



1900 Grant St., Ste. 725  
Denver, CO 80203



303.226.4500  
info@GOCO.org  
GOCO.org



Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) receives half of Colorado Lottery proceeds each year, and invests that funding in improving Colorado's trails, parks, wildlife, open spaces, and rivers.

Created by a vote of the people in 1992, GOCO is managed by an independent board and uses no tax dollars.



Colorado Parks and Wildlife programs and facilities receive half of GOCO's funding each year for state parks and wildlife work.

*El informe anual está en español a [goco.org/informe](http://goco.org/informe).*

Designed by **Laura Hartgerink, Signify, LLC**.  
Cover photo by **moxie82inc**.



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

**PROTECT**

**CONNECT**

**INSPIRE**

## For Great Outdoors Colorado and its partners, 2019 was a year of **MOMENTUM.**

As dollars became projects, and visions became reality, we felt the power of our network of hard-working, passionate partners advancing a mission. By the fourth year of its current strategic plan, GOCO had awarded \$291.7 million in funding, marking an unprecedented level of investment in Colorado's great outdoors.

GOCO's stakeholders—local governments, land trusts, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife—and a growing network of entities that work collaboratively with those, set out to achieve an ambitious plan with three pillars:

- **PROTECT** more urban and rural land for places to recreate, to safeguard rivers and wildlife habitat, and to sustain local agriculture.
- **CONNECT** people to the outdoors, filling gaps in important trail systems and improving outdoor access.
- **INSPIRE** more kids and their families to get outside and grow their love for the outdoors.

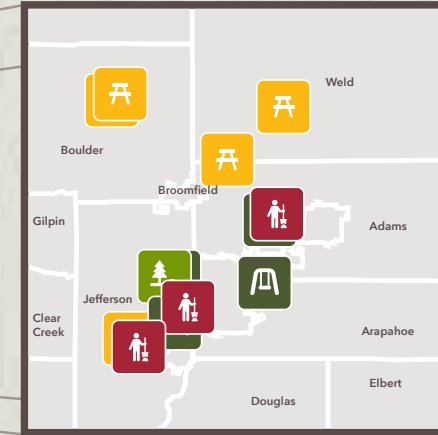
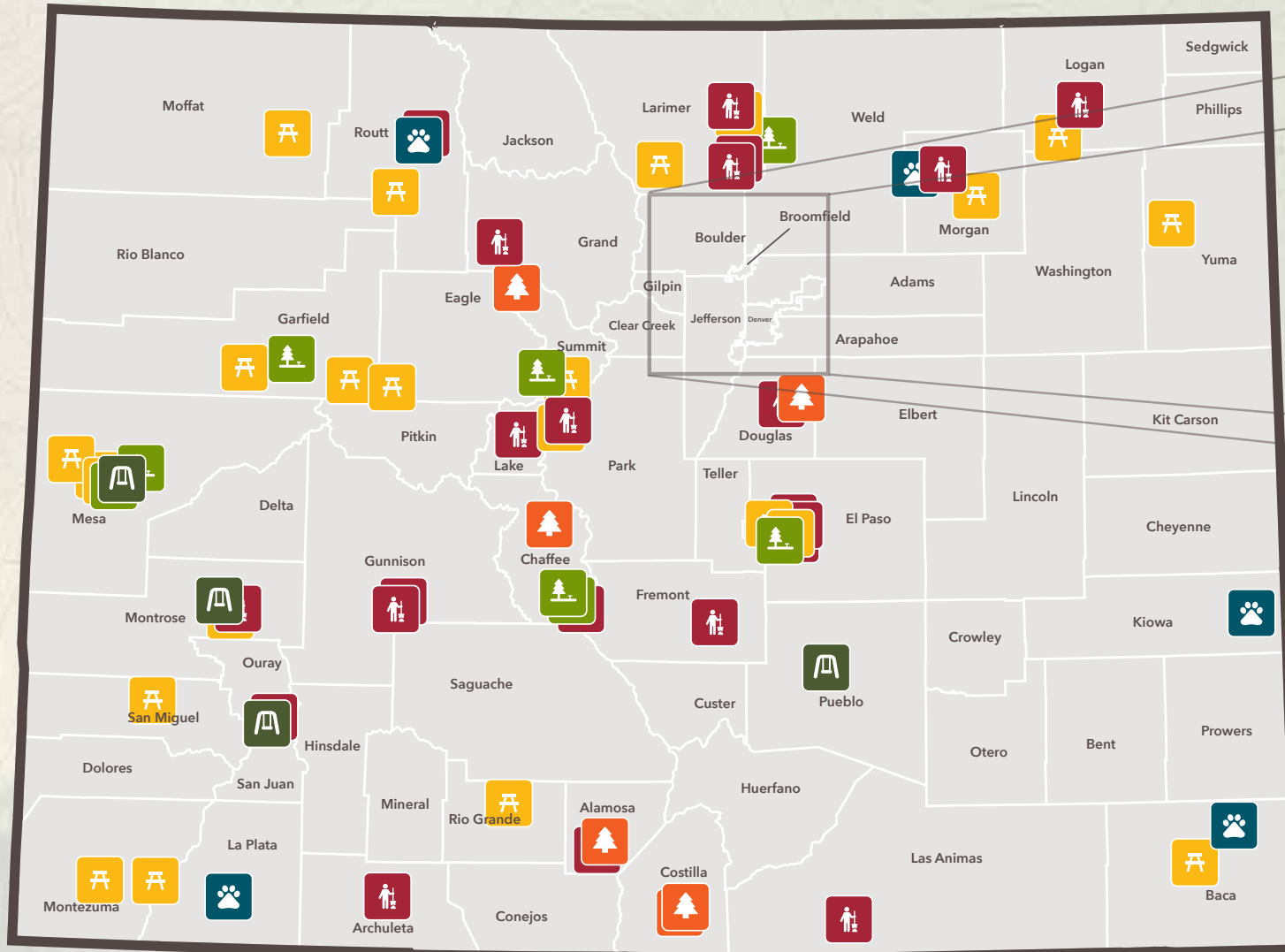
From the ground up, GOCO's stakeholders and partners were hard at work bringing large-scale and eagerly anticipated projects to life in their communities. They put open space dollars to work in closing land conservation projects that were decades in the making. They broke ground on new parks, playgrounds, and trails. And they motivated a generation of Coloradans to get up and get out.

