



THE STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2021
GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO

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June 2021 Board Meeting			



A meeting of The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund convened at 8:30 a.m. on September 23, 2021:

Board Present David Cockrell, Carrie Curtiss, Pam Denahy (Secretary), Charles Garcia (Treasurer), Dan Gibbs, Carrie Besnette Hauser, Craig Hughes, Patty Imhoff, Tom Lee, Mina Liebert, Leticia Martinez, Brenda May, Turk Montepare (Vice-Chair), Antonio Rosendo, Mo Siegel (Chair), Jahi Simbai

Board Absent Rick Palacio

Staff Present Rosemary Dempsey, Lauren Lecy, Jackie Miller, Christy Reeves, Katie Smith, Josh Tenneson, Adrian Varney, Chris Yuan-Farrell

Staff Absent Tess Barton, Courtney Bennett, Matt Brady, Alex Castino, Sammie George, Tilah Larson, Erika Meyer, Dan Omasta, Estrella Woods

Public Present Johann Aberger, CMC; Jean Denious, OMNI Institute; Heather Exby, CMC; Scott Fitzwilliams, US Forest Service; Mike Goolsby, CDOT; Holen Hirsch, OMNI Institute; Ken Murphy, Glenwood Adventure Company; Scott Partan, Garfield County Outdoors; Doug Vilsack, DNR

Welcome & Introductions Mr. Siegel invited board and staff members to introduce themselves to the group, serving as a roll call of the board for this meeting.

Colorado Mountain College Welcome Ms. Besnette Hauser and guests from CMC gave an introduction to the Spring Valley campus and information about CMC's history and programs.

Garfield County Project Highlights Ms. Miller provided an overview of GOCO-funded projects in Garfield County.

Executive Director Search Ms. Imhoff provided an overview of the Executive Director search process as the chair of the committee, including how the job description was developed, advertised, and how candidates were screened.

*Ms. Besnette Hauser made a motion to name Jackie Miller as the Executive Director of Great Outdoors Colorado; Ms. Liebert seconded. **Motion Carried Unanimously (16-0).***

Enter into Executive Session An executive session of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund Board was requested by Chair Mo Siegel pursuant to Colorado Open Meeting Law; Article III, Section L of the GOCO bylaws; C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(3)(a)(I) and (II).

A motion was made to recess into Executive Session; Ms. Martinez seconded.

Adjourn from Executive Session *Mr. Cockrell made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session; Ms. Imhoff seconded. A personnel matter was discussed. No formal action was taken.*

GOCO Strategic Plan Evaluation Ms. Denious and Ms. Hirsch from the OMNI Institute led the board through a work session to develop an evaluation strategy for GOCO's grant programs. They gave a short presentation



about work done to date and then organized board members into small groups to work through questions to advance the project. The groups then presented on what they discussed with the full board.

**Glenwood Canyon
Damage
Presentation**

Mr. Fitzwilliams, Mr. Goolsby, and Mr. Murphy presented on the damage sustained in Glenwood Canyon and the impacts to the trails and recreation economy in the area. They discussed funding opportunities to address the work needed to reopen the trails.

**GOCO Ambassador
Training**

Ms. Dempsey gave a presentation for board members on how to talk about GOCO as an organization and its work. She gave background on GOCO's history and walked through some frequently asked questions about its structure, funding, and programs.

**Garfield County
Outdoors Update**

Mr. Partan from Garfield County Outdoors gave an update on the organization's work as a GOCO-supported Generation Wild coalition.

**Approval of June
2021 Meeting
Minutes**

*Mr. Cockrell made a motion to approve the June 2021 Meeting Minutes; Ms. Martinez seconded. **Motion Carried Unanimously (16-0).*** (See Attachment 1).

Finance Update

Ms. Reeves presented an overview of GOCO's financial dashboard and answered board questions.

**Communications
Update**

Ms. Dempsey provided a review of the 2021 Generation Wild campaign and discussed an evaluation plan for the campaign results.

**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.

**Disaster Recovery
Grantmaking
Discussion**

Mr. Yuan-Farrell led a discussion on GOCO's past efforts around disaster recovery grantmaking. The board discussed options for funding the Glenwood Canyon restoration work that was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**2022 Dates and
Locations**

Ms. Miller presented a draft calendar for 2022 board meeting dates and locations.


Consent Agenda

Ms. Liebert discussed the items presented for board approval on the consent agenda. (See attachment 2).

