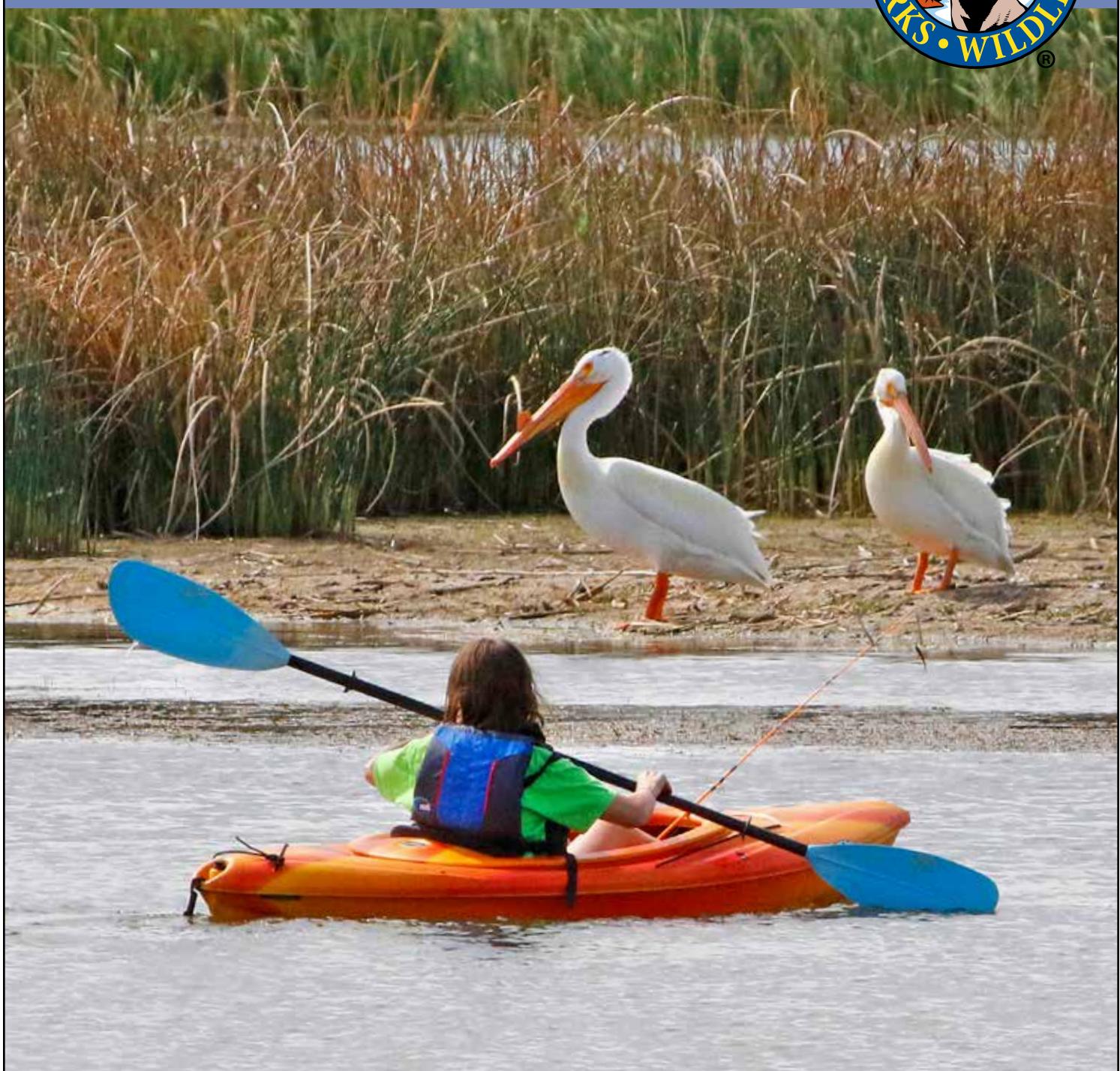


C O L O R A D O   P A R K S   &   W I L D L I F E

# Great Outdoors Colorado

FY 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Cover Photo: St. Vrain State Park ©Vic Schendel/CPW

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# Letter from the Director

It is a privilege to present the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) 2024-25 Annual Report to the Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Trust. This year's report is more than a summary of activities; it is a testament to a 125-year legacy of conservation and management of Colorado's natural resources. Through the unwavering dedication of our team and vital support from GOCO, we continue to conserve our state's wildlife, elevate the gold standard of our state park system, and pioneer sustainable recreation models that transform casual visitors into active and lifelong stewards of the land.

GOCO funding is an integral pillar that supports CPW's mission and contributes to nearly every aspect of CPW's work, including managing state parks, statewide initiatives in species conservation, maintaining and developing trails and infrastructure projects, and providing educational opportunities for youth and families.

GOCO funding helps CPW protect and maintain Colorado's beautiful landscapes for recreation, outdoor education, hunting, angling, and species conservation.

In this report, you will find an overview of the many ways that GOCO's FY 2024-25 investment—including \$17.7 million for outdoor recreation and \$13.9 million for wildlife—benefits Colorado, including:

- **State Park Operations & Infrastructure:** Supporting 19.2 million visitor days and funding 13 capital projects at 11 state parks, such as the new Visitor Centers at North Sterling and Stagecoach State Parks.
- **Wildlife Conservation:** Finalizing the 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), which identifies 612 Species of Greatest Conservation Need, and launching the new Invertebrate and Rare Plant Program to protect Colorado's diverse pollinators.
- **Habitat & Wetlands Protection:** Completing 29 wetland projects that restored 6,996 acres of habitat, and conserving the 743-acre Granby Highland Trails property to preserve a vital wildlife corridor.
- **Trails & Stewardship:** Funding 13 major trail projects resulting in 1,086 miles of trail maintenance and reconstruction, alongside the expansion of our Resource Stewardship team to improve data collection via the CODEX mapping tool.
- **Youth & Volunteer Engagement:** Supporting over 4,200 volunteers who contributed 273,614 hours of service (a value of \$10.6 million) and providing 50 weeks of work for Colorado Youth Corps crews across the state.
- **Expanding Access:** Launching a redesigned, accessible CPW website to enhance the customer journey and supporting 21 Regional Partnerships that now cover 80% of the state.

As we look forward, we are committed to strengthening these partnerships and improving our operations to serve all current Coloradans and meet the demands of a growing state. We remain dedicated to ensuring that the wild spaces and recreational opportunities we enjoy today are available and accessible to the next generation of Coloradans.

We thank you for your continued trust and partnership, and are proud to present the 2025 Annual Report.

Warm regards,



Laura Clellan  
Acting Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

# Working Together for Colorado

Colorado is recognized across the country and around the world for its beautiful landscapes and diverse and healthy wildlife populations. Access to outdoor recreation and the state's wildlife is a cornerstone of the Colorado lifestyle and quality of life. Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) is a major funding partner in Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) efforts. GOCO funding supports a wide variety of volunteer, youth, and education programs, as well as park operating and management activities. GOCO investments also support statewide initiatives in species conservation efforts, habitat protection and enhancement, maintenance and development of trails, and infrastructure projects.

GOCO grant programs are rooted in the core values of its strategic plan: Resource Conservation, Outdoor Stewardship, Community Vitality, Equitable Access, and Youth Connections. GOCO's mission is to help preserve, protect, enhance, and manage the state's wildlife, park, river, trail, and open space heritage. CPW's mission is complementary: to perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state, to provide a quality state parks system, and to provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado's natural resources. There is significant overlap between the missions of CPW and GOCO. Colorado's Outdoors Strategy further reflects this alignment by embodying the complementary and interconnected nature of both organizations' missions through its three north-star goals: Climate-Resilient Conservation and Restoration, Exceptional and Sustainable Outdoor Recreation, and Coordinated Planning and Funding—supporting a unified approach to conservation and recreation across Colorado. This annual report highlights the great things CPW has accomplished in the state fiscal year 2024-25 with GOCO's help.

CPW receives minimal general tax support, and GOCO funding is vital to the ongoing mission of CPW, making many of these accomplishments possible. At the end of this report, you will find financial tables detailing GOCO's support for CPW in FY 2024-25, organized by Constitutional purpose and grant. CPW leveraged GOCO funding to conserve natural resources, promote outdoor stewardship, enhance community vitality, improve equitable access to the outdoors, and connect youth and families with nature.

**\$17,762,564**  
INVESTMENT PLAN TOTAL  
AWARD FOR OUTDOOR  
RECREATION  
**FY 2024-25**

**\$13,901,552**  
INVESTMENT PLAN TOTAL AWARD  
FOR WILDLIFE  
**FY 2024-25**

# Resource Conservation & Outdoor Stewardship

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*Protecting Colorado's most valuable natural resources.*

The protection of Colorado's natural resources is a shared mission between GOCO and CPW. GOCO funding helps CPW protect new habitat and landscapes, and maintain areas that are already under CPW's care.



**Gateway Palisade Natural Area.**  
©Brittany Nordentoft/CNHP



## LAND AND WATER PROTECTION

In addition to managing Colorado's wildlife and state park system, CPW is responsible for acquiring, protecting, and managing lands, water resources, and water rights in coordination with private land-owners and local, state, federal, and non-governmental partners.

Colorado's 66 million acres of land include 31.8 million acres of agricultural land, which sustain more than 39,000 ranches and farms. Without private landowner support, the conservation of Colorado's abundant wildlife habitat and access to world-class recreation opportunities would be severely limited. GOCO funding helps CPW leverage opportunities to protect these resources in perpetuity.

### **Granby Highland Trails, Third Party Conservation Easement**

**743 ACRES**

GOCO funds supported the Granby Highland Trails conservation easement acquisition by the Colorado Headwaters Land Trust. In addition to approximately \$400,000 in GOCO funds, the Land Trust and its partners provided matching funds, bringing the total cost to \$4.2 million. The property, owned by the Town of Granby, conserved 743 acres of wildlife habitat, including 1.7 miles of the Colorado River. 480 acres of the property will be designated as public recreational open space for hiking, wildlife viewing, and fishing, managed by the town.

The remaining acreage will be preserved year-round for wildlife habitat. This project came to CPW in 2021 through the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program. The land had been sold multiple times over the last 20 years and was slated for the development of roughly 1,000 potential home sites prior to the 2008 recession. The property contains 25 acres of riparian habitat, 240 acres of sagebrush and bitterbrush interspersed with native grass and forbs, and 335 acres of mixed grass meadow.

**\$430,468**

**GOCO REIMBURSEMENTS FOR LAND ACQUISITION**

**FY 2024-25**

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Colorado's system of state parks is more than 65 years old and requires continuous maintenance, restoration, and renovation to the standards expected by visitors. In addition, the infrastructure on many of the wildlife areas, including dams and hatcheries, is much older.

