



Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) receives up to half of Colorado Lottery proceeds each year and invests that funding in Colorado's trails, parks, wildlife, open spaces, and rivers and in protecting our outdoor heritage. 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 receives half of GOCO's funding each year for state parks and wildlife programs.

El informe anual está en español a goco.org/es.



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Panorama Park in Colorado Springs. Photo by Ariel Lobdell.

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

GOCO.ORG

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We should never forget that the lands and waters of our beautiful state are the homeland of many tribes. They include the Apache Nation, Arapaho Nation, Cheyenne Nation, Pueblo Tribes, Shoshone Tribe, and Ute Nation. We recognize the past and ongoing injustices perpetrated against Indigenous peoples including the painful history of genocide, forced removal, and stolen land. We respect and honor Elders past, present, and future, and all Indigenous peoples for their relationship with this land throughout generations.



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

30 years of investment in Colorado's outdoors.



Reaching this milestone gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect. Since GOCO's founding in 1992, \$1.4 billion in Colorado Lottery proceeds have been invested in over 5,600 projects across the state, leading to 1.3 million acres conserved, nearly 1,800 parks and 1,100 miles of trail built and enhanced, and generations of Coloradans who will benefit.

After 16 years with GOCO and one year as executive director, I feel such gratitude when thinking of



all the incredible partners, staff, and board members who have made this impact possible. Our collective achievements over three decades inspire us and give us hope for what's to come. We have an incredible legacy to uphold and are ever evolving to ensure this unique-in-the-nation resource is leveraged for the highest and best use for Colorado. Fiscal year 2022 was the first year implementing our new grant program portfolio, which allows us to be more nimble and responsive to needs experienced and elevated by communities so we can collectively advance shared values. We also improved accessibility of our resources with a new regional staffing model and simplified grant process.

Of course, Colorado's land and water resources continue to be challenged by development, increased use, natural disasters, and climate change. And not all Coloradans have equitable access to quality outdoor experiences, which we know are critical to health and well-being, inspire stewardship of our natural resources, and support local economies.

Amidst this complex landscape, we find ourselves on the cusp of a major opportunity – a chance to help align forward-thinking organizations and brilliant individuals around solutions for balancing conservation and recreation and proactively preparing our state for climate resilience. This fiscal year,



GOCO committed \$5 million to Colorado Parks & Wildlife's Regional Partnerships Initiative, supporting collaboratives across the state and accelerating the development of a Statewide Conservation, Outdoor Recreation & Climate Resilience Plan. It will be the first of its kind for Colorado and hopefully a collective vision that diverse organizations with varying interests can rally around.

Fiscal year 2022 gave us a lot to be proud of, as you'll see in the following pages, and it elevated the next steps we need to take for our great outdoors and for Colorado. We look forward to working alongside you to make great things happen. Thank you, as always, for your passion and partnership.

Jackie Miller
Executive Director

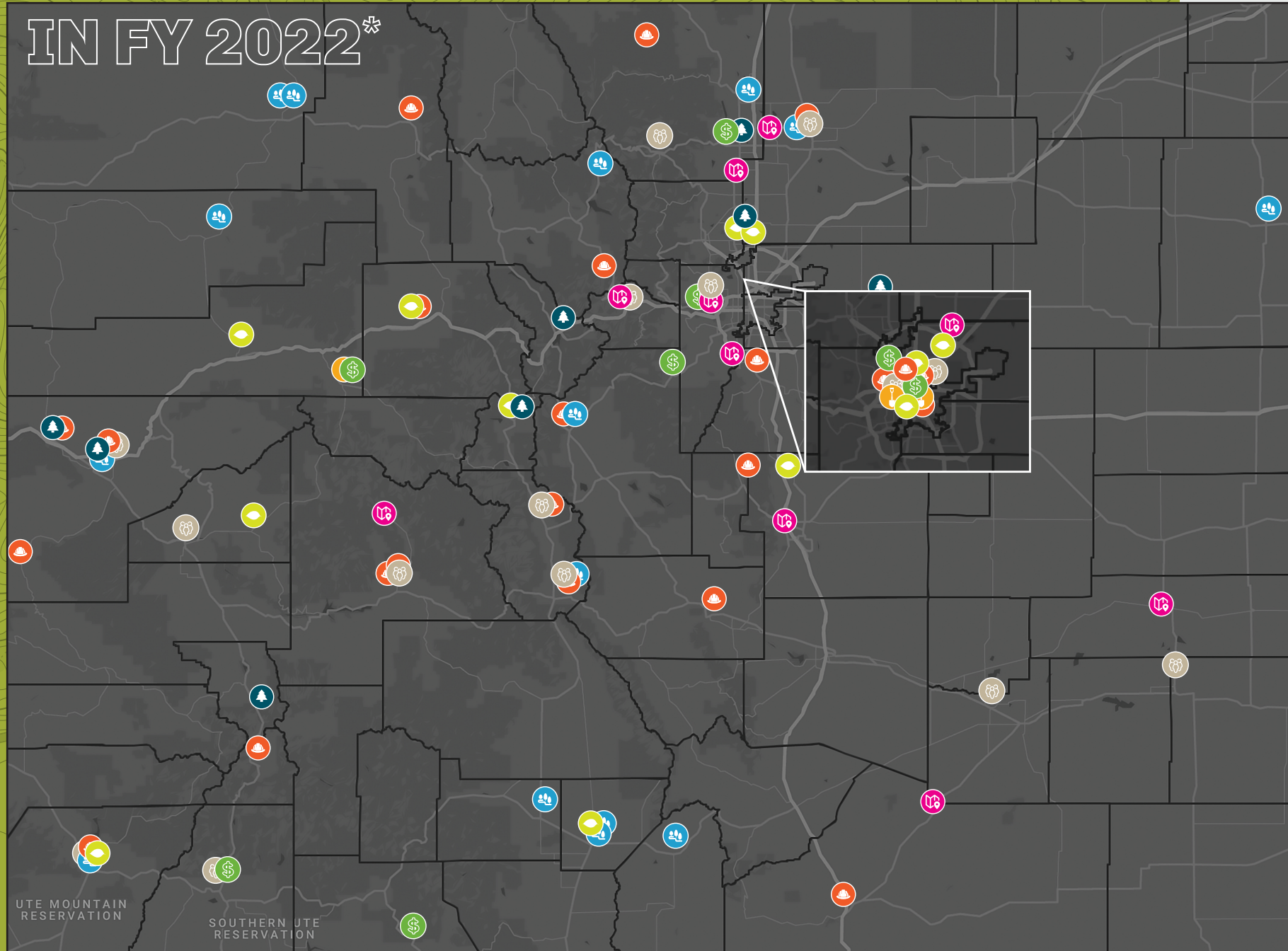


Photos by Bergreen Photography.