*Mr. Cockrell made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Ms. Martinez seconded. **Motion Carried Unanimously (16-0).***

The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund meeting adjourned at 11:05 am on September 24, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

DocuSigned by:

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Pamela Denahy, Board Secretary



THE STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND
BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM
JUNE 9, 2021

<u>ACTION ITEM INDEX</u>	<u>RESOLUTION</u>	<u>ATTACHMENT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
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Grant Extensions	-	4c	
Executive Session	-	5	4
Commence- IN			
Adjourn- OUT			
Interim Executive Director Appointment	-	-	4
Fiscal Year '22 Operating Budget	2021-14	3	3
Minutes Approval	-	1	2
March 2021 Board Meeting			
Spending Plan Amendment	2021-13	2	3



A meeting of The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund convened at 8:00 am via Zoom on June 9, 2021:

- Board Present** David Cockrell, Carrie Curtiss, Pam Denahy (Secretary), Charles Garcia (Treasurer), Dan Gibbs, Carrie Besnette Hauser, Craig Hughes, Patty Imhoff, Tom Lee, Mina Liebert, Leticia Martinez, Brenda May, Turk Montepare (Vice-Chair), Rick Palacio, Antonio Rosendo, Mo Siegel (Chair), Jahi Simbai,
- Board Absent** None
- Staff Present** Tess Barton, Courtney Bennett, Matt Brady, Chris Castilian, Alex Castino, Rosemary Dempsey, Lauren Lecy, Crystal Medrano, Jackie Miller, Victoria Nava-Watson, Josh Tenneson, Adrian Varney, Zoe Wilhelmsen, Chris Yuan-Farrell
- Staff Absent** Erika Meyer, Dylan Lewan, Adrian Varney
- Public Present** Ruth Aponte, Aponte & Busam; Leigh Ann Bauer, Sukle Advertising; Dave Denovellis, Aponte & Busam; Jared Polis, Governor of Colorado; Kate Shimko, Colorado Governor's Office; Mike Sukle, Sukle Advertising; Doug Vilsack, DNR
- Welcome & Introductions** Mr. Siegel invited board members to introduce themselves to the group, serving as a roll call of the board for this meeting.
- Approval of the March 2021 Minutes** *Ms. Denahy moved to approve the minutes from the March 2021 board meeting. Ms. Liebert seconded. **Motion carried unanimously (17-0).** (See Attachment 1)*
- Governor Polis Welcomes New Board Members** Ms. Shimko introduced Governor Polis prior to his arrival. Governor Polis welcomed GOCO's seven new board members and outlined shared goals and priorities between the Governor's Office and GOCO.
- GOCO Year in Review** Ms. Miller shared a review of GOCO's grant programs and awards throughout FY '21, giving details about each program and number of projects awarded through each program.
- BoardSpot Discussion** Ms. Lecy shared a presentation on BoardSpot, a new board management portal that GOCO is implementing.
- Finance Update** Mr. Tenneson shared an update on GOCO's finances, including information on Lottery proceeds, expenditures and deauthorizations, FY '21 operating budget vs. actuals, and cash management metrics.
- Spending Plan Amendment** Mr. Tenneson proposed a spending plan for FY '22 for grant programs in GOCO's two competitive purposes: local government and open space. The foundation for the FY '22 spending plan is the five-year spending plan, which was updated to reflect that inflation this last year, which impacts GOCO's lottery cap, was greater than anticipated.



*Mr. Cockrell moved to approval of Resolution 2021-13 to approve the FY '22 spending plan and amended five-year spending plan as presented; Ms. Martinez seconded. **Motion carried unanimously (17-0).** (See Attachment 2).*

**Fiscal Year '22
Operating
Budget**

Mr. Tenneson presented the draft FY '22 operating budget for the board's approval, noting an 8.48% increase from the previous year largely due to staffing increases. The plan also proposed moving \$40,000 from the Generation Wild marketing campaign budget from FY '21 to '22.

*Mr. Montepare moved to approval of Resolution 2021-14 to approve the FY '22 operating budget as presented; Ms. Liebert seconded. **Motion carried unanimously (16-0).** (See Attachment 3).*

**Investment
Strategy**

Mr. Tenneson and Mr. Siegel led a discussion on GOCO's investment strategy and options for investments based on the rate of return from funds housed in the state treasury. The board decided to form an ad-hoc committee to explore this further.

**Communications
Update**

Ms. Dempsey and representatives from Suple Advertising presented on the fifth phase of the Generation Wild communications campaign, including creative assets and strategy for the upcoming summer. They also presented background information on the campaign for new board members.

**Legislative
Update**

Ms. Aponte and Mr. Denovellis shared updates from the 2021 Legislative Session, including conservation and outdoor-related accomplishments that pertain to GOCO.

**GOCO Committee
Introductions**

Ms. Miller and the chairs of GOCO's standing board committees shared information for new board members on committee structures, the role of each committee (finance, communications, and programs), and information on how to sign up for a committee.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Liebert presented the recommended projects for approval included on the consent agenda. (See Attachment 4).

*Ms. Martinez moved the approval of the Consent Agenda; Mr. Montepare seconded. **Motion Carried Unanimously (17-0).***

**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.

**Chris Castilian
Recognition**

GOCO board and staff members celebrated outgoing Executive Director Chris Castilian.

**Enter into
Executive
Session**

An executive session of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund Board was requested by Vice-Chair Mo Siegel pursuant to Colorado Open Meeting Law; Article III, Section L of the GOCO bylaws; C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(3)(a)(I) and (II).

A motion was made and seconded to recess into Executive Session.

**Adjourn from
Executive
Session**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn from Executive Session. A personnel matter was discussed. No formal action was taken.