The CPW Capital Development program oversees the construction and maintenance of over 1,400 structures and 115 dams throughout the state. GOCO funding is one of the primary sources of funding for many capital projects at state parks.

▼ **North Sterling Visitor Center Construction**  
©CPW

## PARKS LARGE CAPITAL

### North Sterling State Park-Visitor Center and Shop Construction

\$7,378,931

North Sterling State Park is a gem on the northeastern plains, located near the city of Sterling, and boasting a 3,000-acre reservoir. The park was opened to the public in 1992, and since that time, constructing a Visitor Center on the south end of the property, where most of the visitation occurs, has been part of the plan. For many years, staff offices were located in a house acquired with the park's land purchase, and the house was in need of serious repairs, which prevented it from accommodating visitors. The new visitor center complex houses staff, serves the public by providing a convenient place for people to purchase items and learn about the surrounding environment, and offers staff a central location to store equipment in the nearby, newly added shop.



## **John Martin Reservoir State Park-Road Rehabilitation**

**\$1,670,000**

Another park serving the plains is John Martin Reservoir State Park, located in the lower Arkansas River Valley in the southeastern corner of the state. The park offers uncrowded angling and boating, and is a birdwatcher's paradise. The park is owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and has been managed by CPW via lease for almost 25 years, and the infrastructure is showing its age. This project rehabilitated and repaved the park's busiest stretch of roads, including the main park road, and the parking lots for the swim beach and west boat ramp.

## **Chatfield State Park-Camper Services Building**

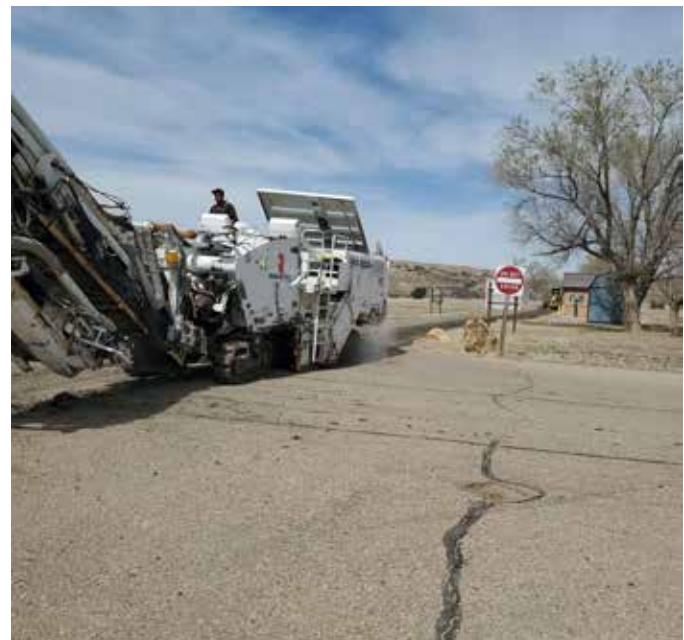
**\$2,842,000**

This project replaced an aging building serving campers in the A Loop of the popular Chatfield State Park campground. The building was antiquated and did not meet the needs of the number of visitors utilizing the facility. The new, larger building is more centrally located and is more accessible for those with mobility limitations. Included in the project was the removal of two other restrooms that were in poor condition. Streamlining restroom facilities decreases the staff time spent on maintenance and upkeep of the facilities without decreasing the level of service provided. Future projects throughout the Chatfield campgrounds can use the design and concept from this project to further improve the site.

## **Stagecoach State Park-Visitor Center Construction**

**\$3,608,000**

Nestled in the Yampa Valley near Steamboat Springs, Stagecoach State Park offers a captivating backdrop for recreation year-round. With its expansive 820-acre reservoir, the park offers renowned fishing opportunities on the lake and river. The property is owned by the Upper Yampa Water Conservation District and managed by CPW. The new visitor center is conveniently located adjacent to the park entrance road, set on a gentle hillside overlooking the boat ramp, the Pinnacle Campground, and the lake. The center features a modern customer contact area and a welcoming introduction to all that Stagecoach State Park has to offer, as well as a conference room for programs, meetings, and training.



Paving and road rehabilitation at John Martin Reservoir State Park ©CPW



Chatfield State Park Camper Services Building ©CPW

**\$11,957,597**

**GOCO REIMBURSEMENTS FOR PARKS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

**FY 2024-25**

**\$6,656,269**

**TOTAL GOCO FUNDING AWARDED,  
SUPPORTING 13 PROJECTS AT 11 STATE  
PARKS, CPW ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES,  
AND STATEWIDE DAM MAINTENANCE**

**FY 2024-25**

# SPECIES CONSERVATION, PROPAGATION OF AQUATIC SPECIES AT RISK, NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM, AND WETLANDS CONSERVATION

Colorado boasts some of the most diverse and abundant wildlife populations in North America, comprising an astonishing 960 species of wildlife. CPW species conservation and wildlife reintroduction programs help many of the state's most cherished and iconic species prosper today despite emerging habitat and climate challenges.



Logan Wash Mine Natural Area ©Raquel Wertsbaugh

## 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan

The State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) is an expansive conservation plan with an emphasis on conserving individual species and their habitats. SWAP revisions are required every 10 years to maintain eligibility for federal, State, and Tribal Wildlife Grants. As a comprehensive strategy developed by experts at CPW and the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP), with input from partners, the SWAP will both inform CPW's programs and serve as a model to other conservation organizations. The Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) list is the centerpiece of the SWAP, comprising 612 species of vertebrates, invertebrates, and plants that most urgently require conservation action. The SWAP identifies key habitats as well as threats to species and habitats and outlines prospective short- and long-term actions. After nearly two years of planning, the newly revised draft SWAP was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in September 2025. Colorado is a leader in the region with a first-of-its-kind digital SWAP that includes a Species Ranking Dashboard, SGCN & Habitats Data Hub, and interactive maps. All SWAP materials can be found at [cpw.state.co.us/state-wildlife-action-plan](http://cpw.state.co.us/state-wildlife-action-plan).

## Bats

Efforts to monitor bat populations across Colorado in response to the arrival of a deadly disease affecting bats, known as white-nose syndrome (WNS), continued in 2025 through various survey methods. CPW and its partners participated in the continent-wide North American Bat Monitoring Program NABat effort, which deploys acoustic detectors at select sites annually and uses recorded bat calls to confirm species occurrence. This data has generated the first large-scale trends of bat species in Colorado and North America. NABat trends were then used to guide bat rankings in the 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan.

A variety of winter, spring, and summer work at bat hibernacula, foraging areas, and maternity roosts has allowed for the collection of skin swabs from Colorado bats to test for the presence of the fungus that causes WNS. Non-invasive efforts, such as guano collections at summer roost sites, have also been used to test for the fungus after bats groom the spores off their body and pass them through their digestive systems. CPW continued proactive efforts to treat bats by vaccinating them for a second year in the late summer of 2025. Individuals were given unique marks that allow them to be tracked over time to assess the effectiveness of the vaccinations.



Little brown bat receiving a vaccination for white-nose syndrome. ©L. Hamous

## Black-tailed Prairie Dog

Black-tailed prairie dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*, BTPD) are a keystone conservation species throughout their range, providing vital habitat features and prey base for many other species such as black-footed ferrets and burrowing owls. CPW began range-wide monitoring of BTPD in 2002, with subsequent surveys conducted again in 2006-2007, 2016, and 2020. The 2016 effort utilized a rigorous range-wide occupancy monitoring methodology developed in 2011, which follows a three-step process that includes an aerial imagery analysis, aerial truthing, and ground truthing.

During the summer of 2025, the monitoring effort repeated the survey with the current goal of determining the total range acreage of the species in the state. Comparisons of total acreage across time will be used to determine the stability of statewide populations. In 2020, staff estimated that BTPD occupied 500,375 acres in Colorado. This estimate remained stable compared to the 2016 effort, as defined in the Conservation Plan for Grassland Species in Colorado (Colorado Division of Wildlife, 2003), and will be compared to 2025 estimates later this year.



Newly released black-footed ferret at the Thatcher Ranch, Pueblo County.  
©D. Neubaum

## Black-footed Ferret

Black-footed ferrets are a federally listed endangered species that were once thought to be extinct. Colorado is a hotbed of black-footed ferret reintroduction efforts, with eight new release sites since 2013. GOCO funding is vital in supporting pre-release mapping and plague management efforts, as well as post-release monitoring. Colorado's reintroduction efforts have kicked into high gear, with releases occurring on public and private lands in Larimer, Adams, Pueblo, Prowers, Baca, and Bent counties. Ferrets are one of many species that are highly dependent on prairie dogs, which means that plague management and conservation of prairie dog colonies is not only critical to supporting black-footed ferret populations but also benefits burrowing owls, swift foxes, raptors, reptiles, and other wildlife.

Spotlighting efforts in the autumn of 2024 yielded unmarked black-footed ferrets at two sites for the first time, confirming wild reproduction. Additionally, a total of 88 captive-reared black-footed ferrets were released at five sites across southeastern Colorado. CPW and its partners applied plague management practices to approximately 22,180 acres, utilizing insecticide dust, fipronil grain, and plague vaccine baits (produced in-house). CPW plans to release additional ferrets at current sites where plague management continues in autumn 2025. The agency has also been working with the State Land Board to investigate possible black-footed ferret release sites at a number of the properties they manage.

## Southern White-tailed Ptarmigan

A new research project was initiated in 2025 to assess the potential effects of warming temperatures on female incubation behavior and survival, nest and brood success, and microsite habitat selection in Colorado's alpine areas. A graduate student who has worked on the ptarmigan projects since 2022 was hired to lead the project effort.

## Eastern Black Rail

CPW continues to monitor the elusive eastern black rail, a federally threatened subspecies facing steep declines across its range. The eastern black rail is the smallest of the rails and inhabits wetlands with dense herbaceous cover. Most known populations are concentrated in coastal marshes along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.



