for the Youth Corps Initiative in its FY 20 spending plan.
5. GOCO and CYCA jointly reviewed 32 proposals and recommended that board fund 16 of them.

Accordingly, the board RESOLVES to:

1. To exercise its discretionary authority and invest \$500,000 to the projects identified in the attached "Youth Corps List of Projects Recommended for Funding," allocating \$250,000 from the local government purpose and \$250,000 from the open space purpose.
2. To allocate \$60,000 of the total as a direct expenditure to CYCA made retroactive to August 1, to reimburse CYCA for administrative costs associated with the application process for the FY 20 cycle.
3. Authorize GOCO to make payment directly to CYCA based upon each applicant's authorization to do so.
4. Authorize the executive director to make minor adjustments in recommended funding levels if a project cannot proceed as anticipated. In the event significant funding changes are necessary as these projects progress, the executive director will consult with the board for further direction.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund on December 10, 2019.

DocuSigned by:

Jody Rogers

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Jody Rogers, Board Secretary

Attachment B: Youth Corps List of Projects Recommended for Funding

| County | Applicant | Project Name | Youth Corps | LG | OS |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Adams | City of Thornton | City of Thornton Big Dry Creek Russian Olive Removal | MHYC | \$25,000 | |
| Alamosa | City of Alamosa Parks & Recreation | Alamosa Riparian Park, Alamosa City Ranch, Malm Trail | SCC-LV | \$16,600 | |
| Archuleta | Town of Pagosa Springs Parks and Rec Department | GGP Seasonal Garden for Community Education | SCC-FC | \$15,200 | |
| Douglas | Douglas County Conservation District | Est Plum Creek Restoration | MHYC-SFR | | \$37,000 |
| Eagle | Eagle County/Eagle County Open Space Program | Brush Creek Valley Ranch Fence Removal and Trail Reroute | RMYC | \$15,200 | |
| El Paso | City of Colorado Springs | Garden fo the Gods & Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site | MHYC-SFR | \$27,000 | |
| Fremont | Town of Brookside | Spring Creek Park Restoration Name Work | MHYC-SFR | \$15,200 | |
| Gunnison | The Crested Butte Land Trust | Crested Butte Open Space Fencing and Noxious Weed Stewardship Project | WCCC | | \$25,600 |
| Jefferson | Foothills Park & Recreation District | Russian Olive Tree Removal | MHYC | \$27,000 | |
| Jefferson | City of Lakewood | Russian Olive Removal Project | MHYC | | \$34,000 |
| Larimer | Colorado State Forest Service | Elkhorn Creek Forest Health Initiative | LCCC | | \$51,200 |
| Larimer | City of Loveland | East Big Thompson River Invasive Species Removal and Mitigation Project | LCCC | | \$18,000 |
| Mesa | Colorado West Land Trust | Restoration Plan for the Monument Corridor | WCCC | | \$36,000 |
| Ouray | City of Ouray | Box Canon Falls Park Trail Repair and Beautification Project | SCC-FC | \$14,600 | |
| Routt | City of Steamboat Springs | Steamboat Springs Trail Project | RMYC | \$35,000 | |
| Weld | City of Evans | Riverside Park Open Space Restoration | WCYCC | \$29,200 | \$18,200 |
| Colorado Youth Corps Association Administration Fee | | | | \$30,000 | \$30,000 |
| Purpose allocations | | | | \$250,000 | \$250,000 |
| Total | | | | | \$500,000 |
| Key: | | | | | |
| LCCC - Larimer County Conservation Corps | | | | | |
| MHYC - Mile High Youth Corps | | | | | |
| MHYC-SFR - Mile High Youth Corps - Southern Front Range | | | | | |
| RMYC - Rocky Mountain Youth Conservation Corps | | | | | |
| SCC-FC - Southwest Conservation Corps - Four Corners | | | | | |
| SCC-LV - Southwest Conservation Corps - Los Valles | | | | | |
| WCCC - Western Colorado Conservation Corps | | | | | |
| WCYCC - Weld County Youth Conservation Corps | | | | | |



MEMORANDUM

To: GOCO Board
From: Chris Yuan-Farrell, Senior Program Officer
Emily Orbanek, Parks and Wildlife Program Manager
Date: December 3, 2019
Re: ReStORE Program Implementation

This memo addresses timely program implementation decisions for the collaborative habitat restoration program known as ReStORE Colorado (Restoration and Stewardship of Outdoor Resources and the Environment), and a slight change to the recommended funding approach that staff presented to the Programs Committee for approval in September.

Program Considerations

At the September 2019 Programs Committee meeting, staff presented a comprehensive overview of a new program we have worked with numerous partners to collaboratively develop and co-create over the past 18 months known as ReStORE Colorado. At that time, we walked through several nuances of ReStORE that warrant taking a different approach to executing the program efficiently and effectively including making a grant to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). NFWF will serve as the lead entity to administer the program on behalf of the other funding partners, including Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), with significant input from GOCO staff. At that meeting, staff requested that the committee recommend the board's use of discretionary authority to make a direct expenditure of \$1 million to NFWF; \$900,000 is reserved for grant awards while \$100,000 (10%) is NFWF's standard grant administration fee.