Interim
Executive
Director
Appointment

*Upon returning to regular session, Ms. Hauser made a motion to name Ms. Miller the Interim Executive Director effective June 30, 2021; Ms. Liebert seconded. **Motion Carried Unanimously (17-0).***

The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm on June 9, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

DocuSigned by:

Pamela Denahy

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Pamela Denahy, Board Secretary



**The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund
Consent Agenda
September 24, 2021**

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. Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Loan

<u>Res. #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
2021-12	A Resolution approving an interest-free loan for \$2,850,000 to The Conservation Fund for the purchase of the Kern Property for a term of two years, with an optional third year at Treasury rate of interest, subject to the following terms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The loan will be issued via a promissory note executed by The Conservation Fund including a possible staggered “call” provision for the loan, allowing GOCO to recover principal in the event of a shortfall in lottery proceeds. • The loan will be an unsecured, general obligation of The Conservation Fund on terms comparable to its recent A3 rated bond issue. • The loan will come from existing cash GOCO has available at Treasury, without any effect on outstanding or future grants. 	None

2. CPW Extension

<u>Res. #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
2021-15	A Resolution approving an extension through June 30, 2024 for log 20153 Wetlands Conservations for \$1,100,000, which currently expires on June 30, 2023.	None

2. Acequia Substitution

<u>Res. #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
18102-OS 19102-OS	Acequia Conservation Initiative Phase I, Costilla County, District 3	None

3. Grant Extension Memo

<u>Grant #</u>	<u>Project Titles & Type</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
a. 19012—LG	Cortez South Neighborhood Park Project, Montezuma County, District 3	None
b. 19029—LG	Las Colonias Park River Recreation, Mesa County, District 3	
c. 19033—LG	Outdoor STEM Classroom & Playspace, Mesa County, District 3	
d. 19038—LG	Pitkin County Healthy Rivers Whitewater Park, Pitkin County, District 3	
e. 19307—LG	Coal Miners’ Bucket Park, Routt County, District 3	
f. 20544—OS	Eastern Slope & Plains Wildlife Prioritization Study, Statewide	
g. 19107—OS	Saguache and San Luis Valley Creeks Conservation Legacy, Saguache, District 3	

MEMORANDUM

To: GOCO Programs Committee
From: Courtney Bennett, Grants Officer - Land Protection
Date: September 8, 2021
Re: Acequia Conservation Initiative: Protecting Colorado's Oldest Agricultural Communities – Phase I and Phase II Property Substitutions

This memo covers Colorado Open Lands' (COL) Acequia Conservation Initiative property substitution requests. COL received two Open Space grants associated with its Acequia Conservation Initiative. The first grant was awarded December 21, 2017, for \$638,000.00 (log no. 18102) to help conserve three ranches west of the Town of San Luis in Costilla County: the 204-acre Roybal Ranch, 157-acre Quintana Ranch, and 517-acre Gallegos Ranch ("Acequia Initiative Phase I" or "Phase I"). COL successfully conserved Roybal Ranch and Quintana Ranch and is requesting approval of a substitute property for the Gallegos Ranch conservation easement transaction.

The second grant was awarded January 7, 2019, for \$612,702.00 to help conserve four ranches in the Rio Culebra watershed including the 248-acre Aragon Ranch, 361-acre R&R Family Farm, 176-acre Montoya Ranch, and 408-acre Red Ranch ("Acequia Phase II" or "Phase II"). COL successfully conserved the Aragon Ranch and R&R Ranch but is requesting approval of three substitute properties to replace the Montoya Ranch and Red Ranch conservation easement transactions.

Both Open Space grants received GOCO board extensions to provide the necessary time to complete the substitute projects. Phase I was extended through June of 2022 and Phase II was extended through December 2022.

GOCO's Substitution Policy and Procedures

Section 3.4., Project Scope and Project Modifications, of GOCO's Policies and Procedures, establishes that "A grantee may request substitution of an approved land acquisition project when the originally approved project is no longer feasible". Section 3.4.d. of GOCO's Competitive Grant Program Procedures, describes in more detail when a substitute land acquisition can be considered. The procedures state: "A grantee may request substitution of one or more properties under an approved multi-property, land acquisition...when the following requirements are met:

- (1) The GOCO Board resolution funding the project indicated substitutions may be considered.
- (2) Acquisition or conservation of one or more of the properties is no longer feasible.
- (3) The substitution property(ies) lies within the originally defined project area.
- (4) GOCO staff recommends the substitution(s) to the respective GOCO Board committee.



The procedures also indicate that the substitute property(s) must “achieve the same or similar objectives as those of the original approved project including consideration of the following: conservation values, property acres, interest acquired, purchase price, intended use of the property, location of the property, etc.”

The acequia substitute properties meet items 1 – 4 listed above. The rest of this memo will provide essential background on the project area and describe how the substitute properties meet the remainder of GOCO’s requirements.

