Grant Recommendations

Conservation Service Corps

**Grant Extensions & Substitutions** 

Transaction Cost Assistance Program



THE STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND								
BOARD MEETING								
	<u>December 6, 2024</u>							
ACTION ITEM INDEX		<b>RESOLUTION</b>	<u>ATTACHMENT</u>					
Consent Agenda								

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A meeting of The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund convened at **9:15 AM on Friday, December 6, 2024** 

"technical difficulties", recording started at 10:02am

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<b>Board Present</b>	In-person: Tim Brass, Mara Brosy-Wiwchar, Carrie Curtiss, Pam Denahy, Craig Hughes, Patty
	Imhoff, Leticia Martinez, Tom Lee, Mina Liebert, Brenda May, Turk Montepare, Mo Siegel, Jahi
	Simbai, Jay Tuchton
	Virtual: Charley Garcia, Marie Haskett, Bobby Massie, Krithika Prashant
<b>Board Absent</b>	Ray Tschillard
Staff Present	In-Person: Liz Bowen, Rosemary Dempsey, Alex Castino, Tilah Larson, Crystal Medrano, Jackie
	Miller, Christy Reeves, Josh Tenneson, Sammie Trotter, Honor Whitt, Kylie Yang, Chris Yuan- Farrell, Dan Zimmerer,
	Virtual: Chris Aaby, Matt Brady, Leah Kahler-Read, Payton Lockhart, Diane Metzger, Dan Omasta, Emily Robinson, Katie Smith, Mike Wight
Staff Absent	
Public Present	In-person: Adrian Varney (Colorado Lottery), Hannah George (Keep it Colorado), Tara
	Casteneda (Mile High Youth Corps), Tom Dillow (Colorado Youth Corps Association), Amber
	Palmeri (Mile High Youth Corps), Kierra Denehan (Larimer County Conservation Corps), Amy
	Brandenburg (CPW), Doug Cook (Fort Lupton)
	Virtual: Austin Rickstrew (City of Rifle, Parks and Recreation Director), Suzanne Stephens
	(Keep It Colorado), Jacob Mandell (Southwest Conservation Corps Youth Programs), Jenn
	Almstead (Larimer County Department of Natural Resources), James Dickhoff (Town of
	Pagosa Springs), Matt Jennings (Delta County), Meegan Flenniken (Larimer County of Natural Resources), Staci Turner (Conejos County), Charles Schupe (Cit of Los Animas), Lori
	McCullough, The Great Outdoors Fund with the Lobatos Bridge project; Leigh Reeves (Town of
	Dolores), Cheryl Cufre (Colorado Open Lands),
Welcome &	Ms. Denahy invited board members, staff, and guests to introduce themselves to the group.
Introductions	
Regional Update	Ms. Trotter welcomed the board, staff, and guests with a land acknowledge recognizing the
	tribes on the eastern plains. She went on to present the funding that has happened in the
	northeast region of the state including Logan, Morgan, Philips, Sedwick, Washington, and
	Yuma counties. To date, northeast Colorado investments include 168 projects, investing over
	\$19 million, and conserving over 34,000 acres. Ms. Trotter highlighted projects such as the