Since that meeting, staff has reconsidered the direct expenditure approach and pursued a more comprehensive revision of the discretionary authority policy that benefits other programs in addition to ReStORE. A comprehensive discussion of that policy revision occurs in a separate, concurrent memo in this board packet. Please refer to that memo for the details on the policy revision. Staff will discuss the policy changes in detail at the meeting. Given the timing of the program release, staff finds it necessary to recommend implementing the revised discretionary authority policy for ReStORE concurrently with the board's approval of the policy changes. Staff is prepared to pursue an alternative, albeit less efficient, approach if the policy is not approved.

Finally, the collaborative nature of this program, the complexity and technical aspects of ecological restoration techniques, and the tight timeline for grant review and approval, create an environment for exploring a new approach for board and staff-level decision making. Staff requests the autonomy to work with the ReStORE partners to administer a fair and comprehensive review process that enlists reviewers with technical expertise to review and rank project proposals. The review committee will allocate partner funding to projects best aligned with the respective partner's mission and goals. Staff will send a summary memo with project recommendations to the board via email on March 11 following the March 10 reviewer meeting. While not ideal, this timeline will allow funding to hit the ground by spring 2020 and fit into the Congressional calendar which NFWF must adhere to in order for its board to approve funding. This timeline also empowers the board to approve the program as a whole and thus empower staff to design the program and deliver funding to those projects most-capable of delivering the landscape-scale outcomes we seek to address. NFWF will provide a final summary of accomplishments upon completion of all individual grant awards made with GOCO funding.

Action Item

In order to initiate the program and release a Request for Proposals (RFP), NFWF needs to contract with funders prior to such release, currently scheduled to occur the week of December 16, 2019. This action item shall accomplish the following:

1. Allow staff to contract with NFWF to accomplish the intended habitat restoration outcomes through the administration of the ReStORE Colorado program;
2. Allow staff the bring the slate of recommended projects to the board at its March 13, 2020 board meeting for GOCO approval;
3. Allow the board to exercise its discretionary authority as allowed under GOCO Board Policy 2.11(E) to make a grant to an ineligible entity, NFWF, in order to accomplish GOCO's mission;
4. Allow the board to exercise its discretionary authority as allowed under GOCO Board Policy 2.11(E) to make a direct expenditure to NFWF to administer the ReStORE Colorado program.

Staff has attached a resolution (2019-22) to this memo that Programs Committee is recommending for board approval.

**The State Board of the
Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund
Resolution 2019-22
December 10, 2019**

A Resolution Concerning a Discretionary Investment in the ReStORE Colorado Program

This Resolution is made in view of the following facts:

1. GOCO has participated in a multi-year process to co-create and launch a collaboratively funded grant program with private, state, and national funding partners that will address landscape-scale habitat restoration projects, known as ReStORE Colorado;
2. GOCO Board Policy 2.11(E) establishes that, through its discretionary authority, the board may “make other expenditures which it considers necessary and proper to the accomplishments of the purposes of” Article XXVII;
3. GOCO does not currently recognize the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Article XXVII as an entity eligible to receive GOCO funding under any funding category;
4. As a Congressionally-chartered, national foundation with decades of experience awarding and administering grants, often involving several disparate funding sources, NFWF represents the partner organization most capable of administering the ReStORE Colorado program on behalf of the program partners; and
5. The board allocated \$1 million to this program in its FY20 spending plan.

Accordingly, the board RESOLVES:

1. To exercise its discretionary authority and invest \$1 million in open space purpose funds to accomplish the habitat restoration outcomes envisioned through the ReStORE Colorado program, through NFWF, and to categorize this investment as open space purpose funding;
2. To allocate \$100,000 of the total as a direct expenditure to NFWF for the purposes of grant program administration; and
3. To authorize staff at the discretion of the executive director to determine the specific terms and conditions of a contract with NFWF and authorize the executive director to execute such contract. The contract shall include a provision for final reporting on the habitat restoration outcomes of individual grants in addition to the aggregate accomplishments of the ReStORE program.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund on December 10, 2019.

DocuSigned by:

Jody Rogers

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Jody Rogers, Board Secretary



MEMORANDUM

To: GOCO Board
From: Matt Brady - Grants Officer
Date: December 10, 2019
Re: Grant Extensions

Consistent with the board's procedure on overdue grants, staff sent reminder notices to grantees with approaching due dates. Subsequent communications with grantees led staff to make the following recommendations.

Paths to Parks Grant

#15340 Elizabeth Trail System – \$596,631.00

On June 18, 2015, the board awarded \$596,631.00 in local government purpose funds to the Town of Elizabeth to construct a 7-mile, concrete trail system connecting 4 schools and the town library along a 6-park greenway. The original completion date for the project was June 29, 2018. The town received a staff extension through September 27, 2018 and a board extension through January 31, 2020. Project delays were attributed to additional environmental reviews by CDOT and USFWS after endangered species habitat (Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse) was identified along the trail corridor, land acquisition delays along the trail segment, and new state engineering requirements impacting trail design. To-date the project is at 100% design and the town has awarded the construction bid to HPM, Inc. Kickoff meetings started in November 2019 with construction slated to be complete by summer 2020. As such, the Town of Elizabeth is requesting a second board extension through December 10, 2020 to complete the project and submit final reporting.