**Here's to a momentous year of conservation and outdoor recreation progress. And cheers to you who made leaps forward possible.**



# GOCO At-a-Glance

Projects funded in FY 2019\*



## KEY

-  Park/Planning
-  Habitat Restoration
-  State Park
-  Wildlife Project
-  Land Conservation
-  School Playground

In FY 2019, our grantees put GOCO funds to work for:

**88**  
PROJECTS  
FUNDED

INVESTED IN  
**35**  
counties

**3,700**  
STUDENTS  
IMPACTED

**22 SPECIES**  
OF WILDLIFE PROTECTED



**20 RURAL**  
COMMUNITIES  
**FUNDED**



**8,593**  
ACRES CONSERVED  
AND **415** acres of habitat  
RESTORED



**21** local  
PARKS  
improved



GOCO also funds regional and statewide projects through our conservation excellence grant program and Colorado Parks and Wildlife, which receives half of our funding. Find out more at [GOCO.org/cpw](http://GOCO.org/cpw).

\*GOCO's FY 2019 ran from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

# Serving Colorado

Since our inception in 1992:

**5,297**  
projects were funded in all

**64 COUNTIES**  
across the state

INVESTED IN  
efforts supporting  
**43**

ENDANGERED  
OR THREATENED  
SPECIES

RESTORED/RECONSTRUCTED  
 **906** miles  
of trails

 **1,021**  
miles of rivers protected


 **1,621**  
CREATED &  
IMPROVED  
community parks and  
outdoor recreation areas

**1.2**  
BILLION  
DOLLARS

ADDED OVER  
 **47,000**  
acres to the State Parks system

TRANSFORMED  
**64** school  
playgrounds  
that serve  
 **24,000**  
STUDENTS

IN LOTTERY  
PROCEEDS  
INVESTED  
BACK INTO  
COLORADO

MORE THAN  
**1.2 MILLION**  
ACRES   
have been conserved

EMPLOYED **9,593** young people through the Colorado Youth Corps Association

## Economic Impact



Colorado Parks and  
Wildlife Fact Sheet (2019)

The OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY delivers an economic contribution of **62 billion dollars** to Colorado each year and accounts for **more than 500,000 jobs** in the state.

Approximately **92% of Coloradans** recreate in the outdoors at least once every few weeks.

2019 Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)



FISHING, HUNTING, AND WILDLIFE WATCHING contribute more than **\$5 billion** to Colorado's economy.

Economic Contributions of Outdoor Recreation in Colorado (2017)



Grants from GOCO and the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) support **11,800 jobs** and **\$507 million in labor income**.