History and Intent of COL’s Acequia Conservation Initiative

COL’s work in southern Costilla County began in 2010 and was supported in part by a GOCO Conservation Excellence Grant and GOCO-funded Costilla County Trails, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (TROS). Production of the TROS Plan involved the creation of a diverse working group and extensive community outreach. Protection of water resources, specifically acequias, was the number one priority identified by local residents. COL’s Acequia Initiative was therefore designed and built around the community’s interest and determination to preserve their historical agricultural heritage. As stated in both applications, the goal of the acequia initiative is “to strategically protect properties irrigated by the historic acequias in the Rio Culebra watershed” with the belief that “...the long-term investment in this landscape will provide security and sustainability to the acequia community, so that they can continue to support agricultural production and ecological services, to the benefit of all Coloradans”.

The Unique Acequia Landscape

This unique acequia landscape and the associated conservation easement properties are located throughout the small agricultural communities in southern Costilla County including San Luis, San Acacio, and San Pedro. Generally, they are southeast of Alamosa and south of Fort Garland. The properties lie within the floodplain and terraces of Culebra Creek aka Rio Culebra, in a transition zone between the San Luis Valley and the foothills of the Culebra Range of the Sangre de Cristo mountains. The acequias properties are a Colorado treasure and include some of the oldest agricultural settlements and water rights in the state. Acequias are a communal system of irrigation canals and ditches that serve as the backbone of the agricultural, social, and ecological systems throughout the region.

Historically, the region was settled through the establishment of long-lots, narrow parcels of land referred to locally as “varas”. The lots were positioned perpendicular to the waterways (acequias) to maximize the number of landowners with access to water for irrigation. The acequias were excavated based on natural contours of the landscape creating an intricate gravity-fed ditch system still in use today. Numerous Hispano farming families who irrigate from these same acequias are direct descendants of the original settlers. These families continue to embrace the philosophy that water is so essential to life it must be shared. This philosophy has created a resilient agro-ecological and cultural paradigm within the Rio Culebra watershed.



This unique landscape is part of the congressionally designated Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area established in 2009. National Heritage Areas are places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape. In 2012, the landscape was included in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Sangre de Cristo National Conservation Area, and it was identified as a priority landscape by the Colorado Conservation Partnership.

Urgency

Unfortunately, this bucolic landscape faces serious threats from the current market for water rights. The Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR) recently established rules dictating that ground water users in the San Luis Valley either shut down or augment their wells with surface water. Given that the acequia properties have some of the most senior surface water rights in the Rio Grande basin, their highly valued water rights are a target for water transfers within the San Luis Valley. The DWR confirmed that the Sanchez Reservoir, located south and east of the proposed properties, recently saw just under half of its shares purchased by an out-of-state landowner.

Acequia Conservation Initiative Phase I

The first acequia grant was awarded in 2017 for \$638,000.00. The 157-acre Quintana Ranch conservation easement closed July 12, 2021, utilizing \$152,400, and the 204-acre Roybal Ranch conservation easement closed August 11, 2021, utilizing \$202,000. The remainder of the grant is allocated to the Gallegos Ranch (\$272,600) and GOCO storytelling (\$11,000.00). Unfortunately, do to extenuating family circumstances the Gallegos transaction cannot move forward.

Due to these unfortunate circumstances, COL would like to use the funds allocated to the Gallegos transaction to conserve 2,595 acres of the Caldon Farms property. The property is located within COL's Acequia Initiative priority landscape, two miles south and one mile west of the Gallegos Ranch. While not directly adjacent to private protected land, Caldon Farms is in close proximity to existing conservation easements, is irrigated with acequia water rights, has important wildlife habitat, and will contribute significantly to the conserved landscape in the Rio Culebra watershed. Being one of the largest acequia properties, Caldon Farms controls significantly more water than any agricultural operation in the watershed, therefore these water rights are critical to the integrity of the whole acequia system.

As mentioned above, Caldon Farms is part of an incredibly unique and highly valued landscape being part of the congressionally designated Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area and USFWS Sangre de Cristo National Conservation Area. The property is located with one of the Colorado Conservation Partnership's priority landscapes and is highly visible from the Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway.

Caldon Farms Financials

The following table shows a comparison of the financials for the Gallegos Ranch conservation easement and the Caldon Farms conservation easement. As illustrated below, GOCO's funds



are significantly leveraged in the Caldon Farms transaction. Match contributors are the same for both transactions and include the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Gates Family Foundation, LOR Foundation, and Trinchera-Blanca Foundation.

Transaction	Gallegos Ranch	Caldon Ranch
GOCO Funding	\$272,600.00	\$272,600.00
Match	\$203,550.00	\$769,510.00
CE Purchase Price	\$406,200.00	\$943,636.00
Landowner Donation	\$101,539.00	\$900,000.00
Estimated Value of the CE	\$507,739.00	\$1,912,000.00

Recommendation

GOCO staff believe Caldon Farms supports the original intent of COL’s Acequia Conservation Initiative and meets the criteria to serve as a substitute for the Gallegos Ranch.

The GOCO Programs Committee recommends Board approval of the Caldon Farms substitution to replace the Gallegos Ranch conservation easement as proposed in the 2017 Acequia Conservation Initiative grant application.