	Haxton Pool Renovation, Fort Morgan's CentrePointe Park, Mile High Youth Corps, and the Town of Otis's Playground and Ballfield.
Executive Director Update	Ms. Miller updated the board on what the staff has been up to since the October board meeting: the audit, which will be released on December 9 <sup>th</sup> ; the 2024 annual report which will be fully digital; upcoming funding recommendations; Generation Wild coffee chats and webinars are growing and proven to be valuable to foster conversation and cross community collaboration, as well as preparing for the annual Shared Learning Event in January, and the second Wilderflowers campaign; staff is putting the final touches on the strategic plan update and the Memo of Agreement with CPW leadership.
Conservation Service Corps	Ms. Trotter introduced the Colorado Youth Corps Association, Mile High Youth Corps, and previous crew member now coordinator for the Larimer County Conservation Corps, and the work they do across the state that aligns with GOCO's mission.
	<ul> <li>Mr. Dillow shared project highlights and updates that CYCA and GOCO partner on across the state, as well as their upcoming strategic plan, and climate challenges they face.</li> <li>Ms. Palmeri and Castenada shared the Mile High Youth Corps' completed projects, including their Summer 2024 pilot conservation crew, ongoing partner engagement and networking, and their continued work with partners in southeastern Colorado.</li> <li>Ms. Denehan shared her personal story with conservation corps and career pathways she's been able to take advantage of through Larimer County and Colorado State University, and the skills she and others are able to learn through these opportunities.</li> </ul>
<u>Keep It Colorado</u> <u>Update</u>	Ms. Castino introduced Keep It Colorado's Ms. George, Program Coordinator, and Ms. Stephens, Board Chair, who provided updates and goals they have for Colorado over the next ten years: doubling the number of protected lands, engagement, and resources. Ms. George updated the board on the Transaction Cost Assistance Program's (TCAP) awarded grants to landowners and partners, conserving 42,970 acres over 45 conservation projects.
<u>Strategic Plan</u> <u>Update</u>	Mr. Tenneson gave an overview of the strategic plan update and where we are as of October, he went over the more notable recommendations for the update including the Colorado's Outdoors Strategy, Generation Wild, Base Programs, and Partner Programs. He reminded the board of the draft spending plan, their feedback and major takeaways discussed at the fall retreat.
Finance Update	Ms. Reeves presented the finance update.
Base & Partner	Ms. Larson, Ms. Castino, and Ms. Trotter introduced the base and program grant
<b>Recommendations</b>	recommendations
	Ms. Larson introduced the base grant projects: Lobatos Bridge Outdoor Classroom &
	Recreation Enhancement Project in Costilla and Conejos Counties; Recreation HUB in the City





	<i>Mr. Lee made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; Mr. Montepare seconded.</i> <i>Motion Carried (17-0, 2 members absent)</i>
The State Board of	the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund meeting adjourned at 1:32 PM on Friday, December 6, 2024

—signed by: Jalui Simbai

Jahi Simbai, GOCO Board Secretary

## State Board of the GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND Resolution 2024-23 December 6, 2024

#### A Resolution Approving Grants for Base Programs

This Resolution is made in view of the following facts:

- 1. GOCO's competitive grants include four base programs: Community Impact, Land Acquisition, Stewardship Impact, and Planning & Capacity;
- 2. As provided by Article XXVII of the Colorado Constitution and further articulated in GOCO Board Policy 2.11(E), the board may award funding to ineligible entities for expenditures that accomplish one or more eligible constitutional purposes;
- 3. GOCO does not currently recognize Southwest Conservation Corps as an entity eligible to receive funding as identified in Article XXVII of the Colorado Constitution;
- 4. Southwest Conservation Corps is a well-established organization that previously administered GOCO grants and is best positioned to implement the proposal;
- 5. In the FY24 spending plan, the board allocated up to \$10,336,872 in local government purpose funding and up to \$8,681,656 in open space purpose funding for base programs across all three funding cycles;
- 6. On November 7, 2024, the Programs Committee recommended funding nine projects in the amount of \$6,637,579.

Accordingly, the board resolves:

- 1. Award \$6,637,579 to fund nine of the projects identified in the attached "Base Programs Funding Summary List";
- 2. Exercise its discretionary authority to award funding to Southwest Conservation Corps;
- 3. Finance this award with \$3,823,042 in local government purpose funding and \$2,814,537 in open space purpose funding; and
- 4. Authorize the executive director to make minor adjustments in recommended funding levels if a project cannot proceed as anticipated. In the event significant funding changes are necessary as these projects progress, the executive director will consult with the board for additional direction.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund on December 6, 2024.