PROJECTS FUNDED

IN FY 2022*



GOCO PROJECTS

Key

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Youth Corps |  Land Acquisition |
|  Recreation |  Stewardship |
|  Generation Wild Coalition |  Planning & Capacity |
|  Restoration |  Conservation Transaction Costs |



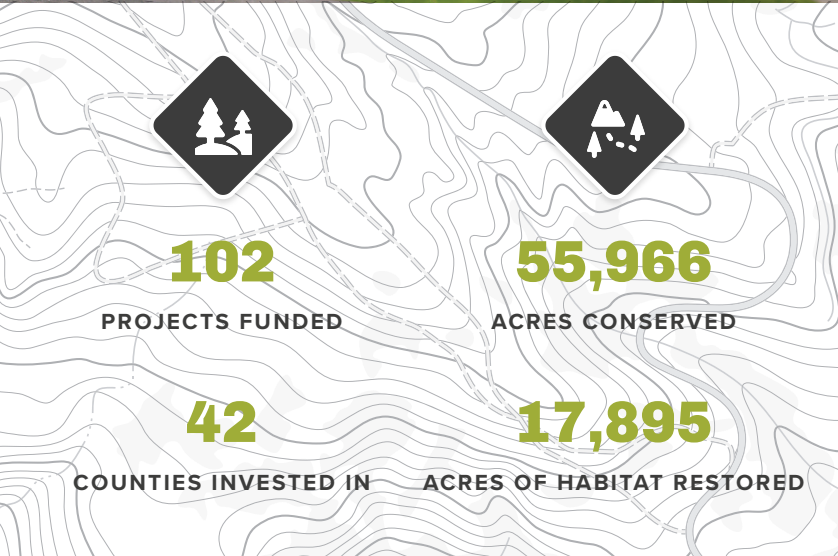
GOCO also funded several regional and statewide projects through our base programs and our relationship with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Those projects are not indicated on this map. For a complete list of grants, see pages 25 - 29.

To learn more about our investments through CPW, visit GOCO.org/CPW.

*GOCO's FY 2022 ran from July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.



FY 2022 SNAPSHOT




27 PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS
created and improved


70 MILES OF TRAIL
built or reconstructed


400 YOUNG PEOPLE
employed through youth corps

COLORADO STATEWIDE PLANNING

The conservation, recreation, and climate challenges Colorado faces are anything but simple. Addressing them requires a collaborative, comprehensive statewide vision and support across hundreds of agencies, local governments, nonprofits, and individuals. Governor Jared Polis, the Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and GOCO have teamed up to accelerate a statewide effort to develop the first

Colorado Conservation, Outdoor Recreation & Climate Resilience Plan.

While we know collaboration of this magnitude can be a challenge, given the unique and sometimes competing missions and interests of organizations and individuals that value our state's great outdoors, we believe we can find common ground in protecting what we all care about. We hope to

OUTDOOR TRENDS

The outdoor recreation industry delivers an economic contribution of \$62 billion to Colorado each year and accounts for more than 500,000 jobs in the state. [Source: Colorado Parks and Wildlife Fact Sheet \(2019\)](#)

Land conservation and preserving natural areas are among Coloradans' top priorities, specifically protecting land, water, and wildlife, as well as maintaining existing facilities and public access. [Source: Colorado Parks & Wildlife Trends Report \(2020\)](#)

Colorado's water resources contribute \$47 billion to the economy through irrigated agriculture and \$19 billion through water-related recreation. [Source: Draft of the Colorado Water Plan \(2022\)](#)

The state has constructed 65 wildlife crossings, including overpasses, underpasses, and fencing, to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and support natural migration. In 2022, the State of Colorado created a \$5 million cash fund for greater investment in these solutions. [Source: SB22-151 Safe Crossings for Colorado Wildlife and Motorists \(2022\)](#)

The largest federal investment in nearly half a century, \$66.7 million in funding is slated to come to Colorado through the 2020 Great American Outdoors Act to repair infrastructure, conserve land, and support outdoor recreation and local economies. [Source: GAOA Project Data \(2022\)](#)

Acknowledging that far too many youth in Colorado have been historically excluded from the outdoors, Colorado's Outdoor Equity Grant Program was created in 2021 to invest a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds into organizations connecting diverse youth with outdoor recreation, education, and careers. To date, Colorado Parks and Wildlife has awarded \$3.1 million to organizations across the state.

ensure the long-term resilience of Colorado's land, water, and wildlife and encourage responsible outdoor access for generations to come.

GOCO is investing \$5 million in the statewide planning effort:

- \$3 million to support new and existing regional partnerships
- \$1.5 million to support planning
- \$500,000 to support capacity for Colorado Parks and Wildlife

SINCE 1992, GOCO'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE:



5,631

projects funded in all 64 counties across the state

\$1.4 billion

in Lottery proceeds invested back into Colorado



1,107 MILES OF TRAIL
built or reconstructed

1,085 MILES
of river protected

1,799 CREATED AND IMPROVED
parks and outdoor recreation areas

1,308,759 ACRES CONSERVED

in urban and rural areas

66,688 ACRES ADDED
to the State Parks system

10,478 YOUNG PEOPLE
employed through Colorado Youth Corps Association



COLORADO
Department of Natural Resources



COLORADO
Governor Jared Polis

STEWARDSHIP IMPACT

As Colorado's popularity continues to grow, individuals and organizations across the state are coming together to ensure our outdoors are restored and resilient.

In FY 2022, GOCO's Stewardship Impact program invested \$745,582 in three collaborative projects that help to care for and improve valuable ecological and recreational resources. Partners completed work on over 22 miles of trail and collaborated with volunteers, local nonprofit organizations, community members, and more to ensure both access and sustainability.

The Roaring Fork Valley, like many of Colorado's mountain communities, continues to face challenges as more of the state's residents and visitors



Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers at Capital Creek. Photo by Bergreen Photography.

flock to its trails and open spaces. To keep the Valley's landscape thriving, Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers embarked on a massive effort to complete 145 stewardship projects with 6,000 volunteer hours across its service region—from Independence Pass to Parachute and Marble to Glenwood Canyon. Through a \$298,000 GOCO grant, they're making strides toward a 30% increase in volunteer participation by hiring four new staff members, expanding training, and purchasing necessary equipment to get the job done.