Acequia Conservation Initiative Phase II

The second acequia grant was awarded in 2019, for \$612,702.00. The 361-acre R&R Ranch conservation easement closed June 15, 2021, utilizing \$227,952.00, and the 248-acre Aragon Ranch conservation easement closed August 12, 2021, utilizing \$87,900.00. The remainder of the grant is allocated to the 176-acre Montoya Ranch and the 408-acre Red Ranch for \$109,650.00 and \$187,200.00, respectively, and \$296,850.00 in total, covering 578 acres. Unfortunately, also do to extenuating family circumstances neither the Montoya Ranch nor the Red Ranch can move forward.

Given these unfortunate and unforeseen circumstances, COL would like to apply \$97,631.00 originally allocated to Red Ranch to help conserve the 126-acre Jacober Ranch. Additionally, COL would like to shift the remaining Red Ranch funds (\$89,569) and the Montoya funds (\$109,650.00) to help fund conservation easements on the 182-acre Navarro Ranch and the 166-acre Kuhn Ranch. The total acres protected by the substitution properties is 474 acres, 104 acres shy of Montoya and Red ranch combined. The allocation of funds across the substitute properties is outlined below.

COL is working to maintain the momentum for conservation in the region by shifting funding to projects that help achieve the intent and purpose of the larger acequia conservation initiative. Each of the substitute properties is part of an incredibly unique and highly valued



landscape being part of the congressionally designated Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area, USFWS Sangre de Cristo National Conservation Area, and in a region identified by the Colorado Conservation Partnership as a priority landscape.

Jacober Ranch

The 126-acre Jacober Ranch is located just west of Red Ranch on the San Acacio acequia. The family uses the property for pasture and to grow winter feed for their grass-fed cattle and 4-H steers which are sold to local youth. Like all of COL's acequia properties, conservation of the Jacober Ranch will contribute to the long-term protection of the acequia system and support the integrity of the ecosystems within the Rio Culebra watershed. Conservation of the property will contribute to the conserved landscape in the region. It is located just west of the recently conserved Quintana Ranch, Roybal Ranch and R&R Family Farm; just north of Caldon Farms (the proposed Acequia Phase I substitute property); and one mile east of the Brownie Hills State Wildlife Area which was acquired by Costilla County with funding from GOCO. The property is highly visible from the Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway.

Navarro Ranch

The 182-acre Navarro Ranch is located 10 miles southeast of the original Montoya property. Landowner, Tom Navarro, traces his family heritage in the region back at least four generations. Mr. Navarro grows alfalfa and grass hay on irrigated portions of the property and uses the remainder to graze cattle and sheep. The property is irrigated by two different acequias, the Alamo and the San Francisco. These acequias are fed by a tributary of the Rio Culebra, which is home to Rio Grande cutthroat trout, so protection of these water rights supports the stream flow for this endemic species. According to CPW, the property is part of and provides winter forage and winter concentration habitat for bald eagles and overall habitat for sandhill cranes. Conservation of the property will support the long-term protection of the acequia system and integrity of the ecosystems within the Rio Culebra watershed.

Kuhn Ranch

The 166-acre Kuhn Ranch is located approximately four miles southeast of the Montoya property and eight miles southeast of Red Ranch. Richard and Franklin Kuhn trace their family heritage back to the original settlement of the acequias at the time of establishment under the Sangre de Cristo land grant. The family grows alfalfa and grass hay on the irrigated portions of the ranch and grazes cattle and sheep on the pastureland. The property consists of numerous long narrow parcels which was the original pattern of settlement. The parcels are irrigated with water from the San Pedro and the Vellejos acequias. Neither of these acequias are currently associated with conserved land, so conservation of Kuhn Ranch would give COL standing in any change of use case associated with these acequias.

Similar to the recently conserved Aragon Ranch and the Navarro property, the acequias that irrigate the Kuhn Ranch are fed with water from a tributary to the Rio Culebra, which is home to the Rio Grande cutthroat trout, so protection of these water rights supports the stream flow for this endemic species. The Kuhn Ranch contains large wet meadow complexes and



impressive cottonwood and willow galleries that provide habitat for bald eagles. According to the USFWS, the non-irrigated shrubland is known habitat for sage thrasher, a focal migratory bird species.

Acequia Phase II Financials

The following table illustrates COL’s proposed distribution the remainder of the Acequia Phase II grant award. To simplify, the funds allocated to Montoya Ranch and Red Ranch have been combined. Match contributors have not changed, and funding partners still include the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP), Gates Family Foundation, LOR Foundation, and Trinchera-Blanca Foundation.