An unmarked black-footed ferret captured during surveys at the May Ranch, Prowers County. ©J. Reitz

**Pinyon jay flocks observed at one of the breeding colonies. ©CPW**



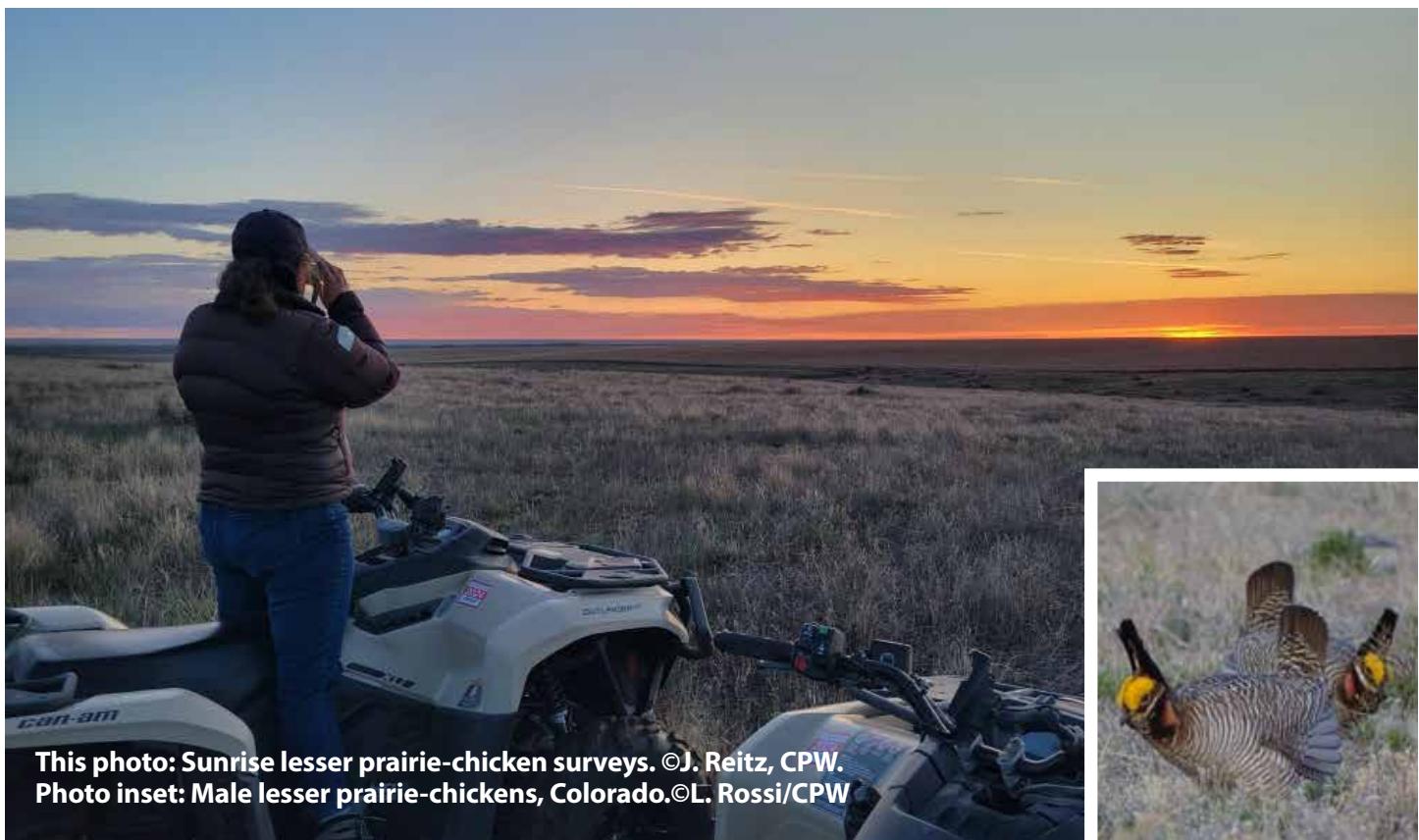
Unfortunately, many of these populations are threatened by rising sea levels. Southeast Colorado appears to have a relatively stable and dense population of black rails. In 2025, CPW provided an expert review of the Species Status Assessment revision and commented on the draft Recovery Plan for the Eastern Black Rail. The CPW staff comments highlighted the importance of conserving the Colorado population. Also, graduate student Nora Hargett and CPW Bird Conservation Coordinator, Liza Rossi, along with co-authors Auriel Fournier and T. J. Benson, submitted a manuscript documenting the abundance and occupancy of eastern black rails in southeastern Colorado. The manuscript is currently in review.

## **Pinyon Jays**

Prior to 2019, CPW was not aware of any pinyon jay colonies within the state. Since that time, over 130 colonies have been mapped and periodic surveying efforts are ongoing. In 2025, CPW staff worked on a publication for the 2024 survey effort, and developed guidelines for woodland treatments within the breeding colonies in conjunction with BLM staff. CPW continues to conduct location and mapping training for biologists.

## **Brown-capped Rosy-Finches**

A research project on brown-capped rosy-finches was funded by CPW and implemented by a PhD student. This dissertation used habitat surveys and behavioral observations during the breeding season to reveal strong associations with cliff proximity, persistent snow patches, and rocky substrates. Utilizing specific sampling methods across 57 alpine basins, the student produced the first reliable statewide population estimates, ranging from 116,421 to 148,546 individuals. The project employed density models that linked population abundance to physical habitat features such as elevation, cliff presence, and climate variables. Finally, the project examined the impacts of materials used for leg bands on finch winter behavior and survival. The results revealed differential icing risk and behavioral differences between metal and plastic bands, highlighting how marking methods can influence bird behavior, and potentially survival, when deployed in cold, snowy locations.



**This photo: Sunrise lesser prairie-chicken surveys. ©J. Reitz, CPW.**  
**Photo inset: Male lesser prairie-chickens, Colorado. ©L. Rossi/CPW**



## Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions

CPW partners with the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the U.S.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and other partners to monitor bird populations across Colorado and much of the central U.S. The Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions (IMBCR) program began in Colorado in 2008 and has since expanded across the Great Plains to the Great Basin. CPW has provided funding for Colorado IMBCR surveys from 2008 to 2025. Data from these annual surveys are used to estimate occupancy, abundance, and trends through time. CPW relied heavily on IMBCR trend data to evaluate avian species for inclusion as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) for the 2025 revision of the SWAP. Several species were removed from Colorado's SGCN list because their trend appears stable; other species were added as Species of Greatest Information Need (SGIN) due to alarming trend data. CPW also leveraged the IMBCR program to partner with the USFS and BLM to investigate the impacts of recreation on western Colorado bird communities. A

manuscript focusing on management implications has been submitted and is under review. Staff found negative impacts from both recreational infrastructure, such as trails, and human presence on the majority of bird communities, including those listed in the 2025 SGCN.

## Lesser Prairie-Chicken

CPW annually monitors lesser prairie-chickens across southeast Colorado, and consistent counts of 80 to 90 males were found for both 2024 and 2025. These numbers, though quite low and concerning, are much higher than the 25 males counted in 2016, and staff are encouraged to see birds in areas that have been vacant for over 10 years. CPW is working closely with landowners to identify partnership opportunities and provide incentives for habitat restoration and grazing deferment in a targeted area of Prowers County, along the Colorado-Kansas state line. The area is part of a Sand Sagebrush Generational Grassland identified across both states. CPW is collaborating with multiple partners to direct habitat protection and restoration efforts in this area, aiming to increase the effectiveness of these efforts with limited funding and ultimately conserve a sustainable population of lesser prairie-chickens in the Sand Sagebrush Ecoregion.

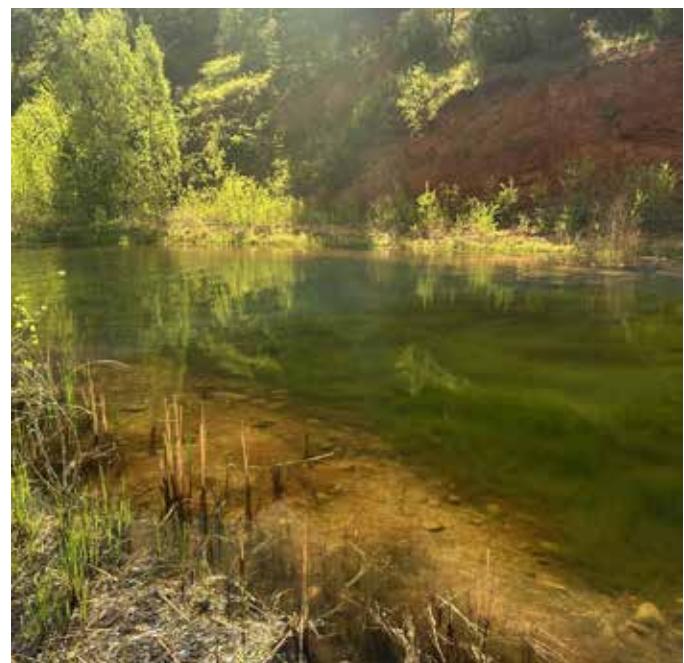
# PROPAGATION OF AT-RISK AQUATIC SPECIES

The J.W. Mumma Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility (NASRF), situated in Colorado's scenic San Luis Valley, was established in 2000 to promote the conservation of rare aquatic native species through captive propagation, genetic conservation, scientific research, and public education and awareness. Among the first facilities of its kind in the United States, NASRF works proactively to prevent state species of greatest conservation need from reaching levels that warrant federal protection.

In FY 2024-25, the hatchery produced and stocked over 275,000 native fish and boreal toad tadpoles. Since its inception, NASRF has stocked over 4.5 million aquatic animals into suitable waters and wetlands throughout Colorado. NASRF currently houses 12 species of fish, as well as the boreal toad. NASRF's stocking efforts include six species of small-bodied fishes for Colorado's eastern plains, Rio Grande chub and sucker for the Rio Grande basin, federally endangered bonytail for the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers, "three species" (bluehead sucker, flannelmouth sucker, and roundtail chub) for the Colorado, San Juan, and Yampa River basins, and boreal toads for montane wetlands. Through the continued development of improved culture techniques and new technologies, NASRF maximizes production while ensuring a safe and responsible culture environment for its native aquatic species at risk. The dedicated management and staff at NASRF bring over 100 years of combined fish culture experience to the mission of recovering Colorado's native aquatic species, which are in decline. Colorado is regarded as a leader in the field and nationwide.

## Northern Redbelly Dace

Northern Redbelly Dace are a small minnow with a maximum length of two to three inches and a typical lifespan of two to three years. Identified by two dusky lateral stripes and small scales nearly invisible to the naked eye, males also develop their namesake brilliant red coloration on the body during the breeding season in late spring and summer. They are widely distributed in North America, particularly in the Atlantic, Great Lakes, Hudson Bay, upper Missouri, and Mississippi River systems, as well as across much of Canada. Colorado is the southernmost portion of



Example of a wetland habitat restoration project where Northern Redbelly Dace have been reintroduced and are now thriving. ©M. Haworth/CPW.



Adult Northern Redbelly Dace captured during sampling at a reintroduction site. ©M. Haworth/CPW.

their native range, where they originally existed in isolated populations along the foothills of the Front Range in the South Platte drainage. The preferred habitat is clean, cool, vegetated, and slow-moving water in ponds and streams, with an absence of large predatory fish. While redbelly dace were once relatively abundant throughout much of their range, habitat alteration and introduction of non-native fish species reduced populations over time, leading to only one indigenous population remaining in Colorado by the 1990s. This population was used to develop a broodstock for conservation efforts at the NASRF. By identifying and creating suitable habitat for stocking, several stable populations have since been established in their historic range in Colorado.