Construction at Huck Finn Bike Park. Photo courtesy of Sterling Mudge.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Coloradans are leading the charge in building outdoor access projects that uniquely serve their communities. The Community Impact program invests in parks, trails, environmental education centers, and more that support quality of life for the state's diverse residents. In FY 2022, GOCO awarded \$6.3 million to an array of projects that expand local recreational opportunities while contributing to economic vitality. Partners are implementing improvements to 10 parks and natural areas and built or reconstructed over 17 miles of trail.

In Leadville, the community is working hard to bring the joy of mountain biking to more residents. With help from a \$152,000 GOCO grant, Lake County and partners are creating new amenities at the centrally located Huck Finn Park. A bike park there will support beginner riders and the wider community with an asphalt pump track, progressive skill features, jumps, and various shade and seating structures to support family gatherings. They're getting a new asphalt pump track, progressive skill features, jumps, and various shade and seating structures to support family gatherings. Park enhancements are designed by the local nonprofit Full Circle, in partnership with the local chapter of the International Mountain Bike Association, Cloud City Wheelers. The park also has strong support from local organizations like the Generation Wild coalition Get Outdoors Leadville! and Colorado Mountain College, which plan to use the space for outdoor programming.



Olive Mudge and her brother Arlo at the 2021 Pedal for the Park bike-a-thon. Photo by Sterling Mudge.

Since 2019, Cloud City Wheelers and Leadville residents have led an annual Pedal for the Park bike-a-thon event to support Huck Finn, raising \$74,000 to date. In 2021, 9-year-old Olive Mudge (left) collected pledges, hosted a local trivia night to generate donations, and accomplished a big feat: a 24-mile bike ride at the Pedal for the Park event, the longest of her life!



Pioneer Park in Commerce City. Photo by Wildlands Restoration Volunteers.

COMMUNITY-LED STEWARDSHIP

With help from a \$147,092 grant, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers partnered with the Promotores Verdes and Cultivando organizations to expand access to natural spaces and build community capacity to confront environmental inequities in Aurora and Commerce City. Residents are planting trees in low canopy areas, collecting seeds and supporting native plants, and making outdoor spaces more welcoming and accessible to diverse residents.

HANGING LAKE

A Colorado icon, the Hanging Lake Trail located in White River National Forest was forced to close in 2021 following extensive flood damage in the Grizzly Creek Fire's burn scar area. Debris flows swept away major trail sections, took down bridges and trees, and forced the cancellation of over 15,000 trail reservations. GOCO and Colorado Parks and Wildlife directed \$2.2 million to help the National Forest Foundation and the City of Glenwood Springs build a more resilient and sustainable trail that will continue to inspire wonder in all who visit, and serve as a vital economic driver for Garfield County and surrounding communities.



LAND ACQUISITION

Urban and rural landscapes, waterways, and wildlife habitat—Colorado’s natural resources are irreplaceable.

The Land Acquisition program protects unique open spaces, natural areas, and agricultural lands that secure our state’s vital natural resources and connect people with the outdoors. In FY 2022, GOCO invested \$6.5 million in eight projects that are protecting our state’s diverse ecosystems and the many benefits they provide. These efforts conserved over 46,000 acres of land.

Protecting scenic views, supporting wildlife, expanding community access to the outdoors—some projects achieve it all. A \$1.5 million grant helped Trust for Public Land, in partnership with the City of Greeley and Town of Windsor, purchase the 978-acre property previously referred to as Shur View/Missile Site Bluffs Open Space, along Highway 257 and the Cache la Poudre River in Weld County. One of the last remaining large parcels of undeveloped land along this corridor, the area hosts a range of species including the Preble’s meadow jumping mouse, mule and whitetail deer, bald eagles, and river otters. Through partnership, the community plans to build trails and other features that support much-desired public access, while preserving the land’s important conservation values.

On average, landowners who voluntarily choose to conserve their properties with conservation easements pay over \$50,000 in transaction costs—a financial burden that is a barrier for some. For a second year, GOCO invested in Keep It Colorado’s Transaction Cost Assistance Program, helping nonprofit land trusts cover these costs for landowners and get critical landscapes conserved. This supported the permanent protection of over 2,400 acres of land in FY 2022.



Custer Wash South. Photo courtesy of Keep It Colorado.

PLANNING & CAPACITY

Great achievements for Colorado’s outdoors—and anything else for that matter—come with investment in great people and careful planning. The Planning & Capacity program helps partners with planning, capacity, research, and storytelling projects. In FY 2022, GOCO invested \$1 million in nine projects that are helping partners lay the groundwork necessary to achieve their conservation and recreation goals.

Healthy Colorado landscapes have high ecological value and can help preserve cultural traditions as well. With help from a \$55,000 grant, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, in partnership with Trees, Water & People, Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps, and Montezuma Land Conservancy, embarked on a research effort to assess the health of harvest locations of plants used by the Tribe for medicinal

and ceremonial purposes, food, and artwork. Increased development and habitat degradation have made culturally important plant communities increasingly scarce and threaten the Tribe’s ability to pass on this knowledge to the next generation. Through this effort, the project partners hope to co-create a Traditional Harvest Plan to ensure the sustainability of the landscape into the future.



Riparian restoration along the Mancos River. Photo by Trees, Water & People.

SAND CREEK MASSACRE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

In 1864, approximately 675 U.S. Army soldiers conducted a surprise attack on a peaceful camp, killing more than 230 Cheyenne and Arapaho people, most of whom were women and children (Source: National Park Service). During that afternoon and the following day, soldiers committed atrocities on the dead. As a result of the massacre, affected tribes were dispersed to Montana, Oklahoma, and Wyoming. GOCO provided a loan of \$2.8 million to The Conservation Fund to bring an additional 3,478 acres into the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site under the care of the National Park Service. This effort permanently protects and memorializes a historic and sacred site meant to help visitors learn from past tragedy and promote greater understanding into the future.



TAKING CARE OF COLORADO

CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS

Youth are powerful actors in the stewardship of Colorado's natural resources.

Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) members help build and restore trails, construct and remove fences, mitigate fire fuels, remove invasive species, and conserve energy and water. Through these projects, Corps members grow to understand what it takes to ensure ecosystems thrive, while gaining paid professional experience that can be a jumping off point to outdoor careers. 2022 marked 11 years and \$7 million of GOCO investments in CYCA through our Conservation Service Corps program, and significant additional awards through other GOCO grant programs. As stewardship needs in our state continue to grow, the value of this collaboration is clearer than ever.