Transaction	Montoya & Red Ranch (584 acres)	Jacober (126 ac)	Navarro (182 ac)	Kuhn (166 ac)	Substitute Totals (474 ac)
GOCO Funding	\$296,850	\$97,631	\$56,454	\$142,765	\$296,850
Match	\$160,050	\$33,316	\$216,848	\$61,732	\$311,896
CE Purchase Price	\$525,600	\$109,342	\$185,296	\$201,880	\$496,518
Landowner Donation	\$175,200	\$92,447	\$5,296	45,559.25	\$143,302.25
Estimated Value of the CE	\$700,800	\$201,789	\$190,800	\$247,439.25	\$640,028.25

Recommendation

GOCO staff believe that COL has identified three substitute properties that accomplish the intent presented in the original Acequia Phase II - Open Space grant application. Furthermore, GOCO staff believe that the substitute properties meet the criteria to serve as substitute properties for Red Ranch and Montoya Ranch.

The GOCO Programs Committee recommends Board approval of the three substitute properties to replace the Montoya Ranch and Red Ranch as proposed in the 2019 Acequia Conservation Initiative – Phase II grant application.

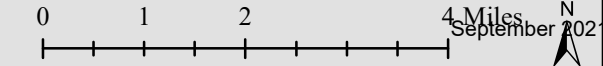
Attachments

- A. Regional map showing original and substitute properties for Phase I and Phase II

Acequia Conservation Initiative

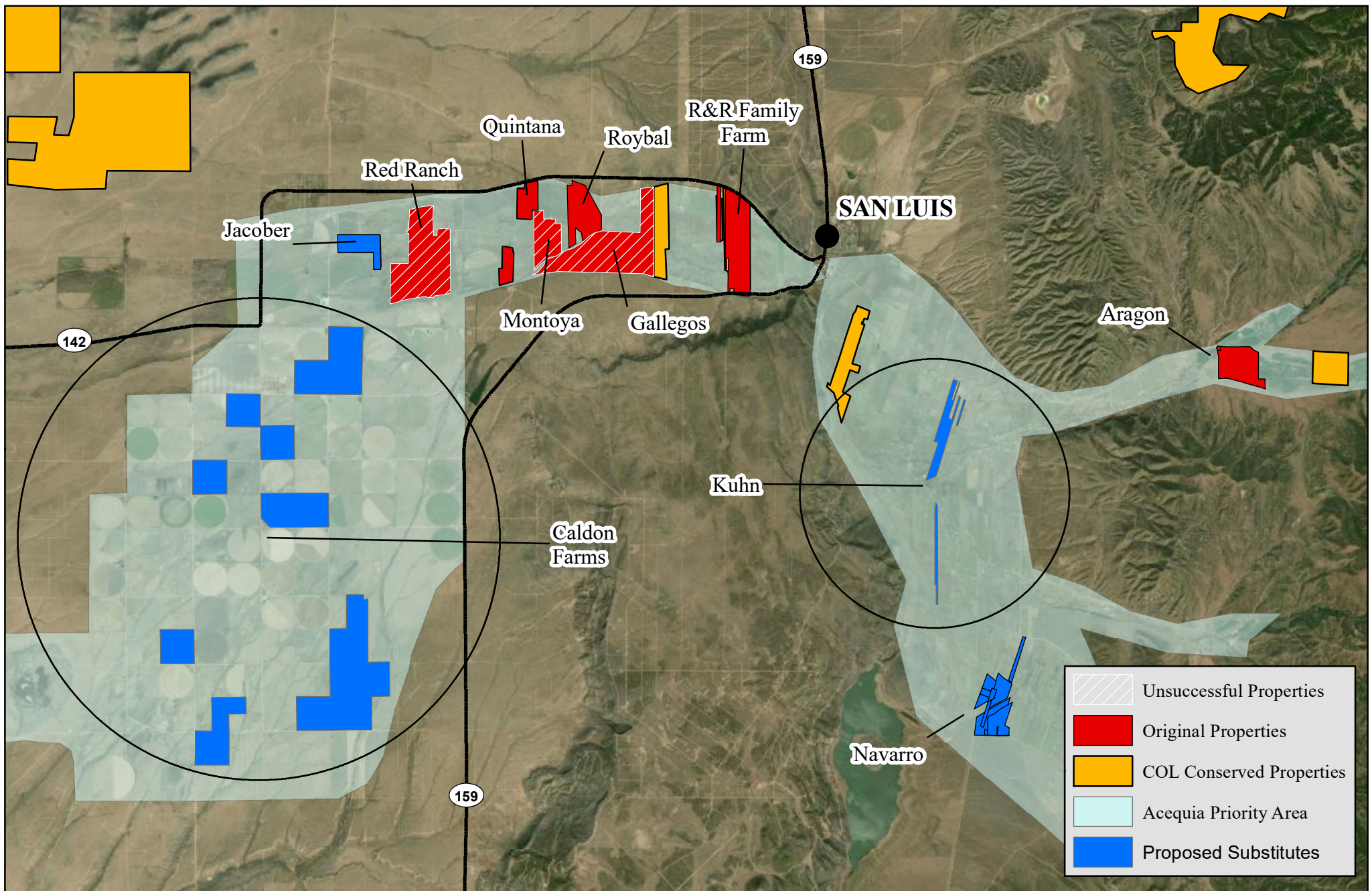
Phases I & II






Costilla County, CO



Date: August 10, 2021 Created by: Colorado Open Lands
 Data Source: COL; COMaP v20190306; San Luis Valley GIS Authority

