

# 2019 Fact Sheet



## A REVIEW OF STATEWIDE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

### Conservation at our Core

All of us at Colorado Parks and Wildlife are very grateful for the support of our hunters, anglers, parks visitors and so many other Coloradans that understand, appreciate and participate in the conservation work that is at the core of CPW. It shows in the purchases of hunting and fishing licenses and parks passes, as well as in the over 6,000 volunteers that contribute time and energy to our parks and projects. It shows in the number of calls placed to Operation Game Thief to prevent resource theft, and the wide-ranging group of residents that attend public meetings, and submit comment forms on different wildlife and park management plans statewide. It is because of your time, support, and contributions that the agency is able to enact our mission: to perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state, provide a quality parks system, and provide enjoyable and sustainable recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to actively participate in the conservation of Colorado's natural resources.

As part of our current generation of stewardship, we want to recognize our hunters, anglers, parks visitors and those purchasing registrations and permits for recreational vehicles. We thank you for your many contributions to conservation in Colorado through those purchases, as your participation in these activities is the primary source of funding in managing the health of our land, water and wildlife. Colorado's quality of life, outdoor heritage, and economic prosperity are dependent on the health and sustainability of these natural treasures that you help us conserve and protect every day.

Looking to the future, we are also extremely thankful for the public support of The Hunting, Fishing and Parks for Future Generations Act. Passed in May 2018, the bill provides the agency with several opportunities to continue working toward our mission, and to address some of the specific challenges that CPW

has faced over years of stagnant funding. The bill holds us accountable to 10 key goals we plan to work toward addressing by 2025. These goals build off of the agency's Strategic Plan and long term vision for wildlife and natural resource management. We embrace the goal of stemming the decline of sportsmen and women in our state, and to improve and increase big game populations through investing in habitat and conservation. We hope to begin planning the next Colorado State Park for our residents and visitors. We need to continue recruiting and to retain highly qualified employees to carry out our mission. And we strive to engage all outdoor recreationists in responsibly maintaining and managing the natural resources that make up the very heart of our state.

All 10 goals can be found on our website, and we will report our annual progress to the legislature through 2025. While they are large, these goals are important to us and we know they are important to all Coloradans.

We are grateful every day for the opportunity to work with, play in and protect the natural resources of Colorado. It takes a lot of hard work to maintain and improve habitat, conserve over 960 species, and manage 41 state parks. But the lands, waters and wildlife that our residents and visitors cherish are equally loved by the hundreds of dedicated CPW professionals that work to ensure the health and prosperity of these resources every day.

The men and women of Colorado Parks and Wildlife are honored to be the face of conservation in Colorado, but it is all of us that make up its heart. We are thankful for the opportunity to work with you in conserving and protecting the beauty of our state.

*Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg*

Acting Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife



Fishing in the Arkansas River

DUSTIN DOSKOSIL/CPW



Bull moose in State Forest State Park

MIC SCHLESINGER/CPW

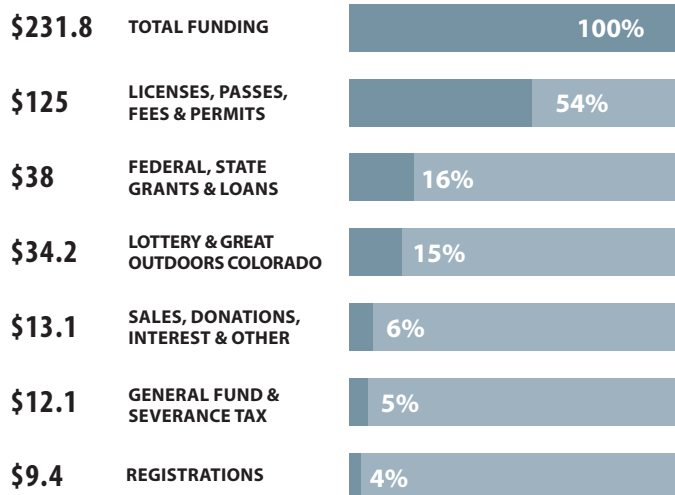


Pheasant hunting in Eastern Colorado

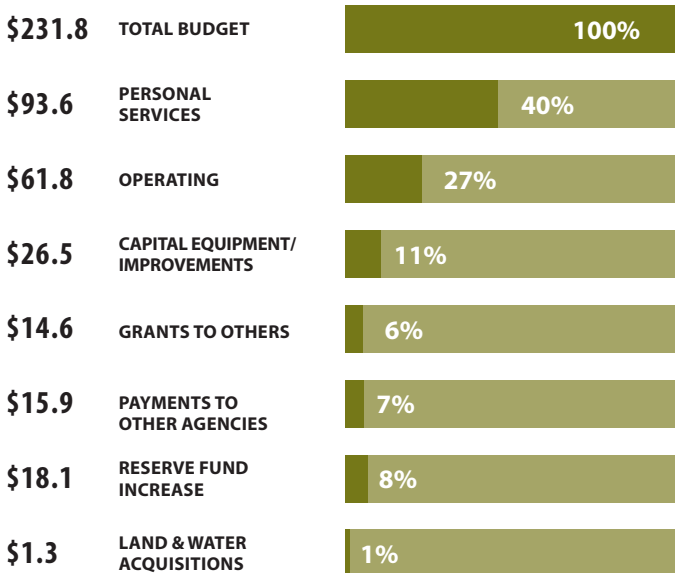
MIKE DELL'AVENERI/CPW

# Colorado Parks and Wildlife Funding At-A-Glance

## SOURCE OF FUNDS



## USE OF FUNDS



ALL \$ FIGURES SHOWN IN MILLIONS

## Hunting, Fishing and State Parks for Future Generations Act

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) celebrated former Gov. John Hickenlooper's decision to sign the Hunting, Fishing and Parks for Future Generations Act into law in May 2018. The law, passing through the legislature with bipartisan support, provided CPW its first significant cash infusion in 13 years.

Lawmakers agreed with CPW's position that the increases were necessary to continue to conserve wildlife resources, maintain valuable infrastructure, ensure a quality state park system and operate and maintain outdoor recreation programs. The bill included 10 goals that the agency must report on annually to demonstrate how these new funds are being used.

The bill grants the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission authority to enact modest increases to state park entrance fees and both resident and non-resident hunting and fishing licenses based on the Consumer Price Index. The new revenue will allow CPW to begin to address projected funding shortfalls of \$30 million annually for wildlife and \$11 million annually for parks by 2025.

## SCORP

The 2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) was finalized and released in January 2019. The plan identifies four key priorities for all residents to address Colorado's needs for advancing conservation and sustainable recreation over the next five years.

Colorado's SCORP focuses on these priorities:

1. Enhance sustainable access and opportunity to enjoy the outdoors
2. Promote stewardship of natural, cultural and recreational resources
3. Conserve lands, waters and wildlife
4. Ensure adequate funding to sustain Colorado's outdoors for the future

The SCORP is not a CPW plan, but Colorado's plan. Our government, industry and NGO partners all played a role in developing the plan through a process of outreach meetings and public comment. It will be critical for CPW and all partners to share and model the key priorities with their networks, members, staff and all of Colorado's residents and visitors.

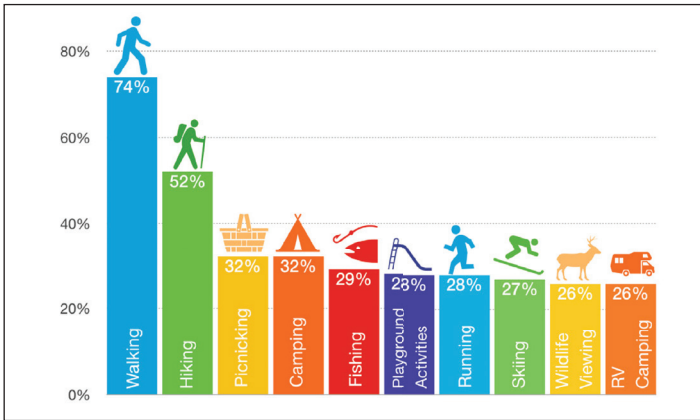


Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep rams

WAYNE D. LEWIS/CPW



# Economic Impact of Outdoor Recreation



According to the 2017 Economic Contributions of Outdoor Recreation in Colorado report by Southwick Associates, 92% of Coloradans recreate outdoors. So it may be no surprise that the outdoor recreation industry delivers an economic contribution of \$62 billion dollars to the state each year, and accounts for over 500,000 jobs in Colorado.

The most popular activities are walking and hiking followed by picnicking, camping and fishing.

The staggering popularity of outdoor recreation, and its importance to our economy, means we must all play a role in ensuring we enjoy our outdoors with conservation in mind.