FY 2022 CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS HIGHLIGHTS

\$1,000,000

invested

31.1 miles

of constructed/restored trail

11,139

invasive trees removed

447 acres

of habitat restored

56 acres

thinned to reduce wildfire risk

400 youth

employed and 32,278 hours worked

RESTORE COLORADO

Collaboration is the name of the game with large-scale restoration. To restore and enhance critical wildlife habitat throughout the state, a collaborative funding network launched RESTORE Colorado in 2020 to care for the rolling shortgrass prairies of the Great Plains to the crest of the Rocky Mountains, and on to the canyons of the desert Southwest, delivering \$30.7 million in impact to date. In FY 2022, GOCO contributed \$1.1 million of the total \$3.5 million invested by partners in the program, which leveraged more than \$9.2 million in match from the grantees for a total restoration impact of \$12.7 million.

RESTORE Colorado is managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and supported by GOCO, Gates Family Foundation, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Occidental Petroleum, Trinchera Blanca Foundation, Center for Disaster Philanthropy, Bezos Earth Fund, and others.

FY 2022 RESTORE Colorado Highlights

\$12.7 MILLION

in impact

92 ACRES

of floodplain habitat restored

16 MILES

of stream habitat opened to native fish

10,360 ACRES

improved

76,700 ACRES

of grassland restored

6,400 ACRES

of invasive species treated and removed

40 MILES

of fencing removed or improved for wildlife

425 ACRES

of forestland restored



Pronghorn. Photo by Wayne D. Lewis, courtesy of Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

CENTENNIAL PROGRAM

Some projects are truly once-in-a-generation and have the potential to create lasting benefits for people, places, and wildlife. The Centennial Program aims to inspire community visions and help implement them for high-value, enduring outcomes.

Our partners at local, regional, and statewide levels will work together to imagine solutions to new challenges. Efforts will further transformational initiatives and capitalize on opportunities to protect the outdoors and improve lives. Launched with our 2020 strategic plan, the Centennial Program is prepared to make significant investments, supporting efforts from concept to completion.

The program was inspired by the legacy-level impacts of GOCO-supported projects of years

past, like the conservation of Trampe Ranch in Gunnison County that protected agricultural heritage and immense land, water, and wildlife resources; the Peaks to Plains Trail, envisioned as a 65-mile trail of statewide significance that will serve 3 million residents of the Denver Metro Area; and the implementation of Denver's River Vision - a series of improvements, like Johnson-Habitat Park adjacent to the South Platte River, that connect people to the river and provide safe, accessible play in and out of the water for several communities that abut the river's edge.

In FY 2022, GOCO invested \$10.1 million in one Centennial Program implementation project in Jefferson County and four visioning projects across the state.

LOOKING BACK

Trampe's Legacy

The largest ever single-transaction grant in GOCO's history, \$10 million was awarded to the Trust for Public Land, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy, to protect the 4,377-acre Trampe Ranch in Gunnison County in 2016. Conserving Trampe meant protecting around 20 percent of the county's agricultural productivity, one mile of the Gunnison River, three miles of the East River, spectacular views from area roads and popular trails, and habitat for Gunnison sage-grouse, elk, mule deer, black bears, mountain lions, migratory and resident birds, and raptors.



Arkansas Valley Fair. Photo by Joshua Trujillo.

CENTENNIAL VISIONING

Partners plan for potential Centennial projects.

ARKANSAS VALLEY FAIRGROUNDS

The City of Rocky Ford is planning for the future of Colorado's oldest continuous state fair, which has been running for 145 years strong, and the adjacent Crystal Lake property. Efforts aim to celebrate local history and heritage, while supporting the economy and access to outdoor recreation.



Trail to Mt. Bierstadt. Photo by milehightraveler.

SUSTAINING COLORADO'S 14ERS

The National Forest Foundation and Chaffee County plan to convene over 20 outdoor recreation and community partners to come up with plans to sustain the trails and sensitive habitat of Colorado's 54 mountains over 14,000 feet and support equitable access to these Colorado icons.



The Wilder Bunch. Photo courtesy of Nature Connection.

GENERATION WILD PROGRAM

In FY 2022, the GOCO board committed \$5 million to 12 Generation Wild communities across Colorado, representing re-investments in coalitions that have been building and growing for the last seven years.

Generation Wild launched in 2015 to support community-based groups in breaking down barriers to the outdoors through new places to play, outdoor programs and activities, and employment opportunities.

The coalitions, which work to identify unique local barriers to the outdoors and devise solutions to address them, consist of diverse groups of partners, including local governments, schools, health-based organizations, and youth-serving nonprofits, which work together to achieve shared goals. Today, they're elevating youth voices; delivering accessible, culturally relevant programming; creating jobs; and promoting equitable access to the outdoors.

NATURE CONNECTION IN DELTA COUNTY

Building the Way for the Next Generation of Riders

Delta County is surrounded by the striking and expansive Grand Mesa, the raging river and cliffs of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, and the towering peaks of the West Elk Wilderness. But many local families have lacked reliable transportation and the resources to access these public lands. That's why Nature Connection set out to develop places, programs, and job pathways to make the local outdoor experiences accessible to all families. Each year, the Generation Wild coalition hires a dozen local high schoolers to build and maintain safe, easy-to-access singletrack trails. They're called the Wilder Bunch, and over four years they've built nearly 10 miles of biking and hiking trails – trails where their younger siblings and the next generation of kids are learning to ride.



Photos courtesy of Nature Connection.

"In my role as summer camp counselor over the past four summers, I've had the pleasure of watching the Wilder Bunch start with a small pump track, then create a couple of single-track trails, to now have miles of trails with different levels that all families and kids can enjoy. And the trails aren't only used for our biking camp. They're also great for taking walking field trips to explore the desert. Campers always point out wildlife, flowers, rocks, and so many other cool things while we're on the trail."

– Elsie Peebles

Elsie started with Nature Connection as a summer camp intern and worked her way up to being the Hotchkiss Summer Camp Lead. She's now taking her outdoor education skill set along on her path to becoming a school teacher.

Photo courtesy of Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement.



EAGLE VALLEY OUTDOOR MOVEMENT

Growing the Community of Outdoor Enthusiasts

Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement (EVOM) is on a mission to reduce the barriers that prevent equitable access to outdoor activities. Working alongside community members and local organizations, the coalition offers free and low-cost programs for people of all ages, abilities, and cultures. EVOM has even created a support network so that people can ask questions or find an activity that would be difficult without translation or guides—from cycling and whitewater rafting to horseback riding and ziplining. And as a result, EVOM families have greater confidence to venture out independently and explore nature on their own, they're more likely to recreate outdoors during winter months, and they've built networks of friends to join them for adventures year-round.