Attachment 2c
 Board Meeting Minutes
COLORADO
 OPEN LANDS



-  Unsuccessful Properties
-  Original Properties
-  COL Conserved Properties
-  Acequia Priority Area
-  Proposed Substitutes

**The State Board of the
Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund
Resolution 2021-17
September 24, 2021**

A Resolution Approving a CPW Extension Request

This Resolution is made in view of the following facts:

1. On March 11, 2020, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) FY 20-21 Investment Proposal included log 20153 Wetlands Conservations for \$1,100,000, which expires on June 30, 2023;
2. Projects within this broad program grant are experiencing delays outside of CPW's control;
3. CPW requests a board extension through June 30, 2024 for the outstanding balance remaining in the grant.

Accordingly, the Board RESOLVES:

1. To approve CPW's extension request through June 30, 2024;
2. Staff is authorized and directed to take the following actions:
 - a. Provide the Joint Budget Committee with a copy of the proposed transfer of funds to Parks and Wildlife for the Committee's review per standard operating procedure;
 - b. Administer the investments in these projects according to the proposal approved by the GOCO Board and the conditions of the MOA; and
 - c. Reimburse Parks and Wildlife for expenditures incurred for the investments approved by the GOCO Board.
3. The executive director is hereby empowered to make minor adjustments and additions in the funding awards, in consultation with the director of CPW, except that any shift in the use of these funds from capital to operations must be brought to the GOCO Board for approval.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund on September 24, 2021.

DocuSigned by:

Pamela Denahy

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Pamela Denahy, GOCO Board Secretary

MEMORANDUM

To: Great Outdoors Colorado Board of Directors
From: Courtney Bennett & Matt Brady - Grants Officers
Adrian Varney - Program Officer, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)
Date: September 23-24, 2021
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.

Local Park and Outdoor Recreation (LPOR) Grants

#19012 Cortez South Neighborhood Park Project – \$350,000.00

On March 7, 2019, the board awarded \$350,000.00 in local government purpose funds to the City of Cortez to develop an 11-acre parcel on the south side of the city with several active recreational amenities including: concrete walking paths, a central plaza, benches, picnic tables, grills, a water fountain, bike racks and trash receptacles, signage, and a nature themed playground. The original completion date for the project was March 7, 2021. The city received a staff extension through September 30, 2021, to assess project viability after delays in completing city financial audits dating back to 2016, as well as the unknown impacts of COVID-19 on sales tax revenue earmarked to capital projects. To date, planning and construction documents are complete but all city projects are still on hold until the end of 2022 due to the auditing backlog. The city is still very committed to seeing this project through as it is a much-needed investment in a historically under-resourced part of the community. Construction is now estimated to be completed in 2023. As such, the City of Cortez is requesting a board extension through September 30, 2023, 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 September 30, 2023.
- 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.

#19029 Las Colonias Park River Recreation – \$350,000.00

On March 7, 2019, the board awarded \$350,000.00 in local government purpose funds to the City of Grand Junction to further develop recreational use and restore riparian habitat along



the Colorado River within the 104-acre Las Colonias Park. The original completion date for the project was March 7, 2021. The city received a staff extension through September 30, 2021, as COVID-19 delayed the procurement and installation of interpretive signage designed in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). To date, all project components are complete, with new amenities open to the public, but final invoicing is still in progress with USFWS. The city expects to resolve final invoicing shortly. As such, the City of Grand Junction is requesting a modest board extension through December 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 December 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.

#19033 Outdoor STEM Classroom & Playspace – \$255,000.00

On March 7, 2019, the board awarded \$255,000.00 in local government purpose funds to Mesa County, in partnership with EUREKA! McConnel Science Museum, to construct an outdoor STEM classroom and playspace. The original completion date for the project was March 7, 2021. The county received a staff extension through September 30, 2021, as design of the math and science themed outdoor play features took longer than expected—both due to COVID-19, as well as the custom nature of the elements. To date, all design work is complete, but the manufacturer of many project components is delayed by several months. Construction is now estimated to be completed by the end of the year. As such, Mesa County is requesting a board extension through March 31, 2022, 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, 2022.
- 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.

#19038 Pitkin County Healthy Rivers Whitewater Park – \$350,000.00

On March 7, 2019, the board awarded \$350,000.00 in local government purpose funds to Pitkin County to further develop the new whitewater wave features along the Roaring Fork River with much needed emergency access routes and an elevated boardwalk for viewing and gathering space. The original completion date for the project was March 7, 2021. The county received a staff extension through September 30, 2021, to assess project viability as unknown impacts of COVID-19 on sales tax revenue earmarked towards capital projects have frozen the project



from moving forward. To date, all design work is complete. Requests for contractor bids are expected by the end of the year with construction to begin in early 2022. As such, Pitkin County is requesting a board extension through December 31, 2022, 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 31, 2022.
- 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.