-Signed by: 1 Wrk Montepare 6B6177B71496415 Montepare, GOCO Board Secretary

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<b>Base Programs Funding Su</b>	mmary List							
Projects Recommended for Funding								
December 6, 2024								
Applicant	Project Title	Program	County	<b>Request Amount</b>	Recommended LG Amount	<b>Recommended OS Amount</b>	Total Project Cost	<b>Congressional District</b>
Conejos and Costilla Counties	Lobatos Bridge Outdoor Classroom & Recreation Enhancement Project	CI	Conjeos and Costilla	\$352,818.00	\$352,818.00		\$652,925.00	3
City of Las Animas	Las Animas Recreation HUB	CI	Las Animas	\$750,000.00	\$750,000.00		\$2,025,400.00	4
Delta County	Delta Fairgrounds Recreation Development	CI	Delta	\$598,843.00	\$598,843.00		\$2,413,843.00	3
Town of Dolores	Joe Rowell Park Revitalization	CI	Montezuma	\$776,845.00	\$776,845.00		\$1,597,577.00	3
Town of Pagosa Springs	East Gateway River Park Project	CI	Archuleta	\$420,000.00	\$420,000.00		\$969,598.00	3
City of Rifle	Birch Park Project	CI	Garfield	\$1,000,000.00	\$800,000.00		\$2,684,314.00	2
Larimer County	Livermore Conservation Project	LA	Larimer	\$2,500,000.00		\$2,500,000.00	\$13,650,000.00	2
Southwest Conservation Corps	Southwest Conservation Corps' Indigenous Youth Crew: Creating Equity	PC	La Plata, San Juan,					
	Through Connection with the Land		Ouray, Dolores, San	\$249,073.00	\$124,536.00	\$124,537.00	\$536,423.00	3
			Miguel, Montezuma					
Colorado Open Lands	Accelerating and Sustaining Land and Water Conservation in the	PC	Grand, Summit	\$190,000.00		\$190,000.00	\$455,000.00	2
	Colorado River Headwaters		Granu, Summu	\$190,000.00		\$190,000.00	3 <del>4</del> 55,000.00	Z
			TOTAL	\$6,837,579.00	\$3,823,042.00	\$2,814,537.00	\$24,985,080.00	

## State Board of the GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND Resolution 2024-21 December 6, 2024

#### A Resolution Approving Grants for the Conservation Service Corps Program

This resolution is made in view of the following facts:

- The board established the Youth Corps Initiative, now branded the Conservation Service Corps grant program, in 2011 to support projects that employ young adults on projects that further GOCO's constitutional mission. The partnership furthers conservation service projects and provides employment, training, and education opportunities to youth and young adults in Colorado;
- As provided by Article XXVII of the Colorado Constitution and further articulated in GOCO Board Policy 2.11(E), the board may make award funding to ineligible entities for expenditures deemed necessary for the administration of grant programs or to achieve outcomes that advance GOCO's mission;
- 3. GOCO does not currently recognize Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) or the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe as entities eligible to receive funding as identified in Article XXVII of the Colorado Constitution;
- 4. CYCA has a long history of partnering with GOCO as a fiscal agent for dispersing grant funds to eligible grantees to accomplish project outcomes, and GOCO has leveraged CYCA's association with the statewide coalition of eight youth conservation corps to create efficiencies and reduce the need for GOCO staff resources for grant administration;
- 5. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is the sovereign government most appropriate to administer corps work on their land;
- 6. In the FY2025 spending plan, the board allocated \$1.3 million for the Conservation Service Corps program, split equally between Local Government purpose and Open Space purpose funds;
- 7. An additional \$763,102.00 (\$336,568.00 Open Space purpose funds and \$426,534.00 Local Government purpose funds) remains unallocated from the Generation Wild FY25 budget, a portion of which will be applied to Conservation Service Corps projects;
- 8. Upon joint review of 39 applications, GOCO and CYCA recommend that the board fund 26 proposals.

Accordingly, the board resolves to:

- 1. Exercise its discretionary authority to award funding to CYCA and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe;
- 2. Re-allocate \$29,054.09 local government funds and \$237,585.35 open space funds from the remaining Generation Wild FY25 budget to the CSC FY25 budget;
- 3. Award \$1,466,639.46 to the projects identified in the attached "Conservation Service Corps Funding Summary List;"
- 4. Allocate an additional \$100,000.00 as a direct expenditure to CYCA to administer the grant program;
- 5. Finance this award as follows:
  - a. \$1,566,639.46 to Colorado Youth Corps Association, split as follows between Local Government purpose funding to manage parks and open space and Open Space purpose funding to manage open space and natural areas of statewide significance.
  - b. \$887, 585.36 in Open Space purpose funds
  - c. \$679,054.10 in Local Government purpose funds.
- 6. Authorize the executive director to make minor adjustments in recommended funding levels if a project cannot proceed as anticipated. In the event significant funding changes are necessary as these projects progress, the executive director will consult with the board for additional direction.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund on December 6, 2024.