“Gracias a Iniciativa EVOM por estos eventos y por permitirnos disfrutar de las maravillas de la naturaleza. Estos programas son gratis y son para toda la comunidad hispana. Si tienes la oportunidad de participar no dejes de hacerlo. Siempre tienen muchos eventos para toda la familia.”

“Thanks to the EVOM Initiative for these events and for allowing us to enjoy the wonders of nature. These programs are free and are for the entire Hispanic community. If you have the opportunity to participate, don't miss it. They always have many events for the whole family.”

– Ana Lisbeth Mina



Photos courtesy of San Luis Valley Great Outdoors.

SAN LUIS VALLEY GENERATION WILD

Rio Trio Pumps Up Kids & Families

In the San Luis Valley, Generation Wild coalition partners are dedicated to creating sustainable, culturally relevant, land and water recreation opportunities and stewardship education programs for youth. To get summer rolling, the City of Alamosa Parks and Recreation department and San Luis Valley Great Outdoors hosted the second annual Rio Trio, an adventure-style triathlon race. It included an eight-mile mountain bike ride, a three-mile paddle down the Rio Grande, and a 5K run—plus a free children's adventure triathlon for the youngest competitors. More than 120 participants turned up for the sold-out event, making the most of GOCO investments in the local Rio Inspire Trail and boat ramps along the river along the way. Way to go!

“I am just so stinkin' grateful and thankful for this race out my back door! Thanks for making the place I live even better!”

– Community member

GENERATION WILD OF THE PIKES PEAK REGION

Panorama Park Brings the Joy

Along with RISE Southeast and passionate community members, GOCO partners at Trust for Public Land and the City of Colorado Springs helped transform a 13.5-acre park once overgrown with weeds into an amazing destination—one that is universally accessible and enlivened with community art to reflect the spirit of the neighborhood. Panorama Park includes an events area, bike park,

splash pad, skate spot, hammock zone, onsite bathrooms, climbing boulder, sports fields, fitness station, and true to its name, panoramic views of the iconic Pikes Peak and the surrounding mountain range. Its holistic design provides a safe and inclusive park for the neighborhood's 70,000 residents. GOCO celebrates the project collaborators and is proud to have played a part in supporting the effort. A Generation Wild-funded youth advisory coalition helped with community outreach, and today our coalition partners

are working to activate the park. Congrats to all, including the kids and families who will play in this awesome space.



Photo by Ariel Lobdell.



WILDER RETURNS

It was a hairy and successful year for Generation Wild. Wilder—our part-goat, part-yeti, all friend mascot—made a triumphant return to hearts and social media feeds as part of our summer-season campaign “99 Days Outdoors. A Wilder Summer.”

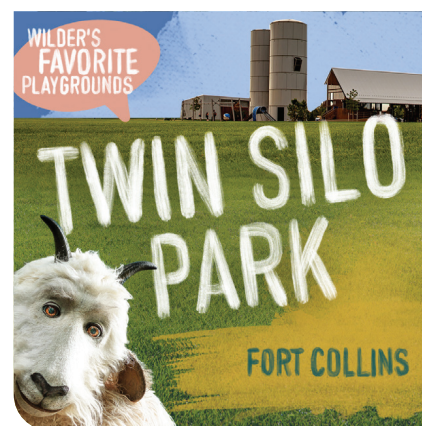
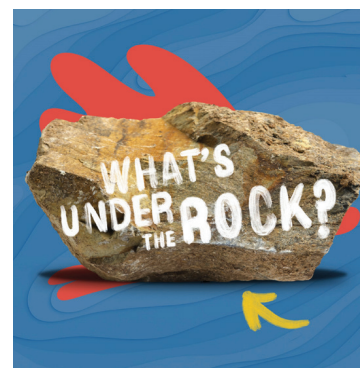
Known for his ability to send campaign engagement and positive sentiment spiking, Wilder took Colorado families on a 99-day tour of our state’s great outdoors, with plenty of tips and inspiration for backyard play along the way. Inspiration rolled out on Facebook and Instagram, as well as in other digital media, at events, and through special activations and public relations (PR) activities. Yes, Wilder was on Snapchat. The media strategy drove a whopping 35.7 million impressions and more than 104,000 visits to GenerationWild.com.

We capped the summer off with our most daring and ambitious goal to date: to earn a world record. With more than 100 volunteers and partners, Generation Wild built the world’s longest hopscotch

at Chatfield State Park in Littleton. Spanning a stunning distance of 4.37 miles—or more than 21,000 squares—the hopscotch course rallied us together, boosting campaign visibility and energy. PR efforts delivered a potential 1.3 billion-person audience for the news item, or roughly \$12.65 million in earned media value.

Summer isn’t the only season for Generation Wild. Our social campaign “Say Hi with a Snowman” was back for a second winter, thanks to a sweet partnership with Children’s Hospital Colorado. As flurries fell across Colorado, families volunteered to create young patients’ dream snowmen. And once again, the effort made us all feel just how powerful nature can be in connecting us.

Generation Wild is about getting kids outside. It’s about ensuring equitable access to the outdoors and nature’s amazing benefits. And it’s a celebration of the powerful youth-and-outdoors movement here in Colorado. **We’re just wild about it.**



FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

We can't talk about a future for Colorado's outdoors without preparing to pass the torch to the next generation. And our young people give us a lot to look forward to.

GOCO's Fellowship Program funds two-year positions at partner organizations for young people from diverse backgrounds to prepare for careers in the outdoors. These leaders are contributing their passion to achieve a variety of organizational goals, gaining professional experience, and

developing skills they'll take with them as they take action to build a brighter future for the outdoors, and all of us.

In fiscal year 2022, GOCO awarded \$592,215 in fellowship grants to the City of Greeley, Continental Divide Trail Coalition, Gunnison County, and the National Wildlife Federation, to hire fellows to support community relationship-building, stewardship of trails and open spaces, green infrastructure, and more. We can't wait to see what they'll accomplish.



CLOCKWISE
Alicia Mountain, National Wildlife Federation; Kristen Wilkinson, City of Greeley; Paul Rivera, Gunnison County; Jordan Williams, Continental Divide Trail Coalition

FROM THE CURRENT FELLOWS



Photo by Ariel Lobdell.