## Colorado the Beautiful Trail Grants

The Colorado the Beautiful Grant Program is a partnership between CPW and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). Over \$4 million in grants were awarded to 11 land managers to create or improve trails in Colorado. Grants are awarded based on priorities including

connections to existing outdoor recreation opportunities, regional trail connectivity, proximity and benefit to local communities, wildlife and natural resource mitigation, collaborative partnerships and approach, and community health benefits.

Hiking in Ridgway State Park



## GOCO and Lottery FY17-18

Since 1992, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) has awarded more than \$580 million from its share of Colorado Lottery proceeds.

**\$16,608,934**

GOCO TO PARKS PURPOSE

**\$16,608,934**

GOCO TO WILDLIFE PURPOSE

**\$14,073,680**

LOTTERY TO STATE PARKS

(10% DIRECT DISTRIBUTION)

## Volunteer FY 17-18 Numbers

Volunteers play an important role for CPW. They help us get the job done and are a vital part of the CPW family.

**338,294**

VOLUNTEER HOURS

**6,134**

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

**\$8,352,478**

VOLUNTEER VALUE

**162**

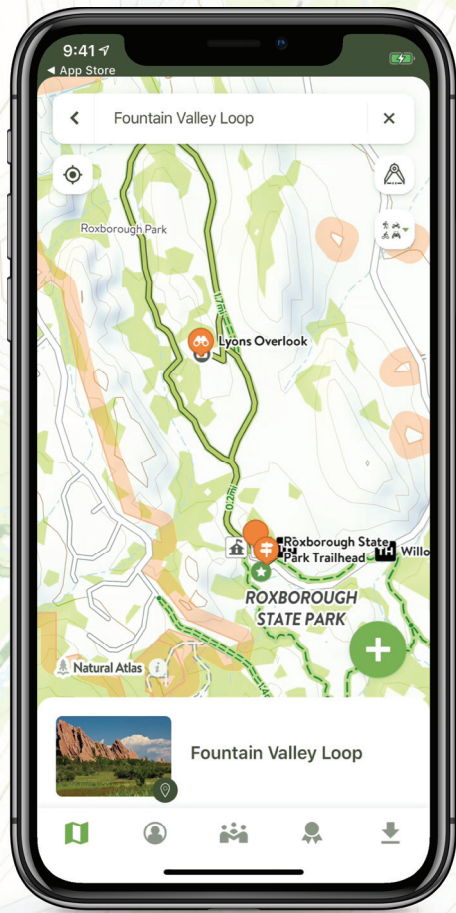
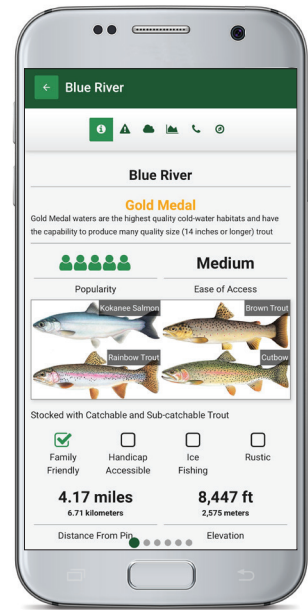
FTE EQUIVALENT



# CPW Fishing App

CPW Fishing, the agency's official mobile fishing app, is also available free via both Google Play and the App Store. For anglers seeking information on new fishing locations or needing to check for updated regulations while on the water, CPW Fishing is an easy way to keep angling details close at hand.

The app allows discovery of over 2,000 fishing locations in Colorado, and provides information on the type of fishing at each location, stream gauges, species availability, accessibility, family-friendliness and more



# COTREX App

In 2018, Colorado Parks and Wildlife launched a new and improved version of the COTREX trail mapping web application. As part of the updates to the overall application, CPW also introduced free iOS and Android apps for COTREX as well. Now, from either a computer or phone, hikers, bikers, anglers and other trail users can access routes and details of almost 40,000 miles of trails in the state. Trails are logged across all jurisdictions and can be filtered by activity, distance, difficulty, accessibility and more.



# Live Life Outside

This year, CPW set out to create a tagline for the agency that represented the mission of the agency, while also serving as a rallying cry for Coloradans who appreciate the Colorado outdoors. We reached out to the entire agency to collect staff insights, ideas and thoughts about what is at the core of our agency's mission.

# LIVE LIFE OUTSIDE

The outcome was "Live Life Outside," a tagline crafted by our field staff. In three words, it highlights the passion and lifestyle of our agency and the vision for all Coloradans — while at the same time creating an opportunity to talk about why recreation and conservation should be forever connected.



VIC SCHENDEL/CPW