The Trust for Public Land: The economic benefits of Great Outdoors Colorado and the Conservation Trust Fund (2018)

GOCO grants and the state's conservation easement tax credit program's **investments in land conservation** have resulted in **\$13.7 billion** in benefits for Coloradans, a **\$4-\$12 return for every dollar spent on conservation**.

Colorado State University: Investing in Colorado (2017)



# Protect

As a key pillar of its 2015 strategic plan, GOCO created the Protect Initiative to conserve more land for wildlife and people.

Since then, GOCO has invested \$44.5 million in 11 projects, several of which marked the culmination of decades of work by diverse partnerships across Colorado. In FY 2019, partners were hard at work closing projects funded in previous years.

In total, the projects will conserve 130,063 acres of land, protecting open spaces, rivers and streams, and wildlife habitat—safeguarding large scale or urgently needed areas of land forever.

In 2019, The Trust for Public Land and The Nature Conservancy officially acquired Crazy French Ranch with the support of GOCO, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the City of Trinidad. In coming years, the ranch and its Fishers Peak, the iconic backdrop to Las Animas County, **will open to the public as part of Colorado's 42nd state park**. The 30-square-mile property will be an outdoor recreation destination for Southern Colorado locals and visitors alike.

*Pictured: Fishers Peak overlooking Trinidad's Crazy French Ranch. PHOTO BY LAURYN WACHS, COURTESY OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY.*

**FY 2016** | GOCO awarded its **largest-ever, single transaction grant of \$10 million** to The Trust for Public Land and partners for **the conservation of nearly 5,000 acres** of Trampe Ranch, a working cattle ranch that generates 20% of Gunnison County's agricultural economy. The property is home to some of the most outstanding scenery Colorado has to offer.

*Pictured: Trampe Ranch in Gunnison County. PHOTO BY BARB EAST.*

**FY 2017** | GOCO helped Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy **fund easements to conserve an additional 25,039 acres** of JE Canyon Ranch in Las Animas County. The easements **protect the area's agricultural heritage and native shortgrass prairie**, one of the most threatened habitats in the world.

*Pictured: Southeast Colorado Prairie Canyonlands. PHOTO COURTESY OF COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST.*

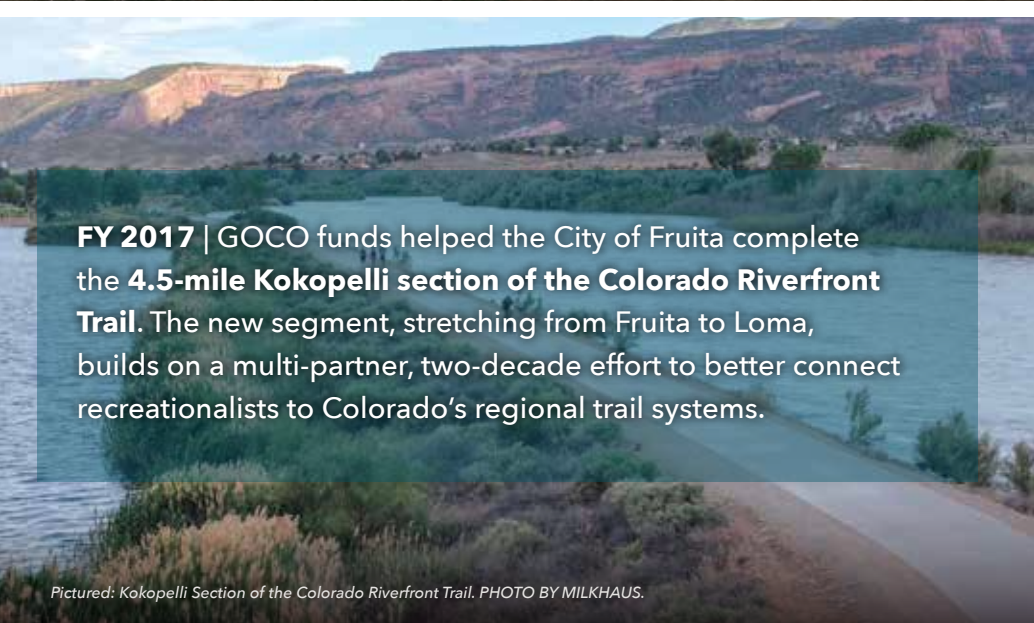
**FY 2018** | GOCO funds helped Douglas County purchase the **2,038-acre Sandstone Ranch** near Larkspur. The property, which **will become public open space**, will alleviate crowding at other popular area destinations and allow visitors to enjoy its magnificent red rock formations.