"Being the Southeast Colorado Springs Colorado CORE Fellow has been a great honor and opportunity. I have always known that the power is in the people. This fellowship strongly reinforced that. Investing in champions of community and trusting their expertise will always breed positive impact and results. My hope is that everyone uses that secret sauce the Trust for Public Land has ingrained in their culture, which is putting community in the center of the work." – **Jeresneyka Rose, Trust for Public Land**



"My GOCO fellowship truly set me up for success! I have a new, sustainable career path in a critically important field that aligns perfectly with my passions. I've been able to build relationships with landowners that I never otherwise would have met, and I get to see the tangible results of conservation every day. As I move into the second year of my fellowship, I am so excited to apply all that I've learned and continue to build my skill set doing this important work. I'm grateful to GOCO and COL for offering me so much hands-on training and support!" – **Kelsey King, Colorado Open Lands**



"What I have found most impactful about my fellowship is the stories I've heard throughout the country on how the outdoors connect people and communities. The importance of listening is key to working alongside communities and creating spaces that are meaningful and inclusive to everyone. I didn't realize that my skills and stories here in Denver can help influence other communities to also create access to quality parks and outdoor spaces. With the help of organizations that work in conservation, recreation, and outdoor access, I hope we can reach more people and communities that need extra support and work together to create beautiful spaces."

– **Chris Urias, Trust for Public Land**

Black-footed ferret.
Photo by Mike Delliveneri, courtesy of
Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE & STATE PARKS



Highline Lake State Park

Families are at the center of a \$386,787 investment in 178 acres of Highline Lake State Park in Loma. CPW's vision is to add a new swim beach, group picnic pavilion, campground and cabins, trail expansions, and accessibility features for people who are blind or use wheelchairs. The project will include an opportunity for youth big game hunting within certain areas of the property, and also includes habitat improvements that could eventually support the return of birds like quail and pheasants. With visitation increasing every year, CPW seeks to make the park a fun and accessible place to get outdoors, while protecting the area's valuable natural resources.

Highline Lake State Park.
Photo courtesy of Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Half of GOCO's annual funding is invested through Colorado Parks & Wildlife for outdoor recreation and wildlife projects. In FY22, CPW received a total of \$29.3 million in GOCO funding through its annual investment plan to support Colorado's 42 state parks, hundreds of state wildlife areas, and abundant wildlife habitat.

Within this investment, \$17.3 million went to state parks for capital construction, recreation management, trails, and river greenways. This includes \$1.4 million for upgrades to amenities at John Martin Reservoir State Park and \$3.5 million for a new visitors center at Stagecoach State Park. CPW's State Trails Program also received \$1.8 million to advance trails projects

statewide. \$11.9 million was directed to wildlife efforts that protected high priority habitat and supported the conservation of native species like the black-footed ferret, Canada lynx, and bats.

GOCO investments through CPW also support youth programming as CPW is uniquely positioned to introduce Colorado's youth to the outdoors. By exposing them to potential natural resource careers, encouraging more physical activity, and building awareness around outdoor recreation, wildlife management, and natural resource protection issues, the partnership helps to meet the long-term vision of creating future stewards of the land and wildlife.



**\$29.3
MILLION INVESTED**

to support ongoing efforts in conservation, recreation, and wildlife management

**DIRECTOR'S
INNOVATION FUND**

\$50K invested to support three unique projects



42 STATE PARKS
supported

MORE THAN \$8.6 MILLION
invested in state parks to support construction projects

\$5.6 MILLION INVESTED
in protecting and restoring native wildlife species



**OUTDOOR EQUITY
GRANT PROGRAM**

\$100K directed toward expanding nature access

**\$3.6 MILLION
COMMITTED**
to environmental education and youth programs



Weld County Youth Conservation Corps at Shurview property.
Photo by Tim Wood Photography.

FY 2022

GRANT AWARDS

Centennial Program	GRANTEE PARTNER	AWARD AMOUNT
Arkansas Valley Fairgrounds/Crystal Lake Project	City of Rocky Ford	\$150,000.00
Clifton Community Commons	Mesa County	\$147,300.00
Creating Sustainable Recreation Opportunities Across Colorado's Iconic 14ers	National Forest Foundation and Chaffee County	\$147,000.00
High Line Canal Trail Completion, Access, and Activation in Denver and Aurora	High Line Canal Conservancy and City of Denver	\$145,750.00
Mount Tom Conservation Corridor	The Conservation Fund, Jefferson County, Colorado Parks and Wildlife	\$9,564,500.00
PROGRAM INVESTMENT		\$10,154,550.00

Community Impact	GRANTEE PARTNER	AWARD AMOUNT
Coal Creek Park Redevelopment Project	Town of Erie	\$555,956.00
Community Park East	Strasburg Metro Parks and Rec District	\$724,610.00
Construction of the Missing Link of the 10-Mile Redlands Loop Trail	City of Grand Junction	\$500,000.00
Hanging Lake Trail Emergency Restoration Project	National Forest Foundation and City of Glenwood Springs	\$2,282,000.00
Huck Finn Bike Park	Lake County	\$152,512.49
Loma Playground Improvement Project	Mesa County	\$250,362.00
Our Water Our Future - Solving Ouray's Water Shortage	City of Ouray	\$100,000.00
Town of Dillon Town Park Master Plan Phase 1B Implementation	Town of Dillon	\$456,395.00
Virginia Canyon Mountain Park Phase II	City of Idaho Springs	\$359,087.00
Willow Bend Park, Trail, and Natural Area	City of Loveland	\$988,000.00
PROGRAM INVESTMENT		\$6,368,922.49