A Southern Redbelly Dace in spawning colors. ©A. Jouney/CPW



Southern Redbelly Dace collected in canyon habitat near Beulah.  
©A. Jouney/CPW



An example of a Southern Redbelly Dace habitat near Trinidad.  
©A. Jouney/CPW

## Southern Redbelly Dace

The Southern Redbelly Dace is among the rarest fish species found in Colorado, characterized by its small body size, two dark lateral stripes, small scales, and a slightly overhanging jaw, which helps distinguish it from the Northern Redbelly Dace. Southern Redbelly Dace are only present in the Arkansas River Basin within Colorado, though they are more commonly found throughout the Midwest and Southeastern parts of the US. Colorado has only a single known indigenous population of this species remaining on the landscape, representing the westernmost extent of its range. Over the last 20 years, biologists and hatchery staff have collaborated to expand the range of this fish through careful consideration of habitat preferences and targeted stocking of water bodies. Today, Southeastern Colorado has multiple self-sustaining populations, with new projects consistently underway to further expand the species' range. This conservation effort was made possible in large part due to the NASRF, where the species is spawned and reared.

## RARE PLANTS AND INVERTEBRATES

### Rare Plants

The recent passage of HB24-1117, which gave CPW the authority to study and conserve rare plants and invertebrates, has led to a new work unit dedicated to this effort including a Rare Plant Conservation Program Manager. Conserving Colorado's rare plants is a priority for CPW, as many are endemic to the state and live in unique, fragile habitats. This program will focus on the 195 SGCN plant species identified in the 2025 Colorado SWAP. CPW staff and partners are conducting important field work that informs our understanding of species' trends, locations, and threats.

In June 2025, a team of botanists from CPW, CNHP, and USFWS completed annual monitoring of the federally endangered Pagosa skyrocket (*Ipomopsis polyantha*) at a CPW-owned property near Pagosa Springs. This work involved long-term trend monitoring in established plots, as well as density estimates within 170 plots across the 80-acre site. Additional plots record the fate of individuals over time, allowing estimation of recruitment and mortality rates. This data helps inform species status assessments and management needs at the site.

CPW staff conducted rare plant surveys throughout the state at locations such as Lake Pueblo State Park and Gateway, CO. These surveys increase our knowledge of where rare plants are located and help inform critical land-use

planning decisions. A highlight included locating the wheel milkweed (*Asclepias uncialis*, SWAP Tier 1) at Lake Pueblo. The plant's diminutive pink flowers are often overlooked, leading to knowledge gaps for this rare shortgrass prairie species.

## Invertebrates

Colorado is a mecca of invertebrate diversity and home to an unknown number of insect species. For some groups, such as pollinators, the state is particularly diverse, and it is home to nearly a quarter of all bee and half of all butterfly species in the continental United States. This presents both a challenge and an opportunity for CPW's new Invertebrate and Rare Plant Program, which has collaboratively assessed nearly 800 species within CO for consideration as SGCN in CPW's new SWAP. With the help of dozens of experts, 239 new species have been identified for action, including 24 SGCN Tier 1 (most concern), 142 Tier 2 (more concern), and 69 Species of SGIN. This list will guide conservation efforts across the state for at-risk pollinators and other invertebrate species.

To carry out state-level coordination of invertebrate conservation, CPW hired a Pollinator Conservation Program Manager and two Invertebrate and Rare Plant Biologists over the summer of 2025. To date, staff have already built collaborations with external partners to launch a number of new programs, including expanded monitoring for bumble bees with the Xerces Society, explored dung beetle restoration with the Denver Zoo, supported expanded training and monitoring with Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP), and funded student-led research at Colorado State University (CSU) Pueblo. Staff have also built relationships with federal partners around the state's proposed, threatened, and endangered invertebrates. CPW staff assisted with training Department of Defense (DOD) staff on bumble bee survey techniques for the Monarch Joint Venture, engaged with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through training to monitor threatened Nokomis silverspot butterflies, and coordinated with groups studying endangered Uncompahgre fritillary butterflies to expand future support for their conservation. Staff have also taken strides to impact local communities: working with Wildland Restoration Volunteers to create new pollinator demonstration gardens at Lory and Barr Lake State Parks, and creating and leading a Teacher Externship Program to incorporate pollinators into teaching and learning. These efforts will continue to grow as new opportunities for community science and conservation are explored across the state.



Botanists monitor Pagosa skyrocket. ©Savanna Smith/CPW



Wheel milkweed. ©Adrian Carper/CPW



The threatened silverspot butterfly. ©Adrian Carper/CPW



SWAP SGCN Tier 1 western bumble bee, *Bombus occidentalis*, on our state flower. ©Adrian Carper/CPW

# COLORADO NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM

The Colorado Natural Areas Program (CNAP) has been showcasing and protecting Colorado's natural treasures since 1977. With the support of GOCO, the program works to identify, designate, and protect Colorado's most significant natural features through voluntary agreements with various landowners. Colorado's Natural Areas contain rare and unique plants, wildlife, invertebrates, natural communities, geologic features, and fossils. CNAP helps to monitor and protect over 150 species of greatest conservation need on State Natural Areas. CNAP accomplishments during FY 2024-25 are highlighted below.

## Program Updates:

With the new staffing focused on rare plant conservation and protection, CNAP staff have additional support within CPW, specifically in rare plant conservation, and work collaboratively with the new program staff. This added capacity provides new opportunities to get involved in pollinator conservation initiatives, fill knowledge gaps about our state's natural areas, and allows staff to redirect their focus across the diverse natural features that make the State Natural Areas remarkable.



Geneva Basin Iron Fen. ©Raquel Wertsbaugh/CPW



Geneva Basin Iron Fen. ©Raquel Wertsbaugh/CPW

## CNAP Volunteer Steward Program

CNAP's volunteer program consists of over 50 dedicated volunteers who are assigned one or more State Natural Areas to steward. During FY 2024-25, CNAP volunteers contributed 1,200 hours conducting annual monitoring of their assigned State Natural Areas, including reporting on site conditions, photo monitoring, and documenting species of greatest conservation need. The data that volunteers collect help to provide valuable insights about each site for CNAP staff and the landowner. Volunteers become familiar with their assigned sites over many years; approximately half of the volunteers have been monitoring their sites for over 10 years.

CNAP Volunteer & Staff at Gothic Natural Area. ©Savanna Smith/CPW »



## **Colorado Natural Areas Council:**

The Colorado Natural Areas Council (CNAC) is a seven-member advisory council for CNAP, comprising five Governor-appointed members, one representative from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission, and one representative from the State Board of Land Commissioners. In early 2025, CNAC members and CNAP staff began revising the program's five-year strategic plan, which will be implemented beginning in 2026.

## RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

The CPW Resource Stewardship Program exists to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance the natural, scenic, scientific, and outdoor recreation values of Colorado's state parks and state recreation areas. GOCO funding supports full-time and part-time staff, conservation and planning projects, and program operations.



**CPW Staff members working on a bumble bee survey at Roxborough State Park. ©CPW**

## **The Resource Stewardship Program addresses six main topic areas:**

- (1) Developing Resource Stewardship Plans and resource management standards specific to the resources of each state park;
- (2) Developing and Managing natural and cultural resource GIS data to inform park management decisions;
- (3) Reviewing environmental and cultural resource data reviews to promote resource conservation during capital construction projects;
- (4) Managing invasive species, revegetation, and restoration efforts;
- (5) Managing forests, and
- (6) Managing volunteer community science project.

During FY 2024-25, CPW's Resource Stewardship Program utilized GOCO funds to accomplish many significant projects. A few highlights include:



### **Resource Stewardship Team**

The first full-time staff member added to the team since 2010, the Resource Stewardship Biological Monitoring Coordinator, was introduced to the Stewardship Program in the fall of 2024, increasing the full-time program staff to three individuals. This employee has expanded the reach of community science programs in state parks, including the state park raptor monitoring program, and has added the monitoring of pollinator species to the breadth of the Resource Stewardship data collection efforts. This additional full-time team member has also expanded compliance support.

## **Resource Stewardship Planning**

The first step in stewarding the natural and cultural resources at a state park is to understand what resources exist, as well as the condition, rarity, and legal protections associated with these resources. The natural and cultural resource data specific to each unique property is collected to create this foundational information. This information is compiled in Resource Stewardship plans, which identify conservation actions that help maintain the species diversity, ecological integrity and the history and heritage of parks now and for future generations while providing the best possible recreational experience for park visitors. During the past fiscal year, data collection projects were performed at 43 of the 44 state parks. Staff completed surveys of breeding birds, raptors, reptiles, amphibians, prairie dogs, bats, rare plants, vegetation, paleontological, and cultural resources. Inventories also included geologic mapping and vegetation monitoring.



Bumble bee monitoring. ©CPW

# NEW STATE PARKS

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The work of the Resource Stewardship Program is one of the first steps required to create a new state park. The Program is currently working on the following new state park and state park expansion projects:

## **Fishers Peak State Park**

Since 2019, program staff have been involved in the creation of the state park management plan to help achieve the goals of conservation and recreation. They are also working with park staff and consultants to develop the necessary recreational and operational infrastructure for visitation and property management.

## **Sweetwater Lake**

Since 2021, Resource Stewardship staff have supported the CPW team working to include Sweetwater Lake as a new member of Colorado's park and recreation area system. The interagency team, including staff from CPW, the US Forest Service, and the Eagle Valley Land Trust, identified the Resource Stewardship Program as the lead for natural resource data collection, resource condition assessments, and the identification of resource management prescriptions. The Stewardship team conducted and coordinated surveys for breeding birds, raptor nesting, small mammals and bats, habitat mapping and condition assessment, rare plants, invasive plants, reptiles and amphibians. The team is currently supporting this effort through recreation infrastructure planning, partnership coordination, and cultural resource management.

## **Sweitzer Lake State Park Expansion**

Resource Stewardship staff are collaborating with region staff on the planning and development of this expansion project. The Program is supporting the expansion of Sweitzer Lake State Park through resource surveys, including habitat mapping, habitat condition assessments, surveys of rare plants, breeding birds, raptors, reptiles, and amphibians, as well as geological and cultural resources. The team is also supporting this project through cultural clearance surveys of infrastructure development, which include facilitating consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and partners with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

## **North Sandhills**

Resource Stewardship is supporting the addition of the North Sandhills Recreation Area to be included in the Colorado State Park System. In the early stages of adding this property to CPW's state park portfolio, the Stewardship Team is conducting resource data collection work through surveys that include habitat mapping, habitat condition assessment, rare plant surveys, breeding bird surveys, reptile and amphibian surveys, small mammal surveys, invertebrate surveys, noxious weed surveys, and cultural resource surveys.