*Pictured: Sandstone Ranch. PHOTO COURTESY OF DOUGLAS COUNTY.*



**Connect Initiative Planning Grants** | In FY 2017, GOCO awarded the Town of Palisade a **\$90,000 grant** to support its vision to create an iconic, multi-use trail from the top of the Grand Mesa to the valley floor. In FY 2020 GOCO would support the project with a **\$1.2 million grant award** for construction.

*Pictured: Palisade Plunge Project. PHOTO FROM GOOGLE EARTH.*



**FY 2017** | GOCO funds helped the City of Fruita complete the **4.5-mile Kokopelli section of the Colorado Riverfront Trail**. The new segment, stretching from Fruita to Loma, builds on a multi-partner, two-decade effort to better connect recreationalists to Colorado's regional trail systems.

*Pictured: Kokopelli Section of the Colorado Riverfront Trail. PHOTO BY MILKHAUS.*



**FY 2018** | GOCO awarded Clear Creek County **\$2 million to extend the Peaks to Plains Trail** through Clear Creek Canyon. The new section provides **easier access to river recreation** and creates a **safer route for pedestrians** and cyclists traveling through Clear Creek Canyon Park where people fish, wade in the water, rock climb, and enjoy nature.

*Pictured: Peaks to Plains Trail. PHOTO BY MOXIE82INC.*



# Connect

The second pillar of GOCO's 2015 strategic plan, the Connect Initiative was created to fund projects that close critical gaps in trail networks across the state. Connected trail systems bring safer, more close-to-home recreation opportunities to Coloradans.

Over the last four years, GOCO has invested \$19.9 million in 22 projects across Colorado that will construct new trails or create trail plans for future projects, with the final round of Connect funding awarded in FY 2020. The projects have leveraged \$36.8 million in local funding and will ultimately construct 30 miles of trail.

This fiscal year was one for groundbreakings, construction work, and grand openings as plans became paths and projects were brought to life.

In FY 2017, GOCO awarded **\$1 million to help the Town of Castle Rock add a two-mile segment to the East Plum Creek Trail**, the town's most widely used paved trail. The new segment, opened in September 2019, connects Castle Rock residents to their historic downtown and provides recreationalists of all levels and abilities with better access to scenic views, parks, and open spaces.

*Pictured: East Plum Creek Trail in Castle Rock. PHOTO BY JOHN FIELDER.*

# Inspire

As the cornerstone of GOCO's current strategic plan, the Inspire Initiative—now known as Generation Wild—has encouraged youth and their families to connect to the outdoors by providing places for kids and families to play, culturally relevant programs that build off one another, and pathways to outdoor stewardship jobs and leadership roles.

GOCO has invested \$30 million in the initiative, funding 15 Generation Wild communities. Hard-working, local coalitions are bringing projects to life using a community-led, youth-driven, collaborative approach to creating equitable access to the outdoors. This innovative framework is being looked to as a national model, as each coalition's approach will serve as an example to other communities across the country.

Hundreds of partners—local governments, schools, and nonprofits in urban, suburban, and rural areas—are elevating the voices of community members, particularly the youth themselves, and collaborating in unprecedented ways to connect tens of thousands of kids to nature.