Conservation Service Corps	GRANTEE PARTNER	AWARD AMOUNT
<i>Note: These projects were funded by GOCO through a program administered by Colorado Youth Corps Association.</i>		
2022 Eagle Area Collaborative Stewardship	Town of Eagle	\$23,940.00
Baker's Park Trail System - Phase I	San Juan County	\$21,780.00
Buena Vista Near Town Trail Development	Town of Buena Vista	\$23,310.00
Developing Recreational and Camping Capacity in Denver Mountain Parks	City and County of Denver	\$58,800.00
Dolores River Restoration	Mesa County	\$28,350.00
East Plum Creek Restoration Partnership	Douglas County Conservation District	\$24,150.00
Elkhorn Creek Forest Health Initiative	Larimer County	\$75,600.00
Forest Health and Habitat Restoration in the Pikes Peak Conservation Corridor	Palmer Land Conservancy	\$36,330.00
Hazard Tree and Forest Fuel Mitigation Project in Grand County	Town of Winter Park	\$37,800.00
Healthy Forests, Fences and Benches	Chaffee County	\$51,660.00
John Griffin Regional Park Fire Mitigation	Canon City Area Metro. Rec. and Park District	\$37,800.00
Mitigation and Removal of Invasive & Fire Hazard Trees	City of Cortez	\$28,350.00
North Fruita Desert New Trail Construction	City of Fruita	\$31,920.00
Pinyon Mesa Headwaters Restoration Project	Colorado West Land Trust	\$53,760.00
Purgatoire-Cucharas Collaborative Forest Health & Stewardship Project	City of Trinidad	\$28,350.00
Restoring the High Line Canal through Russian Olive Mapping and Removal	High Line Canal Conservancy	\$28,350.00
Riverbend Park Riparian Restoration	Town of Palisade	\$18,900.00
Russian Olive Removal and Habitat Restoration Project	City of Lakewood	\$43,050.00
Sacramento Creek Ranch and Pika Trail Resource Protection and Stewardship	Mountain Area Land Trust	\$26,880.00
ShurView Site Public Access Preparation	City of Greeley	\$160,650.00
Slumgullion Center Campground and Trail Project	Colorado Open Lands	\$15,960.00
Summer Weed Abatement & Trail Work	City of Gunnison	\$15,960.00
Wet Mountains Junkins Fire Recovery and Mitigation	Colorado Open Lands	\$28,350.00
PROGRAM INVESTMENT		\$900,000.00

Director's Innovation Fund	GRANTEE PARTNER	AWARD AMOUNT
NW Region Virtual Cattle Fencing	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	\$17,875.00
SE Region ADA Consulting for 6 Recreation Sites	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	\$19,025.00
SW Crawford SP Interpretational Snow Grooming Equipment	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	\$13,100.00
Outdoor Equity Grant Program Investment	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	\$100,000.00
PROGRAM INVESTMENT		\$150,000.00

More grant awards continued on following pages

Generation Wild	GRANTEE PARTNER	AWARD AMOUNT
Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement	Eagle County	\$310,000.00
Garfield County Outdoors	Colorado State University	\$151,992.00
Generation Wild Northeast Metro Coalition	City of Commerce City, City of Aurora	\$662,810.00
Generation Wild of the Pikes Peak Region	City of Colorado Springs	\$400,000.00
Get Outdoors Leadville! (GOLI)	Lake County	\$531,625.00
Montezuma Inspire Coalition	Montezuma Land Conservancy	\$501,094.00
My Outdoor Colorado	City and County of Denver	\$560,000.00
Nature Kids/Jóvenes de la Naturaleza	City of Lafayette	\$400,945.00
Sheridan Inspire	City of Sheridan	\$498,528.00
SLV Generation Wild	City of Alamosa, Town of Saguache	\$565,000.00
Nature Connection	Delta County	\$333,333.00
Westy POWER-PODER	City of Westminster	\$138,448.00
PROGRAM INVESTMENT		\$5,053,775.00

Fellowship Program	GRANTEE PARTNER	AWARD AMOUNT
City of Greeley Fellow	City of Greeley	\$143,000.00
Continental Divide Trail Coalition Fellow	Continental Divide Trail Coalition	\$150,000.00
Gunnison County & Colorado Western University Fellow	Gunnison County	\$150,000.00
National Wildlife Federation Fellow	National Wildlife Federation	\$149,215.00
PROGRAM INVESTMENT		\$592,215.00

Transaction Cost Assistance Program		
<i>Note: These projects were funded by GOCO through a program administered by Keep It Colorado.</i>		
Abell Ranch	Palmer Land Conservancy	\$48,900.00
Bramwell Valley Ranch	Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust	\$30,000.00
Custer Wash South	Colorado Open Lands	\$18,000.00
Edgerton Creek Ranch	Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust	\$30,000.00
Olander Farm	Colorado Open Lands	\$20,115.00
Sacramento Creek Community Conservation Project (Phase 2)	Mountain Area Land Trust	\$50,000.00
Weaselskin Institute	La Plata Open Space Conservancy	\$50,000.00
PROGRAM INVESTMENT		\$247,015.00

Land Acquisition	GRANTEE PARTNER	AWARD AMOUNT
Delhi Ranch Conservation Easement	Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust	\$200,000.00
Douglas Mountain Ranch and Preserve	Mountain Area Land Trust	\$544,000.00
Heartland Ranch - Jagers Phase II & III	Southern Plains Land Trust	\$1,200,000.00
Historic Splendid Valley: W-M Farm	The Conservation Fund	\$977,000.00
Lewis Farm CE & Immersive Agricultural Experience	The Trust for Public Land	\$1,500,000.00
Schutt Wetlands Conservation Easement	Crested Butte Land Trust	\$127,000.00
Shawn Andrick Memorial Preserve: Phase 3	Central Colorado Conservancy	\$500,000.00
Shurview/Missile Site Bluffs Open Space	The Trust for Public Land	\$1,500,000.00
PROGRAM INVESTMENT		\$6,548,000.00

Planning & Capacity	GRANTEE PARTNER	AWARD AMOUNT
All Lands Camping Plan Accelerator and Recreation Adopters Phase II	Chaffee County	\$148,300.75
Clear Creek Recreation in the Outdoors Management Plan	Clear Creek County	\$100,000.00
Establishing a Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network	Colorado State University	\$89,326.16
Gunnison Wet Meadows Restoration & Resilience Building Project	Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District	\$158,100.00
Increasing Capacity to Improve Stewardship, Conserve Land, and Advance Equity	Estes Valley Land Trust	\$189,404.00
Preserving Culture and Enhancing Habitat Resilience through Traditional Harvest	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	\$55,014.00
Supporting and Developing Equity in the Outdoors through Crew-based Programming	Southwest Conservation Corps	\$200,000.00
Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan	Central Colorado Conservancy	\$35,750.00
Wiley's Great Outdoors - Creating a Master Plan for Rural SE CO	Town of Wiley	\$51,200.00
PROGRAM INVESTMENT		\$1,027,094.91

Stewardship Impact	GRANTEE PARTNER	AWARD AMOUNT
Community-Engaged Urban Forestry Stewardship	City and County of Denver	\$300,000.00
Empowering Community-led stewardship in Commerce City & Aurora	Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	\$147,092.70
RFOV: Community-Powered Stewardship in Western Colorado	Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers	\$298,490.00
PROGRAM INVESTMENT		\$745,582.70