## **Pikes Peak**

Resource Stewardship staff have been planning for CPW's management of recreation, infrastructure, and habitat on Pikes Peak. The Program has developed a survey plan and associated budget to begin the resource surveys necessary to manage recreation and infrastructure, including trails and facilities at Pikes Peak.

## **Highline Lake State Park Expansion**

Resource Stewardship is supporting the development of infrastructure in the expanded areas of Highline Lake State Park through consultation with capital construction and park staff to aid in the conservation of local species during and after construction projects. Park-specific seed mixes, weed management recommendations, and wildlife monitoring have been performed to support conservation management on the property during the development of this newly added acreage and its infrastructure.

## **INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT**

The Program surveyed invasive plants (noxious weeds) in twelve state parks and created integrated weed management plans for each park. Plans include maps of known weed populations, weed species identification aids, identification of priority treatment areas and weed species, treatment method recommendations, seasonal treatment calendars by species and park location, and revegetation specifications and seed mixes. These plans are specifically



Invasive weed mapping. ©CPW

tailored for each state park and its unique on-the-ground conditions. Tools were created and included in each plan to facilitate improved herbicide treatment efforts by contract sprayers and tracking of herbicide use by field staff.

## REVEGETATION AND RESTORATION

Seeding specifications and seed mixes have been shared with the CPW dam safety engineers, capital development team, regional project managers, and state park land management partners to ensure that, where ground-disturbing projects occur, appropriate native plant species are seeded. Additionally, specifications to support the creation of pollinator habitats in state parks have been used by the new CPW Invertebrate Program for implementation. Seeding specifications outline how to perform seeding and planting projects; provide plant lists and seed mixes; and outline maintenance, care, and success criteria for pollinator habitat projects. Plant species are selected based on their presence in each park, their value to pollinators, and their availability from commercial seed and plant providers. Reviews of seed mixes are underway to ensure that restoration success and commercial availability are up to date.

## NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE TRAINING FOR NEW STATE PARK RANGERS

The Resource Stewardship Program continues to support

and lead training in natural and cultural resources for the classes of new state park rangers. These trainings are provided by CPW staff and through collaboration with partner organizations. Training is offered in the following areas: cultural resource management, plants and forestry, invasive species, bird biology and identification, pollinators and butterflies, reptiles and amphibians, and state park resource stewardship planning.

## COLORADO CONSERVATION DATA EXPLORER

The Resource Stewardship Program continues to lead agency efforts in collaborating with the CNHP to develop and utilize the Colorado Conservation Data Explorer, or CODEX. This web-mapping tool provides users with easy access to comprehensive spatial data related to habitats, wildlife occurrences, rare plants, and other



Pre-contact stone tools. ©CPW

important natural resources. CODEX provides a critical decision-support tool in advancing efforts to ensure that future development occurs in ways that can maintain Colorado's rich wildlife and natural heritage. The tool has over 400 organizations regularly utilizing its features, including many of the coalitions participating in the Regional Partnerships Initiative.

## FOREST MANAGEMENT

The program's forest management efforts responded to changing conditions in the state and successfully coordinated with partners to secure funding and implement forest management projects in key areas, ensuring parks remained open and safe. CPW contracted with the conservation-focused tree nursery OneCanopy to produce over 1,200 native tree seedlings for state parks this year. Forest Management Plans were created for Castlewood Canyon and Mancos State Parks. Priority forest management projects were implemented on 5 acres at Golden Gate Canyon State Park, 10 acres at State Forest State Park, and 9.5 acres at Jackson Lake State Park, as well as supporting significant planning for a complex forest management project on 73 acres at Staunton State Park. Staunton State Park is also being impacted by a large outbreak of mountain pine beetle, and program staff provided 2,000 verbenone packets for priority areas at Staunton to protect vulnerable ponderosa pine trees. Jackson Lake State Park continued to be the focus of a large-scale restoration project, featuring significant weed control, native seeding, and the planting of over 800 native trees and shrubs, as well as over 2,400 wetland species plugs. This project is part of a long-term forest improvement effort designed to transition the primary forest from Russian olive to native cottonwood, willow, and other bird-friendly fruit-bearing tree species. The program funded cultural surveys to clear future project areas at Ridgway State Park and Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Finally, the program continues to maintain a collection of ArcGIS Story Maps to illustrate forest management activities and photo monitoring that has occurred on state parks over the past two decades ([cpw.info/forest-management-state-parks](http://cpw.info/forest-management-state-parks)). Continuing to invest in proactive forest management helps improve the resilience and ability of state parks to recover from the effects of wildfires, insects, and diseases. It also helps reduce the risk of wildfire to communities within the vicinity of many state parks, while ensuring key habitats are protected.

## BIOLOGICAL MONITORING AND COMMUNITY SCIENCE

Staff continue to engage volunteers across multiple community science monitoring projects, expanding the Program's capacity to collect important biological information within the State Park system. During FY 2024-2025, the Resource Stewardship team managed over 150 active volunteers who conducted more than 8,300 hours of biological monitoring within the State Park system. With the expansion of CPW protection into invertebrates and rare plants, CPW has piloted two new community science monitoring programs within the State Park system to collect biological data specifically on pollinators and their host plant associations. Surveys for invertebrates were conducted at Castlewood Canyon, Chatfield, Cherry Creek, Eldorado Canyon, Fishers Peak, Golden Gate Canyon, Jackson Lake, Lory, Ridgway, and Roxborough State Parks. Data collected from these pollinator surveys will be incorporated into park management plans and help guide adaptive management decisions.

The community science raptor monitoring program continues to provide valuable information on hawks, owls, and eagles located within the state park system. In FY 2024-25, volunteers monitored 465 nests to track nest phenology and productivity. There are currently volunteer raptor monitoring teams at 29 of the 44 state parks. Resource Stewardship staff conduct monitoring site visits to the remaining 15 parks that do not have volunteer teams at this time. Raptor nesting data collected by staff and volunteers is used to make timely on-the-ground decisions during the environmental review process, capital development projects, and the writing of park management plans.



**CPW Staff members and volunteers working on an invertebrate survey at Fishers Peak State Park. ©CPW**

# WETLANDS CONSERVATION

Wetlands are lands affected by water that support unique plants and soils, making up just two percent of Colorado's landscape but providing benefits to over 75 percent of the state's wildlife species. Protecting, restoring, and enhancing wetlands and riparian areas is vital to conserving wildlife diversity in the state. Wetland and riparian landscapes provide crucial habitats for feeding, resting, and rearing, as well as movement corridors. They also improve water quality and quantity, creating open spaces, educational opportunities, and economic benefits from hunting, fishing, and bird-watching.

**8**

New wetlands projects

**FY 2024-25**

**29**

Completed projects

**FY 2024-25**

**6,996**

Acres of wetland and riparian restoration

**FY 2024-25**





Pre- and post-restoration images of the Kenosha Creek Restoration project. This project used low-tech, process-based restoration techniques (including beaver dam analogs) to reconnect an incised stream to its floodplain. ©Colorado Open Lands/EcoMetrics

CPW's Wetlands Program annually awards competitive grants to staff and external partners for projects that restore wetlands and riparian areas. These projects create new managed wetlands, improve the function and efficiency of existing wetlands, remove non-native invasive vegetation and replace it with native vegetation, manage invasive cattail growth in wetlands, restore riparian habitat impacted by mining, and reconnect incised creeks with their floodplains. Projects are conducted on state wildlife areas, state parks, and other public and private lands. The program directs funding priorities to projects benefiting species of greatest conservation need, as identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan.

In FY 2024-25, CPW awarded funds for eight new wetlands projects and three previously funded projects that will help to restore or enhance at least 736 acres of wetland and riparian habitat. The projects will improve habitat on two state wildlife areas, two state parks, three county or municipal open space properties, thirteen private properties, and federal lands managed by the USFS. These projects will benefit eight priority waterfowl species, 13 Tier 1 or 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan, including Tier 1 species greater sandhill crane, western yellow-billed cuckoo, Preble's meadow jumping mouse, boreal toad, northern leopard frog, bonytail, and beaver. Each CPW dollar invested in these projects resulted in \$0.59 in matching funds contributed by 15 different partners, stretching GOCO and CPW funds further.



Aerial drone image of the Kinney Lake State Wildlife Area wetlands project. This project created a 40-acre managed shallow wetland complex, benefitting waterfowl, waterfowl hunters, and many other wildlife species. ©Ducks unlimited

Additionally, in FY 2024-25, CPW staff and partners successfully completed 29 projects, resulting in 6,996 acres of wetland and riparian restoration. Highlights included shallow wetland improvements on Kinney Lake SWA and completion of restoration plans for future work at Yampa River State Wildlife Area and the Blanca and Hebron wetland complex on BLM properties. Low-tech, process-based restoration projects reconnecting incised streams to their floodplains benefitted beavers and other priority species in multiple drainages in the South Platte, Rio Grande, and San Juan Basins. Finally, working with private landowners continued as a program emphasis. In conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife program and other partners, 22 projects were completed on private lands across Colorado in the Arkansas Headwaters, Gunnison, San Juan, South Platte, Republican, Rio Grande, and Yampa/White/Green River watersheds.

# Community Vitality & Equitable Access

*Connecting all Coloradans to the outdoors.*

With GOCO's support, CPW provides opportunities to connect Coloradans with outdoor experiences statewide. GOCO funding helps CPW manage and maintain 43 state parks and approximately 350 state wildlife areas across the state. More than 4,500 volunteers and hundreds of partner organizations help CPW expand programs and activities. GOCO-supported trail projects provide a physical connection to Colorado's natural resources.



**Blacktail ditch volunteer crew at Radium State Wildlife Area** ©Zach Swennes/CPW



## RECREATION MANAGEMENT ON STATE PARKS

GOCO partnerships protect the places that Coloradans enjoy and support the people who work there. GOCO funding helps cover staff and operating costs at all of Colorado's state parks. This historic support for state park operations has been invaluable to CPW and has contributed to the enjoyment of millions of park visitors since the inception of the GOCO program.

**19,200,000**

State Parks visitors

**FY 2024-25**

**\$4,211,420**

GOCO reimbursements for park operations

**FY 2024-25**

# VOLUNTEERS

Volunteerism is a cost-effective way to help manage Colorado's natural resources while cultivating stewardship and building stronger connections between CPW and local communities. The CPW Volunteer Program offers recruitment, screening, training, retention, support, and resources to state parks, wildlife areas, hatcheries, educational programs, and administrative offices throughout the state.