LPOR Mini Grants

#19307 Coal Miners' Bucket Park - \$42,472.00

On March 7, 2019, the board awarded \$42,472.00 in local government purpose funds to the Town of Oak Creek to upgrade its outdated local park infrastructure with signage, ADA compliant picnic tables, and new landscaping. The original completion date of the project was March 7, 2020. The town received a staff extension through September 30, 2021, as securing a contractor proved challenging due to the town's remote location. COVID-19 also slowed planning efforts with project partners. To date approximately 50% of the project is complete with more to come through the end of the year. Final planting and the student build picnic tables aren't expected to be completed until spring 2022. As such, the Town of Oak Creek is requesting a board extension through September 30, 2022, 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 September 30, 2022.
- 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.

Conservation Excellence Grants

#20544 Eastern Slope & Plains Wildlife Prioritization Study - \$54,000.00

On September 26, 2019, the board awarded \$54,000.00 in open space purpose funds to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) SE Region, in a partnership with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to build upon the recently completed Western Slope Wildlife Prioritization Study to provide Colorado with a statewide assessment to guide transportation planning and project development for the benefit of the state's wildlife resources. The

statewide study will identify and prioritize migration needs in eastern Colorado to reduce improve connectivity for wildlife and reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions. The original completion date of the project was September 26, 2021. While the project is estimated to be 65% complete, initial delay by CDOT in accessing funds to start the project delayed the project timeline. CPW continues to collaborate on the project and expects a spring 2022 completion. As such, CPW is requesting a board extension through June 30, 2022, 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 30, 2022.
- 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.

Open Space Grants

#19107 – Saguache and San Luis Creeks Conservation Legacy - \$330,000.00

On December 6, 2018, the board awarded \$330,000.00 in open space purpose funds to Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) to assist with the bargain sale purchase of two conservation easements in Saguache County. The grant award includes protection of the 2,241.25-acre Saguache Creek Ranch and conservation of 2,092 acres of the Pheasant Valley Ranch which will result in the protection of the entire 3,858.2-acre Pheasant Valley Ranch. Conservation of these two properties will protect significant wildlife habitat in the upper San Luis Valley, as well as 1.4 miles of San Luis Creek and 5.8 miles of Saguache Creek. The ranch open space contributes to the spectacular viewshed across the San Luis Valley from the heavily traveled Highway 285, contributing to foreground views leading up to the Sangre de Cristo Mountain peaks. Protecting these ranches builds on a significant GOCO-supported conservation legacy in the region including a 17-mile conservation corridor buffering the Saguache Creek and connecting 415,000 acres of private ranchland conservation and public lands.

CCALT has made significant progress toward the completion of these two transactions and is currently on a board extension through October 31, 2021. The Saguache Creek Ranch Conservation Easement closed in January of 2021. Unfortunately, Pheasant Valley Ranch has encountered several roadblocks that have delayed closing. The landowner is currently working through a tax judgment that was issued by the Colorado Department of Revenue relating to an error in the tax filing associated with the landowner’s first conservation easement transaction. To provide enough time to resolve the tax judgement and associated impacts to the current conservation easement transaction, CCALT is requesting a second board extension through the end of the 2021.

Recommendation: Approval of extension request with the following conditions:



- Completion of the Pheasant Valley Ranch transaction by December 31, 2021
- If, for any reason the project encounters significant delays because of this tax judgement, GOCO staff and CCALT would like to reserve the opportunity to seek additional time to close the transaction.



**The State Board of the
Great Outdoors Colorado Trust
Fund Resolution 2021-16
September 24, 2021**

A Resolution to Provide a Loan to The Conservation Fund for the Kern Property

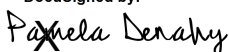
This Resolution is made in view of the following facts:

1. The Conservation Fund desires to acquire the 3,478-acre Kern parcel for inclusion into the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site (NHS) when funding is made available from the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).
2. The Conservation Fund is under contract to acquire the property to hold until transferring to the National Park Service when LWCF funding is secured.
3. The protection of the Kern Property will provide significant conservation benefits including preservation of short-grass prairie ecosystems that support native species; protection of a critical viewshed that overlooks significant historical sites of importance, providing socioeconomic benefits to the local communities, and the creation of additional public access opportunities.

Accordingly, the Board RESOLVES to:

1. Approve an interest-free loan for \$2,850,000 to The Conservation Fund for the purchase of the Kern Property for a term of two years, with an optional third year at Treasury rate of interest, subject to the following terms:
 - The loan will be issued via a promissory note executed by The Conservation Fund including a possible staggered "call" provision for the loan, allowing GOCO to recover principal in the event of a shortfall in lottery proceeds.
 - The loan will be an unsecured, general obligation of The Conservation Fund on terms comparable to its recent A3 rated bond issue.
 - The loan will come from existing cash GOCO has available at Treasury, without any effect on outstanding or future grants.
2. Authorize the Executive Director to make minor adjustments to the terms of the loan. If The Conservation Fund cannot complete the transaction under the prescribed terms, the Executive Director will consult with the Board.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund on September 23, 2021.

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Pamela Denahy, Board Secretary