RESTORE Colorado	GRANTEE PARTNER	AWARD AMOUNT
<i>Note: GOCO contributed \$900,000 to the collaboratively funded program administered by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The partnering funders' investment in each project is reflected below. Their total investment was \$4,107,200.</i>		
Eradicating Annual Invasive Grasses to Improve Elk and Mule Deer Winter Range	Larimer County	\$328,900.00
Eradicating Annual Invasives to Restore Native Grassland in Weld County	Weld County	\$174,800.00
Eradicating Annual Invasives to Restore Native Grassland on Private Working Rangelands	Pheasants Forever	\$103,400.00
Improving Big Game Winter Range and Migration Routes by Removing Woody Invasives	White River Conservation District	\$238,900.00
Improving Habitat and Public Access to the Grand Valley Wetland	Ducks Unlimited	\$200,000.00
Increasing Biodiveristy and Reducing Fire Risk with Cross-Jurisdictional Forestland Restoration	National Forest Foundation	\$305,700.00
Increasing Grassland Resilience and Productivity through Improved Grazing Management	Colorado Cattleman's Association	\$413,100.00
Increasing Habitat Connectivity and Driver Safety with Wildlife Underpasses on US Highway 160	Colorado Department of Transportation	\$337,500.00
Removing Derelict Fencing to Increase Habitat Connectivity for Big Game	Backcountry Hunters and Anglers	\$101,100.00
Restoring Forest Habitat to Benefit Big Game Species on Private, Working Lands	Jefferson Conservation District	\$100,000.00
Restoring Riparian and Instream Habitat on Mancos River to Improve Connectivity for Native Fish	Mountain Studies Institute	\$587,400.00
Restoring Riparian and Mesic Habitat in the East Troublesome Fire Scar	Northern Colorado Water	\$300,000.00
Restoring Riparian and Upland Habitat in the Rio Grande Natural Area	Costilla County	\$275,000.00
Restoring Riparian Habitat along the Rio Grande in the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge	Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation	\$258,000.00
Restoring Sagebrush Rangeland Habitat through a Conservation Partnership Coordinator	Mule Deer Foundation	\$383,400.00
PROGRAM INVESTMENT		\$900,000.00

GOCO Loan		
<i>Note: GOCO loaned money to support the conveyance of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site to the Park Service, doubling the area of land under park service protection.</i>		
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site	The Conservation Fund	\$2,850,000



FY 2022

FINANCES

FY 2022 ran from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. GOCO received \$73.1 million from the Colorado Lottery, making this the twenty-first year in a row the Lottery has met GOCO's constitutionally mandated cap. The cap is adjusted each year for inflation; for FY 2023 it is set at \$75.7 million. In FY 2022, GOCO awarded \$68 million in funding across its programs, and we're preparing to grant larger awards in upcoming years to support Centennial Program projects.

GOCO funds are distributed through competitive grant programs for local governments, land trusts, and collaborating entities and through 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.

Most GOCO grant funding is distributed on a reimbursement basis, which means grantees must submit final budgets and documentation of their expenditures before receiving funds. For our complete FY 2022 financial statements, visit GOCO.org/finances.

Revenues

FY 2022

Lottery Proceeds	\$73,117,767
Interest & Other Income	(\$3,932,900)
TOTAL REVENUES	\$69,184,867

AMOUNT TO DATE

Lottery Proceeds	\$1,449,375,829
Interest & Other Income	\$47,788,106
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,497,163,935

Expenditures

FY 2022

Grant Expenditures	\$68,048,786
Administrative Expenditures	\$5,262,535
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$73,311,321

AMOUNT TO DATE

Grant Expenditures	\$1,353,636,366
Administrative Expenditures	\$65,529,333
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,419,165,699

Budget

FISCAL YEAR 2023 ESTIMATED BUDGET

Lottery Proceeds	\$74,192,506
Interest & Other Income	\$800,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$74,992,506

Grant Expenditures	\$61,484,615
Administrative Expenditures	\$5,830,003
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$67,314,618

STAFF UPDATES

The GOCO staff had a big year. Sammie George joined as Program Officer, East; Diane Metzger as Communications Manager; Dan Zimmerer as Parks and Wildlife Partnership Manager; Chris Aaby as Program Officer, Southern Front Range; and Elizabeth Bowen as Executive Coordinator. Two staff members returned to GOCO in new roles – Christy Reeves as Controller and Madison Brannigan as Database & Systems Administrator.

Three staff members entered new roles: Josh Tenneson became Deputy Director; Chris Yuan-Farrell, Director of Programs; and Tilah Larson, Manager of Programs. In addition, students Alexa Chan (University of Denver) and Gigi George (Denison University) joined the communications team as summer interns.

Our new staffing model was in full swing. Six GOCO regional officers live across Colorado, working with partners in and around their own communities to develop projects

and secure funding. In June 2022, the officers launched a statewide tour to share more about GOCO grant programs, answer questions, and learn about opportunities directly from community members. In total, GOCO hosted 24 events in locations across the state over the course of three months.

GOCO staff gathered in Crested Butte in June 2022 for a retreat focused on connection with one another, a strategic planning process facilitated by The Civic Canopy, and presentations by area partners on the impact of GOCO grant funding locally.



Left page: GOCO staff and Civic Canopy in Crested Butte.

- Right page (left to right, row by row):
1. Sammie George at Northeast Colorado Program Roadshow.
 2. Christopher Aaby at Peaks to Plains Trail.
 3. Matt Brady and Wilder at GOCO Day at the Capitol.
 4. Adrian Varney at black-footed ferret release at May Ranch.
 5. Whit Patterson (BLM LSFO Outdoor Recreation Planner), Jackie Miller, and Katie Smith fly over Northwest Colorado.





MISSION & GOVERNANCE

GOVERNANCE

GOCO is governed by a 19-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 eight congressional districts and includes representatives from Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources. Learn more at [GOCO.org/board](https://goco.org/board).

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 it created a board of trustees to govern distribution. Read the amendment 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:



Members by Congressional District

- 1 Leticia Martinez (U); Charles Garcia (U), both Denver
- 2 Turk Montepare (U), Breckenridge; Mo Siegel (D), Boulder
- 3 David Cockrell (U), Pueblo; Craig Hughes (D), Edwards
- 4 Pamela Denahy (R), La Junta; Brenda May (U), Lamar
- 5 Mina Liebert (U); Krithika Prashant (U), both Colorado Springs
- 6 Patty Imhoff (D); Tom Lee (R), both Greenwood Village
- 7 Carrie Curtiss (D), Golden; Jahi Simbai (U), Wheat Ridge
- 8 Mara Brosy-Wiwchar (D), Thornton; Ray Tschillard (U), Greeley

State Agency Representatives

Colorado Department of Natural Resources: Dan Gibbs
Parks and Wildlife Commission: Marie Haskett, Jay Tutchton