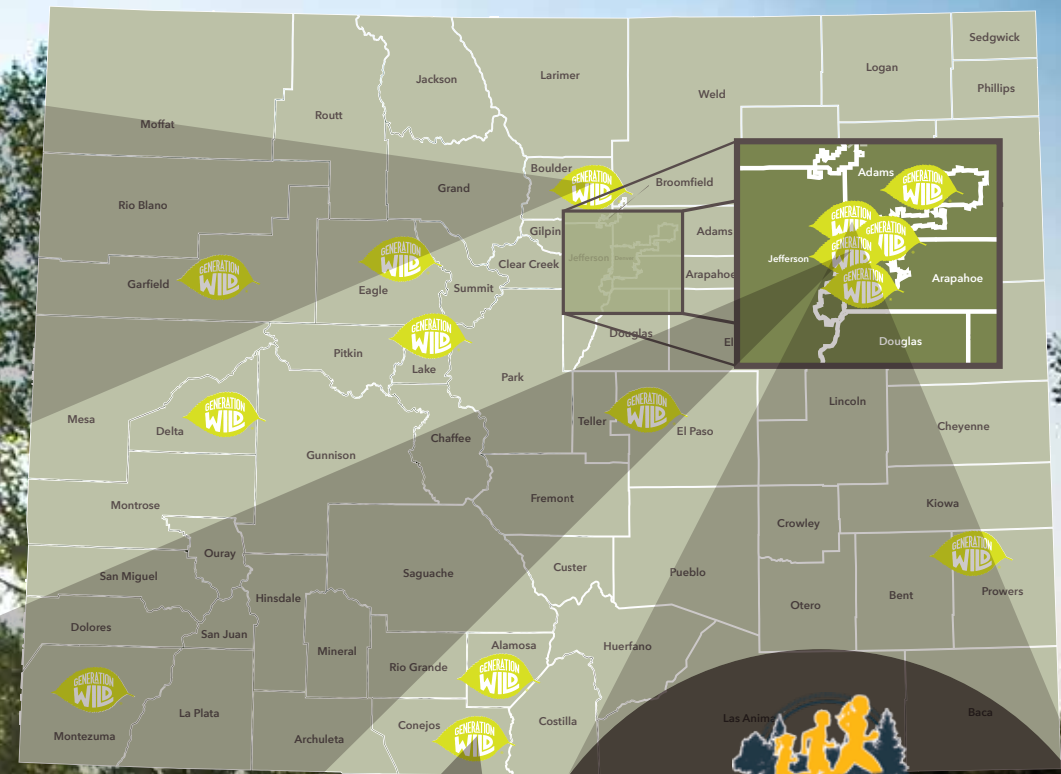


"NATURE KIDS GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT MORE WITH OUR CHILDREN, AND WE GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT COLORADO. IN OUR 19 YEARS HERE, WE HAVEN'T KNOWN ANYTHING, JUST WORKING AND WORKING. SO THAT HAS BEEN MY EXPERIENCE. I FEEL VERY COMFORTABLE, AND I FORGET ABOUT MY OUTSIDE PROBLEMS." *–Rosa Gutiérrez, Nature Kids/Jóvenes de la Naturaleza Lafayette parent*



"COMING FROM A FAMILY WHO DOESN'T HAVE A LOT OF OPPORTUNITIES TO BUY ALL THIS STUFF, IT'S REALLY COOL AND ACCESSIBLE THAT YOU CAN JUST COME HERE, GRAB STUFF, AND GO EXPLORE AND BE CONNECTED WITH NATURE WITH YOUR FAMILY. IT'S JUST A GREAT OPPORTUNITY."

*–Ahtziri Riguez describing the Westwood coalition's outdoor gear library*



"TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THIS PROGRAM IN OUR LIVES HAS BEEN A TRUE BLESSING. IT HAS GIVEN MY NEPHEW A LIFE. IT HAS GIVEN HIM SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO. I AM SO THANKFUL THAT YOUR PROGRAM HAS GIVEN HIM THIS CHANCE TO BE A KID."

*–Andrea, Westy POWER! / iPODER! community member*



YOUTH OF THE YEAR KEVIN GONZALES DESCRIBED SAN LUIS VALLEY INSPIRE'S PINNACLE TRIP TO THE SUMMIT OF MT. EVANS AS "BOTH THE HARDEST THING I HAVE EVER DONE IN MY LIFE AND THE MOST REWARDING THING I HAVE EVER BEEN A PART OF."

*Pictured: Nature Kids Discovery Zone at Alicia Sanchez International School in Lafayette. PHOTO BY MOXIE82INC.*

In 2019, Generation Wild got a little, well, Wilder. Coloradans welcomed an unlikely character into their world—a nearly eight-foot-tall friend of the outdoors on a mission to inspire outdoor play.



Wilder, who is part goat, part yeti, and all friend, set out to remind parents how the outdoors sparks kids' creativity and imagination. *Wilder: A Tale of Love for the Outdoors*, a short film featured on GenerationWild.com and across media channels as part of a statewide, integrated marketing campaign, was a media-metric blockbuster and sentimental smash hit.

Summer 2019 marked Generation Wild's third season in market across Colorado, a campaign created in partnership with Sukle Advertising and Design. The campaign continued its mission to change a generation of Colorado kids and support the hard work of more than 1,400 partner entities working in 15 GOCO-supported, Generation Wild communities across the state.

The result? A true movement with high early awareness rates and proven results in shifting Coloradans' outdoor attitudes. Let's all live a little Wilder and help inspire children to become the next generation of healthy, happy outdoor enthusiasts.