## Highlights include:

- ★ Hosting the annual education and volunteer training attended by 60 staff who work with volunteers. This year's theme was Difficult Dialogues: Navigating Sensitive and Challenging Topics. Sessions focused on foundational skills for approaching difficult dialogues, climate communication, talking points for ballot initiatives, and living with wildlife. Staff could stop by "world cafe" stations featuring a variety of topics and experiences, such as indigenous storytelling, partnerships gone astray, navigating challenging volunteer situations, inclusivity and accessibility, and the SWAP.
- ★ Embarking on a Next Generation of Volunteers initiative. CPW staff observe that current volunteers are "aging out." CPW values these dedicated volunteers, while also understanding the need to engage new audiences and age groups in new ways. With the Next Generation of Volunteers initiatives, staff are:
  - » Exploring and committing to creating pathways to volunteerism for younger audiences.
  - » Instilling and inspiring volunteerism in younger generations, encouraging young people to grow up with a mindset of giving back, in big and small ways.

Examples of initiative projects in FY25 include offering a 'Meaningful Youth Engagement' training to volunteers, cultivating new relationships with high schools and colleges, and attracting younger volunteers to new opportunities, such as the inaugural bumblebee and butterfly monitoring programs.

- ★ In the words of staff and volunteers, volunteer contributions this year led to:
  - » Producing 100+ million walleye eggs and collecting scientific fisheries data.
  - » Maintaining clean and well-maintained shooting ranges, resulting in positive public feedback.
  - » Increasing capacity to gather raptor nesting information across state parks.
  - » Increasing education programs by 50%, as well as painting a house, building trails, and removing downed trees that staff could never have done alone.
  - » Being relevant with younger generations.

**273,614**

Volunteer hours

**FY 2024-25**

**132**

FTE equivalent of volunteer hours

**FY 2024-25**

**4,220**

Total volunteers

**FY 2024-25**

**\$10,600,000**

Volunteer value

**FY 2024-25**

**\$73,040**

GOCO Reimbursements for State Parks Volunteer Program

**FY 2024-25**

“

“I have seen our volunteers educate the community on human-wildlife conflict and responsible outdoor recreation. I've witnessed customers listen more receptively because of the obvious life experience demonstrated by our volunteers.”

**CPW Staff**

“The novice hunters I work with told me they now look at wildlife conservation in a different light. Several mentioned they now have a better understanding of what CPW does and the importance of the agency's role in Colorado.”

**CPW Volunteer**

“My favorite volunteer memory this year was taking a little girl out on the track chair - the more we bounced on rocks the better she liked it!”

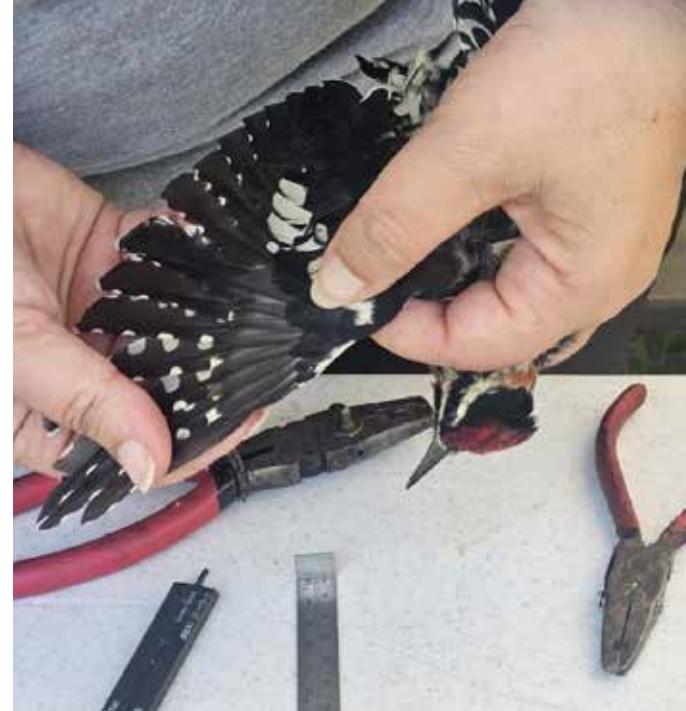
**CPW Volunteer**

“My favorite volunteer memory this year was meeting visitors from other countries and backgrounds, and learning the names of animals in other languages.

**CPW Volunteer**



Walleye spawn volunteers at Lake Pueblo State Park ©Jeanette Lara/CPW



A Red Naped Sapsucker is banded at Ridgway State Park. ©Shelby Martinez

## STORIES

### Bird Banding at Ridgway State Park

*By Shelby Martinez, Naturalist @ Ridgway State Park*

During the fall bird banding season at Ridgway State Park there was an incredible display of biodiversity. We were fortunate to see over 30 different species of birds during this two week period. This number includes the three species of hummingbirds that we were not able to band. There were a total of 195 birds caught and banded this season. Some species that stood out were the Northern Pygmy Owl, Lazuli Bunting, and Downy Woodpecker(s). We were unbelievably excited on September 9th, when a young Northern Pygmy Owl was caught in our net along with a few other small birds. We had seen the owl earlier that week being harassed by many small birds. We captured an overwhelming number of Audubon's Warbler compared to any other species. There weren't very many recaptures this season as compared to the previous.

There were 9 different school groups, a senior citizen group from the recreation center, and a large public interest that came out to view this event, bringing the total number of visitors witnessing this incredible occasion to well over 320 people. Eight volunteers and two staff members supported this incredible two-week season. I would like to give a special thanks to all volunteers, park staff, and partners who helped make this 2024 season possible. Overall, this was a very successful bird banding season!



Mennonite volunteer crew on Radium's Blacktail Ditch Project ©Zach Swennes

## **Mennonite Volunteer Crew On Radium's Blacktail Ditch Project**

*By Zach Swennes, District Wildlife Manager, Kremmling South*

The blacktail ditch at Radium State Wildlife Area has been in a state of disrepair for the past few years and has been unable to flow the full water right. We have been working to get the ditch flowing the full water right and this volunteer crew is helping get us to that goal.

The crew is part of the Mennonite church and as a part of their religion they are conscientious objectors to combat. This means that their church invests lots of time in their young adult men getting them volunteer hours with government agencies in lieu of being in the selective service program.

The crew is made up of 15 volunteers, 2 crew leaders, a camp family (a family that keeps camp running) and a group of ladies that cook for everyone and do laundry for the volunteers.

This crew accomplished more in two weeks than we thought they would get done in four weeks. It's truly impressive to see the work ethic these folks have and the challenges they take on with positive attitudes. This crew is a hugely beneficial asset to the agency as they have accomplished months of work in just a couple of weeks for no labor cost to the agency.

## **Walleye Spawn at Lake Pueblo State Park**

*By Jeanette Lara, SE Region Volunteer Coordinator*

Each year the annual walleye spawn effort seeks to collect 132 million eggs to support sustainable fisheries across the state. In March 2025, during the two-week spawning period at Lake Pueblo State Park, 42 dedicated volunteers contributed over 850 hours of service. Their primary responsibility was to assist staff by reefing—straightening and detangling—the extensive gill nets deployed each day. They also sort fish, record data, and support a number of other tasks.

This project is a significant undertaking for the Southeast Region, with Lake Pueblo accounting for 70% of the state's total egg production. The success of this project is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our volunteers. Some contributed for a single day, while others devoted 14 consecutive days to the cause! Their efforts are critical in ensuring the health and sustainability of Colorado's walleye populations.

## **Trail Nutrition Labels at Mueller State Park**

In an effort to provide the best information possible to hikers of all ability levels, the Friends of Mueller, along with nine other volunteers, committed themselves to collecting trail data. This information will be used to create Trail Nutrition Labels, allowing users to determine the suitability of a trail for themselves.

## TRAILS

Trails and outdoor recreation opportunities remain extremely popular among Coloradans and visitors to the State. The construction and maintenance of trails are crucial and vital tasks, and GOCO has been an integral partner with the State Trails Program for decades. With GOCO's generous support, we are able to award grants across the State for trail-specific projects. Trail Stewardship, now in its third year as a pilot program, continues to be funded with an additional \$500,000 in GOCO funds, which supports existing trail maintenance crews working on public lands. These increased 'boots on the ground' trail crews help support the Governor's Wildly Important Goals to balance conservation and recreation by increasing the number of trail crew hours funded by the Program.

Along with the stewardship pilot, requests for funding for trail construction, long-term maintenance, trail planning, and trail organizational support continue to increase every year. In Fiscal Year 2025, the projects funded by GOCO include planning and development, organization support, trail maintenance and reroutes, and new construction on state and federal lands.



### ▲ FEATURED PROJECT

#### Countywide Trail Maintenance Crew

With 450 miles of trails in Grand County, maintenance is an ongoing need. Headwaters Trails Alliance was awarded a Trail Stewardship grant in FY 2024-25. The grant funded a five to six-person trail crew, focusing on a spring assessment, clean up and routine maintenance, eight bridge replacements, turnpike construction, armoring, heavy equipment maintenance, decommissioning and restoring trails, and more

#### During FY 2024-25, 13 GOCO-funded projects were completed:

- (1) Fraser River Corridor Western Trail (Town of Fraser)
- (2) Partnership for Stewardship 2023 (Wildlands Restoration Volunteers)
- (3) Wilderness Stewardship of Four-Pass Loop (Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers)
- (4) Trail Training Expansion (Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado)
- (5) Trail & Maintenance Crew-Stewardship (Larimer County)
- (6) Non-Motorized Trail Crew-Stewardship (BLM, Gunnison)
- (7) Fall River Trail Design (Town of Estes Park)
- (8) Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument Access (Summit County)
- (9) Countywide Trail Maintenance Crew (Headwaters Trails Alliance)
- (10) Crested Butte Conservation Corps (Crested Butte Mountain Bike Assoc.)
- (11) Trail Conservation Services (Colorado Mountain Bike Assoc.)
- (12) Trail Stewardship Crew Expansion (Mesa County Public Health)
- (13) Trail Maintenance SLV Public Lands (San Luis Valley Great Outdoors)

**2.24**

Miles of new trail construction

**FY 2024-25**

**1,086**

Miles of Trail Maintenance/  
Reconstruction/Stewardship

**FY 2024-25**

**\$2,019,535**

GOCO total reimbursements for the  
Trails Program

**FY 2024-25**

# CPW WEBSITE REDESIGN

CPW launched its newly redesigned website in late August 2024 to enhance its online presence, making it more accessible, visually appealing, and informative for customers. CPW staff have listened to customers and constituents over the years, using that feedback to re-envision information flows and customer journeys, and to build an entirely new website for the agency on Drupal, a proven CMS platform.

*“Reimagining a website as robust as ours is no easy task, and while we know changes are always a challenge, we think you’ll find this website more dynamic, functional, and easier for you, our customers and partners, to use,”* said Branding and Communications Section Manager Rebecca Ferrell.