Signed by:

Turk Montepare — 6B6177B7149641Erk Montepare, GOCO Board Secretary

<b>Conservation Service Corps (C</b> Projects Recommended for Funding December 6, 2024	SC) Program Funding Summary List							
Applicant	Project Title	County	Youth Corps	Request Amount	Recommended OS Funding Amount	Recommended LG Funding Amount	Total Project Cost	Congressional District
City of Boulder - Open Space & Mountain Parks	Red Rocks New Trail Construction and Social Trail Restoration	Boulder	MHYC-Denver	\$143,617.63		\$143,617.63	\$173,246.63	2
Town of Green Mountain Falls	Green Mountain Falls Trail Maintenance & Realignment Project	El Paso	MHYC-SFR	\$87,217.26		\$87,217.26	\$96,067.26	5
Boulder County Parks and Open Space	Ecological Restoration and Trails Phase 2	Boulder	MHYC-Denver	\$52,330.32	\$26,165.16	\$26,165.16	\$60,177.82	2
North Fork Pool, Park & Rec District	Improving the Accessibility of Outdoor Learning Opportunities near Delta County Schools	Delta	WCCC	\$46,225.11		\$46,225.11	\$75,825.11	3
San Juan County	Baker's Park Trail System	San Juan	SCC-FC	\$66,285.06		\$66,285.06	\$72,914.06	3
City of Durango	City of Durango Watershed and Riparian Stewardship (Oxbow & City Reservoir)	La Plata	SCC-FC	\$111,638.01	\$55,819.01	\$55,819.01	\$142,889.51	3
Ute Mountain Tribe / Ute Mountain Triba Park	l Pool Canyon Archeological Site and Trails	Tribal Land	SCC-FC	\$44,190.04		\$44,190.04	\$47,773.88	3
City of Las Animas	City of Las Animas Recreation HUB	Bent	MHYC-SFR	\$33,142.53		\$33,142.53	\$70,302.53	4
Palmer Lake Parks & Trails	Palmer Lake Riparian Restoration	El Paso	MHYC-SFR	\$49,423.09	\$24,711.55	\$24,711.55	\$59,373.09	5
Town of Buena Vista	Rock N Roll Connector Trail Construction and Existing Trail Maintenance	Chaffee	SCC-LV	\$20,350.70		\$20,350.70	\$23,350.70	5
City of Alamosa	Montana Azul Park Walking Trail	Alamosa	SCC-LV	\$32,270.37		\$32,270.37	\$35,987.97	3
City of Trinidad	Purgatoire-Cucharas Collaborative Forest Health & Stewardship Project – Phase 4	Las Animas & Huerfano	MHYC-SFR	\$39,247.74		\$39,247.74	\$49,590.76	3
City of Wheat Ridge	Wheat Ridge Greenbelt Restoration	Jefferson	MHYC-Denver	\$52,330.32	\$52,330.32		\$94,394.32	7
Larimer County	Elkhorn Creek Forest Health Initiative: Integrating Stream Restoration for Watershed Resilience	Larimer	LCCC	\$81,402.71	\$81,402.71		\$135,475.03	2
City of Loveland	East Big Thompson Invasive Species Removal & Mitigation	Larimer	LCCC	\$39,247.74	\$39,247.74		\$50,467.74	2
Town of Palisade	Riverbend Park Riparian Restoration	Mesa	WCCC	\$26,165.16	\$26,165.16		\$33,845.16	3
Town of Eagle Open Space & Trails Department	Town of Eagle 2025 Open Space Wildlife and Wildfire Projects	Eagle	RMYC	\$22,095.02	\$22,095.02		\$31,428.12	2
City of Brighton	Prairie Lakes Open Space Wildlife Habitat	Adams	MHYC-Denver	\$26,165.16	\$26,165.16		\$31,385.16	6
High Line Canal Conservancy	High Line Canal Russian Olive Mitigation Through Mapping and Removal	Arapahoe	MHYC-Denver	\$78,495.48	\$78,495.48		\$102,395.48	6
City of Longmont	Ralph Price Reservoir Protection Project Phase 1	Boulder	LCCC	\$78,495.48	\$78,495.48		\$105,698.48	2
Chaffee County	Rainbow Trail: Snag tree removal and erosion control	Chaffee	SCC-LV	\$26,165.16	\$26,165.16		\$32,565.16	5
Southern Plains Land Trust	Riparian Restoration at the Purgatoire River Preserve	Bent	MHYC-SFR	\$65,412.90	\$65,412.90		\$85,412.90	4
Colorado West Land Trust	Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Wildfire Mitigation on Conserved Lands in Western Colorado	Mesa/Delta	WCCC	\$52,330.32	\$52,330.32		\$70,480.32	3
City & County of Denver, Parks and Rec	Sand Creek Open Space Land Restoration at The Urban Farm	Denver	MHYC-Denver	\$39,247.74	\$29,435.81	\$9,811.94	\$64,247.74	1
Town of Frederick	Frederick Recreation Area (FRA) Restoration Project	Weld	WCYCC	\$96,198.06	\$96,198.06		\$150,445.80	4
The Nature Conservancy of Colorado	Russian Olive Eradication at Fox Ranch Preserve	Yuma	WCYCC	\$56,950.32	\$56,950.32	_	\$64,570.32	4
			TOTALS	\$ 1,466,639.46	\$ 837,585.36	\$ 629,054.10	\$ 1,960,311.05	