## RESULTS

73.8% OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS WERE FAMILIAR WITH SPECIFIC PROGRAM ELEMENTS

66.3% REPORTED THAT THE PROGRAM ENCOURAGED THEM TO GET THEIR KIDS OUTSIDE MORE OFTEN

65.9% HAD THE CAMPAIGN'S "100 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU'RE 12" LIST

49% SHARED INFORMATION ABOUT GENERATION WILD

*OMNI Institute, a Colorado-based, nonprofit social science agency, conducted a longitudinal, mixed-methods study that generated the marketing campaign data above in November 2018.*



## THIS YEAR

\$2.2 MILLION AWARDED

415 ACRES OF HABITAT RESTORED,  
MITIGATING ISSUES LIKE EROSION, POOR  
WATER QUALITY, AND RISK OF FLOODING

46 ACRES OF TREES THINNED TO REDUCE  
WILDFIRE RISK

PLANTED MORE THAN 8,600 INDIVIDUAL  
TREES, SHRUBS, AND FORBS TO RESTORE  
NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES

CONSTRUCTED AND CLEARED MORE THAN  
6 MILES OF TRAIL

16,369 INVASIVE RUSSIAN OLIVE TREES  
REMOVED ON 38 ACRES

193 YOUNG ADULTS EMPLOYED

ENGAGED VOLUNTEERS IN PROVIDING  
THOUSANDS OF HOURS OF IN-KIND LABOR

# Taking Care of Colorado

Colorado's popularity as a place to live, work, and play has increased significantly in recent years, and it shows no signs of slowing down. As Coloradans, we share the responsibility of ensuring our great outdoors are well maintained into the future.

Building trails, removing invasive weeds, and thinning trees from over-crowded forests to reduce wildfire risk are all part of taking care of the outdoor spaces we all enjoy and our state's wildlife rely on.

GOCO supports such efforts through our habitat restoration and Youth Corps programs. Plus, in FY 2019, through an inaugural round of Stewardship Impact Grants, we invested \$1.2 million in five projects that demonstrate meaningful improvements to Colorado's ecological and recreational amenities. The projects help advance stewardship best practices and create a unified approach to measuring stewardship project success, helping to ensure a sustainable approach to protecting what we value.

# Local Parks

Local parks are an integral part of happy, healthy communities. That's why GOCO invests funds in building and improving parks of all types and sizes, for the enjoyment of people of all ages, interests, and abilities.

From building universally accessible playgrounds and outdoor classrooms, to creating river parks and upgrading fairgrounds, GOCO grants help create and enhance outdoor spaces for Coloradans to discover and enjoy.

Local parks not only promote health and wellness, they also unite communities, are drivers of economic development, and improve quality of life. Each project makes its community a better place to be.



## THIS YEAR

\$5.5 MILLION AWARDED ACROSS 21 COUNTIES

5 RURAL COMMUNITIES RECEIVED FUNDING

9 NEW PARKS OR OUTDOOR RECREATION  
AREAS CONSTRUCTED AND 12  
OTHERS UPDATED

5 RIVER PARK PROJECTS FUNDED

3 FAIRGROUNDS UPGRADED

4 MASTER PLANNING PROJECTS IN  
THE WORKS

\$8.8 MILLION IN LOCAL FUNDING LEVERAGED

## THIS YEAR

\$5.1 MILLION AWARDED

8,591 ACRES OF LAND PROTECTED

\$8.2 MILLION IN LAND VALUE DONATED  
BY LANDOWNERS

7 LAND CONSERVATION PROJECTS FUNDED

21.2 MILES OF RIVERS AND STREAMS  
PROTECTED

OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAMMING  
ACCESS ON 7,565 ACRES IN 7 COUNTIES

7,363 ACRES OF HABITAT FOR 14 RARE AND  
IMPERILED SPECIES CONSERVED

3 PROJECTS THAT ADVANCE INNOVATIVE  
APPROACHES TO LAND CONSERVATION  
ACROSS THE STATE

# Open Space

Colorado's rich cultural history is deeply entrenched in its land, rivers, and wildlife. As our state's population continues to grow, Colorado's natural resources and open spaces need protection more than ever.

GOCO funding supports open space projects that sustain local agriculture and economies, protect wildlife habitat, safeguard the state's water supply, preserve our breathtaking vistas, and improve conservation best practices to help make sure we keep Colorado, well, Colorado.

In FY 2019, GOCO supported land protection work through its Open Space and Conservation Excellence grant programs, investing more than \$5 million to protect property forever and advance innovative approaches to conservation.

# School Yard Initiative

Communities across the state are coming together to transform outdated school playgrounds into nature-inspired havens where kids can learn, grow, and let their imaginations run wild.

GOCO's School Yard Initiative promotes partnerships between schools, communities, and their local governments with kids leading the charge to design their own outdoor play spaces. Improvements to school playgrounds and outdoor spaces not only create more engaging and creative environments for students, but they also benefit whole communities as school yards are open to the public for play after school hours.