Below are some examples of how CPW is making significant improvements for customers.

- **Enhanced Accessibility** - The new site meets all state and federal accessibility requirements, ensuring that CPW continues to work toward a “Colorado for All.” These requirements make content easier for screen readers to assist customers with low vision or blindness, and provide translation into multiple languages.
- **Website Audit** - CPW reviewed all existing web content to eliminate repetition, consolidate pages, update content, and utilize analytics to enhance visitors’ online journeys for agency information.
- **New Website Navigation** - Menus have changed to help users quickly navigate to their areas of interest.
- **Updated State Park Finder** - Graphic cards featuring images and park descriptions provide an immediate sense of each park’s features and activities.
- **Added mapping and event tools** - The new website is a robust information base that will adapt and evolve for years to come, including an enhanced ability to search for park events, state wildlife areas, bodies of water, and more.

Screen shots from CPW's newly redesigned website. ©CPW ▶



## Find the Perfect Park and Get Outside

Wherever you go in Colorado, there's a state park waiting to welcome you. Colorado's state parks are as diverse as the state itself, and they offer something for everyone. From Eastern Plains parks at 3,800 feet to high-mountain parks at 9,500, the network of state parks offers a wealth of activities for busy people of all ages, or the chance to do nothing at all.

[Park Finder ➔](#)



## State Wildlife Action Plan

The State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) is an expansive resource on the status of some wildlife populations in Colorado, with an emphasis on individual species and their habitats. The insights found in the SWAP will help CPW forge new partnerships, strengthen old ones and inform policy, keeping Colorado a hotbed of biodiversity.

[Learn more about the plan ➔](#)

# PARTNERSHIPS

Colorado's Outdoors Strategy (COS) launched in April 2025, providing a collective vision and strategic actions to ensure a future where the outdoors, people, community character, and ways of life endure for generations to come. CPW is stewarding the Strategy by coordinating collaborative leadership and implementation with Great Outdoors Colorado, the Department of Natural Resources, the Outdoor Recreation Industry Office, and the Governor's Office, along with other agencies and partners. Collaboration with partners and stakeholders was integral to the development of the strategy and will be central to its long-term success.

## MOBILE LOCATION DATA COLLECTION

With funding support from GOCO, CPW procured RRC Associates to provide a comprehensive analysis and visualization dashboard for mobile location data on public lands throughout the state. This project fills a critical data gap identified by Colorado's Outdoors Strategy Roadmap and will help inform recreation management needs and priorities. CPW and RRC convened a stakeholder advisory group to help inform project objectives and the selection of 60 case study sites across Colorado. RRC is in the process of procuring data and will begin their analysis and dashboard design in order to have a final product presented at the 2026 Partners in the Outdoors Conference.

<sup>2</sup>[cpw.state.co.us/coloradosoutdoorsstrategy](http://cpw.state.co.us/coloradosoutdoorsstrategy)



## COLORADO OUTDOOR REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative (RPI) brings together a diverse range of interests to collaborate on advancing solutions that conserve Colorado's outdoors for both people and wildlife. CPW and GOCO launched the initiative in 2021, offering grant funds to coalitions to join the Colorado Outdoor Partnership and commit to both regional and statewide conservation and recreation collaboration and planning. CPW is now in the 8th grant cycle, having awarded over \$6.2 million to 21 regional partnerships across the state. These partnerships cover approximately 80 percent of Colorado, with proposals in place to further expand coverage.

With the launch of Colorado's Outdoors Strategy, regional partnerships are aligning locally rooted efforts with the statewide goals for conservation, outdoor recreation, and climate resilience. Six regional partnerships have completed conservation and recreation plans, that inform strategic priority projects, align with Colorado's Outdoors Strategy, and present opportunities for measurable on-the-ground impact. At least 10 regional partnerships expect to have regional plans completed next year. Regional partnerships are using the COS data, mapping tools, and resources to inform their planning, with at least 10 that have invested in regional decision support tools that complement the COS resources hub and add data richness to CODEX.

With GOCO support and leadership, investments in regional partnerships are driving local collaboration, deepening engagement with stakeholders and partners, and advancing coordinated investments in high-impact strategic projects to advance conservation, outdoor recreation, and climate resilience efforts with landscape-scale benefits.

# Youth Connections

*Inspiring the next generation of Coloradans.*

GOCO-supported programs help CPW provide opportunities to youth and students to learn first-hand about Colorado's natural resources.

**SOLE Grant recipients on a field trip to Crawford State Park ©CPW**





# OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Colorado Parks and Wildlife's education and interpretive programs serve as an essential bridge, connecting our community to the wild heart of this state. By fostering hands-on discovery and providing meaningful and memorable experiences, we ensure all people have access to the bounty of outdoor opportunities our state provides. Investment in interpretation and education programs ensures that we work toward equipping and inspiring others to protect Colorado's natural world for generations to come.

With GOCO support, CPW is able to offer a wide variety of programming throughout the year to students, families, park visitors, teachers, and volunteers. While the goals of these programs vary, they all work to spread CPW's passion and mission for the state's incredible parks and wildlife resources.



Top: One of two Día de Pesca events held annually ©CPW

Bottom: Participants in the YIP program practice archery at Cheyenne Mountain State Park ©CPW

## ANGLER EDUCATION

Angler Education experienced a slight increase in clinic participants and total events this year compared to last year totaling 300-350 events and reaching 11,000 to 12,000 participants per year. This range represents the maximum capacity that CPW can manage with current staffing levels.

CPW continues to host hundreds of small events that introduce people to fishing in an intimate setting, with a total of 10 to 40 participants and a minimum instructor-to-participant ratio of 1:10. These are hosted at state parks, state wildlife areas, schools, community centers, county parks, and private bodies of water. In addition to these smaller events, CPW also hosts several large-scale events, such as Get Outdoors Day in Denver and Colorado Springs, which attract around 1,000 attendees each. CPW also hosts two Hispanic fishing events every year called Día de Pesca, which attract 250 to 300 attendees each. This year, staff added a new location for these events, partnering with the City of Thornton's Parks and Recreation Department to expand into the suburbs of metro Denver.

State park staff and volunteers continue to be outstanding partners in the angler education program. Barr Lake, Staunton, and Mueller State Parks are great examples of parks that offer fishing clinics nearly every month. The hope is to increase the number of events held at other parks over the coming years as the volunteer base expands at these parks. The program will provide the necessary gear to enable them to independently lead successful programs.

CPW's grant with the National Fishing in the Schools program is continuing to grow, adding 12 new schools to the program this year. Staff hosted training sessions for the teachers at these schools to enhance their skills and connect with their local CPW representatives for future partnerships and events.

**336**

Number of Angler Education Clinics

**FY 2024-25**

**11,952**

Number of Participants

**FY 2024-25**



Participant at one of CPW's angler education clinics.. ©CPW

## FISHERIES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**GRAND JUNCTION, CO**

During summer 2025, CPW staff had the opportunity to work with District 51, Colorado Recovery Program, and the Grand Junction Jackalopes (Grand Junction's minor league baseball team) on both promoting native (and protected) fish species of the Colorado River and creating a scholarship fund for Palisade High School hatchery program students who plan to study fisheries in college. Palisade High School has an on-campus hatchery where they have raised and released the Razorback Sucker, a native and endangered fish of the Colorado River. To promote this partnership, the Jackalopes wore the Humpback Chubs (a protected native species of fish in the Colorado River) every Wednesday home game and on Father's Day. At the end of the season, the special jerseys were auctioned off, and proceeds were donated to the School District to provide Scholarships to fisheries students.

# INTERPRETATION PROGRAMS



Interpretive sign at Vega State Park  
©Doskocil/CPW

Statewide Program: CPW hired a full-time position dedicated to managing interpretive signs and visitor center exhibits, supporting interpretive infrastructure statewide. To amplify the reach and impact of programs beyond guided tours, it is critical to invest in expertise dedicated to crafting compelling, permanent signs and exhibits.

The Interpretive Signs and Exhibits Coordinator is a crucial position that will ensure high-quality, consistent, accurate, and inclusive messaging is experienced across all properties. This leader will translate the wonder of Colorado's natural world into lasting, impactful signage and exhibits, ensuring that the stories of conservation and outdoor connections continue to inspire visitors long after our programs conclude.

## INTERPRETATION IN ACTION: EXAMPLES AROUND THE STATE

### Found Film Program

#### GOLDEN GATE CANYON STATE PARK

Inspired by a similar program from the last summer season, the "Found Film program," is a passive activity that lets visitors capture their memories on film. Four disposable cameras were placed in protective totes at popular locations: Panorama Point, Tallman's Ranch, Dude's Fishing Hole, and Frazier Meadow. Visitors could take a photo of their choice, then leave the camera for the next person to use. After the cameras were collected and the film was developed, the pictures were shared on the park's social media and displayed on the "Found Film Family" wall for visitors to pick up.

### Haunted History Hike

#### ELDORADO CANYON STATE PARK

In October 2024, Eldorado Canyon turned into a living timeline with a Haunted History Hike. Volunteers and staff dressed as historic characters from the canyon's colorful past, each with a story to share. Guests were given a riddle and a stamp card, collecting clues from each character along the trail. With a mix of mystery, history, and fun giveaways, families enjoyed a spooky yet fun way to connect with Eldo's rich heritage. This event was a hit—and a great way to bring the past to life under the stars.



Diversity in Bloom event at Boulder Pride Festival. ©CPW

## Diversity in Bloom

### BOULDER PRIDE FESTIVAL

At this year's Boulder Pride, the interpretive teams at Eldorado Canyon State Park and Golden Gate Canyon State Park brought a beautiful blend of art and advocacy with the "Diversity Flower Garden." Starting with a blank poster, staff invited visitors to decorate and add their own unique flower, using one word that expressed what diversity in the outdoors means to them. As the day progressed, the garden blossomed into a vibrant, colorful collage filled with powerful words, creativity, and diverse community voices. Many folks returned later to show their friends their personal contributions. At the same table, Golden Gate Canyon educated guests on queer botany and how slurs like "pansy" and "lavender" have been reclaimed to be positive terms of endearment. It was a joyful, interactive celebration of inclusion and belonging in outdoor spaces.

## Firewatching-Stories of the Night Sky

### STEAMBOAT LAKE STATE PARK

During this event, guests heard stories about the night sky accompanied by a brief history of storykeeping and firewatching within Native American Communities. Each story is related to an object with its own fun fact about it along the way.

## Mystery of Mueller Display

### MUELLER STATE PARK

In October 2024, park staff created a display in the Visitor Center about the disappearance of a homesteader who lived in the park in the early 1900s. The display included the stories of multiple family members, a timeline of events leading up to his disappearance, the search for him afterwards, and theories about what happened to him. This was a self-guided display using the Penfriend. Visitors used the pen to explore the many characters and the timeline. As they pointed at certain pictures, the Penfriend would read a piece of the story. This display was a fun way to highlight a part of the park's history in an interactive and accessible manner.