Recommendation: Approval of extension request with the following conditions:

- Complete the project and submit the final report to GOCO by December 10, 2020.
- If the project is not closed by its extension date deadline, funds allocated to it may be automatically deauthorized with no further action by the board being necessary.

School Yard Initiative Grant

#17448 Arickaree School Playground – \$110,000.00

On March 23, 2017, the board awarded \$110,000.00 in local government purpose funds to Washington County in partnership with Arickaree School District R-2 for improvements on its 30-year-old playground. The original completion date for the project was March 22, 2019. The county received a staff extension through September 27, 2019 to allow additional time to



procure a second contractor to construct remaining scope items. To-date all project elements are complete except for resurfacing of the black top which is delayed due to heavy rainfall and cold temperatures. The school was advised to wait until spring when warmer temperatures will ensure surface adhesion. As such, Washington County is requesting a board extension through June 11, 2020 to complete the project and submit final reporting.

Recommendation: Approval of extension request with the following conditions:

- Complete the project and submit the final report to GOCO by June 11, 2020.
- If the project is not closed by its extension date deadline, funds allocated to it may be automatically deauthorized with no further action by the board being necessary.

Connect Grant

#17802 Peaks to Plains Trail - Mouth of Clear Creek Canyon Segment – \$2,000,000.00

On October 7, 2016, the board awarded \$2 million in local government purpose funds to Jefferson County to construct a 1.75-mile segment and 2 parking lots along the Peaks to Plains trail at the start of Clear Creek Canyon. The original completion date for the project was October 7, 2019. The county received a staff extension through December 10, 2019. While the project is still moving forward, the complexity of the segment, cost increases, and other state and federal funding partners at the table have resulted in delayed project completion. To-date the project is at 95% design and roughly 15% complete. The new anticipated completion date is December 2020. As such, Jefferson County is requesting a board extension through March 31, 2021 to complete the project and submit final reporting.

Recommendation: Approval of extension request with the following conditions:

- Complete the project and submit the final report to GOCO by March 31, 2021.
- If the project is not closed by its extension date deadline, funds allocated to it may be automatically deauthorized with no further action by the board being necessary.



MEMORANDUM

To: GOCO Board
From: Courtney Bennett, Grants Officer Land Protection
Date: December 10, 2019
Re: Smith Rancho 5 Deep Creek Project Modification

In December 2017, GOCO awarded the Open Space Grant 18104 in the amount of \$969,250.00 to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for the Smith Rancho 5 Deep Creek Conservation Easement. The goal of the project is to complete the fifth conservation easement on the Smith Rancho in Routt County. The Smith family and TNC have worked for years to conserve the ranch, previously protecting more than 12,000 acres, much of which was funded by GOCO. The original project proposal was to encumber an additional 4,800 acres and build on an impressive landscape of conservation accomplished by many partners northeast of Hayden, Colorado.

The property is adjacent to the prior phases of Smith Rancho, Bureau of Land Management lands, and the 18,000-acre Wolf Mountain Ranch State Habitat Area. The following map depicts the Property in the broader conserved landscape. It serves as a migration corridor for the second-largest elk herd in the nation and as habitat for greater sage grouse, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, deer, mountain lion, and black bear. The Smith family hosts big-game hunters on the ranch every fall through Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Ranching for Wildlife program. TNC has secured \$722,000.00 from Routt County Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program and will contribute \$481,500.00 to the costs of the project. The landowner is also donating a significant portion of the easement value.

During negotiations with the landowners, two parcels owned by entities other than Smith Rancho Land and Livestock, LLC decided that they did not want to transfer their ownership to the LLC. At the time the GOCO grant was executed, TNC understood that the LLC would acquire the two parcels before granting the easement. This decision resulted in a change to the overall project acreage, reducing the total acres to be encumbered from 4,800 to 4,080.90. TNC is hopeful that the 802.74 acres removed from this transaction will be protected at a later date. Included with this memo is a map depicting the overall change to the scope of the project, illustrating what will be encumbered and what is being excluded from the transaction.

The change in the project acreage is not expected to have a significant impact on the budget for the Smith Rancho 5 conservation easement. An updated appraisal of the 4,080.90-acre property was completed by Nash-Johnson Associates, Inc., and the value of the conservation easement increased to \$5,392,000.00 from the original estimate of \$5,040,000.00. As a result, GOCO's percent of project value and percent of project costs has not increased.

Project Modification

Based on the aforementioned circumstances, TNC is requesting approval of the following project modification to the Smith Rancho 5 transaction:

- An acreage modification from the proposed 4,800-acre conservation easement to a 4,080.90-acre conservation easement.

GOCO staff and the Programs Committee recommend approval of this project modification request.