GOCO-funded elementary schools are also eligible to participate in Colorado Parks and Wildlife's School and Outdoor Learning Environments program, known as SOLE, which provides teacher training, family nature nights, and outdoor education opportunities for students.

## THIS YEAR

\$828,563 AWARDED

62% AVERAGE FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH RATE AT FUNDED SCHOOLS

ON AVERAGE, FUNDED SCHOOLS HAD PLAYGROUNDS THAT WERE 3 DECADES OLD

8 PLAYGROUNDS FUNDED

3,734 STUDENTS IMPACTED

## THIS YEAR

\$18.3 MILLION INVESTED

7 HISTORIC STRUCTURES SAVED

\$1.7 MILLION INVESTED IN TRAIL PROJECTS  
ACROSS THE STATE

11 CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AT  
STATE PARKS FUNDED

OPERATION BUDGETS ACROSS THE STATE  
PARK SYSTEM SUPPORTED

FUELS MITIGATION MANAGEMENT PLAN TO  
IMPROVE FOREST RESILIENCE AND REDUCE  
RISK OF WILDFIRES FUNDED

\$2.3 MILLION INVESTED IN CPW'S  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND  
YOUTH PROGRAMS

# State Parks

Half of GOCO's annual funding supports Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), which includes our state's 41 state parks. In FY 2019, GOCO's investment in the state park system totaled \$18.3 million.

These funds support park expansions, capital improvement projects, operating budgets, and other facility needs.

Beyond the state park boundaries, GOCO funds also help CPW carry out its work to support the outdoor recreation needs of Coloradans in every corner of the state.



Since the late 1990s, GOCO has invested more than \$18 million in Staunton State Park. Most recently, GOCO funds supported the Staunton Visitor Center, which opened to the public in May 2019 and will serve as a gateway to many adventures at the park.

# Wildlife

GOCO invests half of its funding in Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) each year with \$16.3 million invested in wildlife projects in FY 2019.

These funds support efforts that help protect the rivers, plains, and mountains that nearly 1,000 species of wildlife in the state call home.

GOCO funds also support environmental education and internship programs, habitat management plans, water quality testing, wildlife research projects, and wildlife festivals.



One of 12 Director's Innovation Fund projects awarded GOCO funding in FY 2019, CPW's Bat Acoustic Monitoring study will provide critical insights into bat presence and habitat use in state parks. With the help of bat-naturalist volunteers, park visitors will collaborate on the data collection effort using ultrasonic microphones paired with a smartphone app.

## THIS YEAR

\$16.3 MILLION INVESTED

12 DIRECTOR'S INNOVATION FUND PROJECTS  
SUPPORTED WITH \$150,000

\$4.4 MILLION INVESTED IN WILDLIFE SPECIES  
ACROSS THE STATE

6 DAM REHABILITATION PROJECTS SUPPORTED

WILDLIFE SMALL CAPITAL PROGRAM SEEDED  
WITH \$2 MILLION TO SUPPORT PROJECTS  
ACROSS CPW'S FOUR REGIONS

\$1 MILLION COMMITTED TO WILDLIFE  
CROSSINGS TO PROTECT COLORADO'S  
DRIVERS AND WILDLIFE

WETLANDS PROGRAM INCREASED IN  
FUNDING BY \$500,000 TO HELP CONSERVE  
HABITATS THAT BENEFIT 75% OF THE  
STATE'S SPECIES



# Finances

GOCO funds are distributed through competitive grant programs for local governments and land trusts and an annual investment proposal from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW).

CPW submits an investment proposal to the GOCO Board each year detailing how GOCO funds will be disbursed across the agency's facilities and programs. For more information on how GOCO funding impacts CPW, visit [GOCO.org/CPW](http://GOCO.org/CPW).

A vast majority of GOCO funding is distributed on a reimbursement basis, meaning grantees must submit final budgets and documentation of their expenditures before receiving funds. All of our grant opportunities require matching funds.

FY 2019 ran from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. GOCO received \$68.4 million from the Colorado Lottery, making this the eighteenth year in a row we have met our Constitutionally-mandated cap. This cap is adjusted each year for inflation; for FY 2020 it is set at \$70.3 million.

In FY 2019 GOCO awarded \$60.3 million in funding across various grant programs.

For our complete FY 2019 financial statements, visit [GOCO.org/finance](http://GOCO.org/finance).

**REVENUES** | GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO REVENUES ARE PRIMARILY FROM LOTTERY PROCEEDS AND INTEREST INCOME.