Key:

MHYC-SFR - Mile High Youth Corps - Southern Front Range MHYC - Mile High Youth Corps

SCC-LV - Southwest Conservation Corps - Los Valles

WCCC - Western Colorado Conservation Corps

RMYC - Rocky Mountain Youth Corps SCC-FC - Southwest Conservation Corps- Four Corners

LCCC - Larimer County Conservation Corps

WCYCC - Weld County Youth Conservation Corps

Total Cost of Awards CYCA Administration Fee TOTAL FUNDING RECOMMENDATION \$ 1,466,639.46

100,000.00 \$

\$ 1,566,639.46

## The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund Resolution 2024-22 December 6, 2024

#### A Resolution Approving Grants for the Transaction Cost Assistance Program

This Resolution is made in view of the following facts:

- 1. The board awarded funding to Keep It Colorado to implement the Emerging Conservation Opportunities (ECO) program in June 2024, a two-part program organized under separate subprograms – the Transaction Cost Assistance Program (TCAP) and Organizational Advancement;
- 2. TCAP supports land conservation partners in completing conservation easement transactions that protect critical natural and working lands, particularly in areas of the state with the highest climate resiliency and support landowners with more limited financial resources to close conservation easements. GOCO staff serves on the review committee and participates in making project recommendations;
- 3. In implementing the Transaction Cost Assistance Program, Keep It Colorado committed to facilitate two competitive grant cycles during the Fall of 2024 and Spring of 2025; and
- 4. Keep It Colorado received 16 applications for the Fall 2024 TCAP cycle, and upon joint review, GOCO and Keep It Colorado recommend that the board fund 11 proposals.

Accordingly, the board RESOLVES to:

- 1. Award \$511,400 to the projects and applicants identified in the attached "Transaction Cost Assistance Program Funding Summary List";
- 2. Finance this award out of previously authorized open space purpose funding to Keep It Colorado;
- 3. Authorize the executive director to make minor adjustments in recommended funding levels if a project cannot proceed as anticipated, including reallocating funds to a future TCAP cycle. In the event significant funding changes are necessary as these projects progress, the executive director will consult with the board for additional direction.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund on December 6, 2024.

Turk Montepare, GOCO Board Secretary

# Transaction Cost Assistance Program Funding Summary List

Projects Recommended for Funding

December 6, 2024

Applicant	Project Title	County	Request Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Total Project Cost	Total Project Value	Congressiona District
La Plata Open Space Conservancy	Armstrong Canyon	La Plata	\$50,000	\$35,000	\$88,050	\$588,050	3
Colorado West Land Trust	Bieser Ranch	Mesa	\$44,150	\$32,000	\$68,770	\$1,849,770	3
Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust	Broken Box Phase II	Alamosa	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$88,950	\$220,950	3
Colorado Open Lands	Cochetopa Dome Ranch	Saguache	\$75,000	\$40,000	\$131,310	\$1,691,310	3
Colorado Open Lands	Fleur Creek Farm	Custer	\$75,000	\$60,000	\$88,210	\$188,210	7
Colorado Open Lands	Hidden Valley Settlement Ranch	Conejos	\$75,000	\$42,400	\$109,810	\$2,309,810	3
Colorado West Land Trust	Kier Ranch	Delta	\$67,450	\$52,000	\$89,170	\$1,274,445	3
Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust	Rancho Del Corazon	Conejos	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$103,000	\$428,500	3
Colorado Cattleman's Agricultural Land Trust	Tim Williams Ranch	Huerfano	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$95,800	\$547,900	3
Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust	Valdez Ranches	Conejos	\$75,000	\$55,000	\$103,000	\$889,500	3
Palmer Land Conservancy	Williams Family Farm and Seed Store	Pueblo	\$75,000	\$60,000	\$98,800	\$486,800	3
		TOTAL	\$671,600.00	\$511,400.00	\$1,064,870.00	\$10,475,245.00	