REVENUES	FY 2018-2019	AMOUNT TO DATE
Lottery Proceeds	\$68,494,436	\$1,234,174,447
Interest & Other Income	\$5,748,288	\$47,931,418
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$74,242,724</b>	<b>\$1,282,105,865</b>

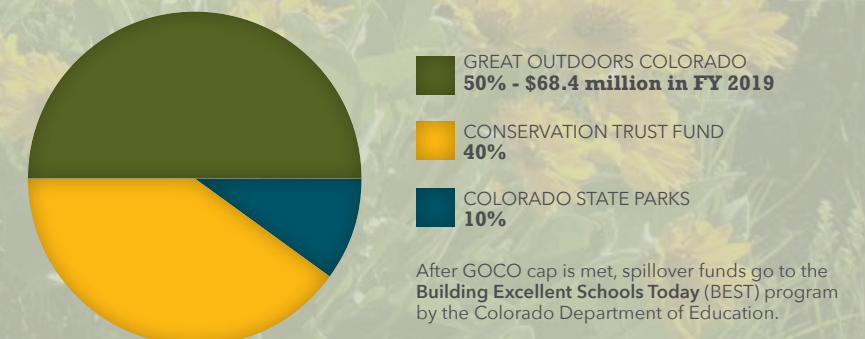
**EXPENDITURES** | GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO EXPENDITURES INCLUDE PAYMENTS TO GRANTEES AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES INCLUDE OPERATING COSTS AND BOARD EXPENSES.

EXPENDITURES	FY 2018-2019	AMOUNT TO DATE
Grant Expenditures	\$63,872,334	\$1,143,185,910
Administrative Expenses	\$5,077,938	\$50,160,177
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$68,950,272</b>	<b>\$1,193,346,087</b>

**BUDGET** | FISCAL YEAR 2020 ESTIMATED BUDGET

Lottery Proceeds	\$68,415,670	Grant Expenditures	\$65,000,000
Interest & Other Income	\$1,500,000	Administrative Expenses	\$5,473,693
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$69,915,670*</b>	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$70,473,693*</b>

## Lottery Proceeds Distribution



# Mission

The Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund was created in 1992 when voters approved Amendment Article XXVII to the Colorado Constitution to allocate Colorado Lottery proceeds.

It directs a portion to GOCO for projects that preserve, protect, and enhance the state's wildlife, park, river, trail, and open space heritage, and created a board of trustees to govern distribution. Read the amendment language at [GOCO.org/amendment](https://goco.org/amendment).

The Constitution requires GOCO to allocate funds in a manner that is substantially equal over time to achieve outcomes across four areas:

**OUTDOOR  
RECREATION**

**LOCAL  
GOVERNMENTS**

**WILDLIFE**

**OPEN SPACE**

# Governance

GOCO is governed by a 17-member board, whose members may serve for two four-year terms. Board members are appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Colorado State Senate. The GOCO Board has two members of different political parties from each of the state's seven congressional districts and also includes representatives from Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources. Learn more at [GOCO.org/board](https://goco.org/board).

## Members by Congressional District

- 1: Katherine Cattanach (R), Denver (now served by Leticia Martinez (U), Denver); Hollie Velasquez Horvath (D, chair), Denver
- 2: Jenn Dice (U), Boulder (now served by Turk Montepare (U), Breckenridge); Tony S. Lewis (D), Longmont (now served by Mo Siegel (D), Boulder)
- 3: Tom Burke (R), Grand Junction (now served by David Cockrell (U), Pueblo); Julie Thibodeau (D), Durango
- 4: Chana Reed (R), Lamar (now served by Pamela Denahy (R), La Junta); Jody Rogers (U), Yuma
- 5: Warren Dean (D), Colorado Springs; Dave Palenchar (R), Colorado Springs (now served by Mina Liebert (U), Colorado Springs)
- 6: Jason Brinkley (R), Linda Strand (D), both Aurora
- 7: Jacy Rock (U, immediate past chair), Golden (now served by Jahi Simbai (U), Wheat Ridge); Karma Giulianelli (D), Golden

## State Agency Representatives

Natural Resources: Bob Randall (now served by Dan Gibbs)

Parks and Wildlife Commission: John V. Howard, Jr. (now served by Charles Garcia); Carrie Besnette Hauser

## GOCO UPDATES

In March 2019, the GOCO Board elected Hollie Velasquez Horvath board chair. Hollie is the director of community affairs for Xcel Energy, is a volunteer for multiple Colorado nonprofit organizations, and brings over a decade of experience in political management and fundraising. In 2019, GOCO welcomed two new staff members: Josh Tenneson as director of finance and operations and Victoria Nava-Watson as communications officer.