# SCHOOLS AND OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

CPW provides programming that serves students and educators from early childhood through 12th grade, as well as community college and university-level students, by creating impactful connections to Colorado's natural resources. The goal of these programs is to be a leading source of natural resource-related educational resources, directly aligned with state academic standards, so that educators and students have a strong relationship and a solid knowledge base of the outdoors, which inspires behavior changes that increase stewardship and conservation best practices.

The strategy is to develop high-quality resources and facilitate hands-on, relevant, nature-based learning experiences, allowing students and educators to deepen their connection to Colorado's natural resources and the work being done by CPW.

## SOLE Grants

CPW supports schools with funding through an advanced waiver grant to help students spend time outside during the school day. For the 2024-2025 school year, CPW awarded \$154,110 to 33 schools statewide and \$15,000 to partner organizations. While funding was primarily used for transportation and entrance fees to provide students with experiences through field trips, it was also used to purchase materials, including trail cameras, bird feeders, and a skylab.



"Perhaps the most significant impact of the SOLE grant this year has been the revitalization of our schools outdoor learning and garden area. This space has come alive like never before, with teachers and students across all grade levels using it as a vibrant setting for discovery and learning."

### Orchard Avenue Elementary School

"This school year we continued to develop and grow our outdoor learning opportunities for staff and students. Students biked, fished, studied macroinvertebrates, engineered traps like fur trappers and traders, visited pictographs, Nordic skied and snowshoed, shot archery, planted seeds at the farm, designed a greenhouse, visited a national monument, went to the zoo, and so much more!"

### LAKE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE

## Work Based Learning

In June 2025, CPW launched the pilot High School Internship program in response to the growing need for Work-Based Learning (WBL) opportunities and the broader movement to support Career and Technical Education (CTE) in schools. This pilot successfully placed two high school students in paid summer internships in rural Southern Colorado. One student worked at the Las Animas Hatchery, while the other split their time between the Monte Vista Hatchery and the Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility in Alamosa. Both students were between their junior and senior years and received academic credit in addition to a paycheck for their experience. The pilot was a resounding success, with 100% of participating CPW staff expressing interest in hosting a high school intern again in the future. Both students also indicated a new interest in pursuing a career in Natural Resources and highly recommended the program to their peers.



"I would love to get a job working at a hatchery again if I could because that was an amazing experience."

### STUDENT INTERN

"Getting students into this program is great, because if they love it they pursue it. This could possibly lead into longer temporary positions and possibly careers."

### CPW INTERN SUPERVISOR



Left to Right: WBL intern at a hatchery in Southern Colorado; Southwest region OUT teachers participating in a 3-day backpacking program; Montezuma High School Career Day at Mancos State Park. ©CPW

## Virtual Programs

SOLE connected with K-12 classrooms across the state with programming delivered from our virtual studio, providing engaging insights into mapping, ecosystems, adaptations, and wolf biology and management. Through the 50+ programs that were provided, SOLE educators were able to connect with over 2,500 students.

## Outdoor Understanding for Teachers (OUT)

Regional Coordinators hosted several professional development courses that provided K-12 teachers and education partners enriching experiences through unique opportunities to engage with nature and enhance their outdoor teaching skills.

In the Southeast Region, Upper Arkansas OUT focused on the importance of the Upper Arkansas Watershed to people, wildlife, and our natural resources. Teachers had the opportunity to experience several engaging activities including touring the Mount Elbert Powerplant, hearing from local ranchers about the importance of cattle grazing in watersheds, learning about beavers, and connecting art with nature. The local CPW Aquatic Biologist took the teachers fish shocking to sample the South Arkansas River. Daily mindfulness activities were incorporated, providing teachers with tools to use in their classrooms. One teacher said "I will never look at the Arkansas River the same way again."

The Pueblo OUT program was a blast from the past allowing educators to learn about the history of conservation, hike through time at the Pueblo Mountain Park, hear from SOAR (Storytellers of the Ancestral Red Road) about the importance of incorporating indigenous history, explore local history on the Historic Pueblo Riverwalk, and learn about how mining impacted local history and continues to do so today. Teachers also had the opportunity to experience the Ute STEM curriculum, which was

created by History Colorado in collaboration with the Ute Tribe. Partnerships with the Pueblo Zoo, The Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center, El Pueblo Museum and History Colorado were all key in making this class a success. One teacher summed up her experience by saying "I never knew PD could be so fun."

In the Southwest Region, OUT continues to deliver high-impact professional development for K-12 educators in Delta, Montrose, and Ouray counties. In the summer, teachers completed a 3-day backpacking course focused on Leave No Trace principles, wilderness first aid, and growth-oriented challenges designed for classroom replication. One participant shared, "All of the team-building + LNT programs were creative, suited for backpacking/the outdoors, and meaningful...I also felt that the comradery was astounding and inspiring for everyone involved". For the spring workshop, the group explored land, wildlife, and community values with stewardship experts and tools like COTREX.

## Field Experiences

Field experiences connected students in rural communities to hands-on learning, offering guidance and support to engage with nature. The Southwest region highlighted several programs it provided that got students outdoors, engaging with field staff. Ridgway State Park offered school programs in archery, fishing, paddleboarding, bird banding, and life cycles, as well as inclusive outdoor skill days for TRY (Together for Resilient Youth). Crawford and Sweitzer Lake State Parks also welcomed local youth for recreation trips and summer camps, including Swetizer's new low ropes course with The Nature Connection. Sweitzer Lake State Park holds its "Know your State Park" for Delta County 5th graders in the spring and fall. Mancos State Park hosted Montezuma County high school students for a spring field career day led by CPW and its partners. These programs support students through mentorship, spark their stewardship, and inspire them for future outdoor adventures and careers.

# COLORADO YOUTH CORPS ASSOCIATION



Colorado Parks and Wildlife recently completed its 25th season of partnership with the Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA), a statewide network of locally run youth corps. Youth corps crews made substantial contributions to CPW's lands and the people who visit them.

Work included trail construction and maintenance, habitat restoration, fence removal, fire mitigation, and the removal of invasive plants.

In total, CYCA crews completed:

50 weeks of work at 17 state parks, 11 state wildlife areas, and four state fish hatcheries

In addition to the valuable work completed, the partnership also provides young people with opportunities for professional development, skill building, environmental education, and career exploration. Corps members gain an awareness of the agency, meet and work alongside CPW staff, and learn about the various job pathways available. CYCA engaged 230 corps members and 70 crew leaders during the year, many of whom identify with traditionally underrepresented races, ethnicities, and genders. Ultimately, this partnership is helping to improve our lands, inspire stewardship, and train and recruit the next generation of natural resource professionals.

**17,110  
HOURS OF CYCA LABOR**

**50  
WEEKS OF WORK AT:**  
17 state parks  
11 state wildlife areas  
4 state fish hatcheries

TOP TO BOTTOM: Trail crew at Staunton State Park; CYCA Corps members at West Rifle Creek State Wildlife area ; Larimer County Conservation Corp members cleaning out fish raceways at Bellvue Watson Fish Hatchery. ©CPW

# YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The purpose of the CPW Youth Internship Program (YIP) is to employ and expose youth to natural resource careers and recruit new and diverse talent into the CPW workforce. YIP internships are designed to engage and mentor youth, provide practical experiences, skills, and opportunities, facilitate networking opportunities with CPW professionals, and offer exposure to various CPW career paths.

YIP places interns in various positions throughout CPW. In FY 2024-25, CPW funded 66 internship positions. YIP interns assisted CPW program areas, including state parks, aquatic biology, wildlife biology, fish hatcheries, engineering, water quality monitoring, administrative support, and education and interpretation.



TOP TO BOTTOM: CPW Youth interns participate in ice rescue training; CPW Youth interns at Cheyenne Mountain State Park. ©CPW



## QUOTES FROM YIP INTERNS

"Each time I would meet a new biologist, wildlife officer, or ranger it felt like they were all looking out for me and trying to further myself as an asset to the community and the natural resources of the state. Whether we were handling 50-pound invasive carp, administering vaccines to prairie dogs, or educating the public about wildlife management, each experience was fun and rewarding."

"During my time here with CPW one thing that I have learned that will help me with my career is State Wildlife Area work. I learned so much on the importance of upkeep SWA's so that hunters like myself can enjoy these properties the state provides. It was great to manage these properties and upkeep them and I can use this work in my future as I apply for a DWM position."

"My communication skills greatly improved along with leadership skills. I also have a much better idea of how to get a full time job with CPW."

"I had no experience in biology aquatic sampling or amphibians or fish, and no feel like I've had a lot of opportunity to grow and learn, and now am considering some kinds of fish work for graduate school. Even graduate school I hadn't really thought too much of before this program."

"I learned to be confident in my position, knowledge, and experience, as well as confident to ask questions to peers and management without feeling like a burden. I learned so much about working in and for the outdoors, like tool use, use of heavy machinery, collecting data, developing public speaking skills, etc."

"I learned how to work within a team but also individually. I was also able to grow professionally and find a new sense of confidence that I will take with me after this summer. I was also able to learn about other roles and positions that can be found within CPW that I never realized before."



**Bird watcher at Elkhead Reservoir State Park** ©Vic Schendel/CPW

# WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

Wildlife Viewing programs help connect people to wildlife through educational festivals, programs, and other engagement opportunities, promoting ethical behaviors and viewing skills. These programs provide experiences to observe wildlife and share biological and ecological information, fostering understanding and stewardship of Colorado's wildlife.

## Wildlife viewing

Wildlife viewing, which involves intentionally observing, feeding, or photographing wildlife, or visiting or maintaining natural areas to benefit wildlife, is one of the most popular outdoor recreation activities in the United States. CPW provided numerous opportunities to view and learn more about wildlife, from collaborative events like wildlife festivals to local nature walks at a state park. For example, Steamboat Lake State Park staff assisted with the Yampa Valley Crane Festival by providing "Birding by Boat" guided birding tours on Steamboat Lake via pontoon boat.

The Wildlife Viewing program, with support from CPW biologists, produced the agency's first Wildlife Viewing Pocket Guide focused on Colorado bats. The guide is a tool to help individuals understand and appreciate Colorado's bats, as it makes identifying these elusive and often misunderstood creatures accessible to the public. The simple act of identification transforms an ambiguous flying object into a recognizable species, connecting people to the natural world around them. Furthermore, these guides often include vital information on the ecological roles of bats, such as their importance in insect control and pollination, as well as conservation threats like White-Nose Syndrome. By doing so, they not only educate but also encourage a sense of stewardship, turning casual observers into advocates for bat conservation.



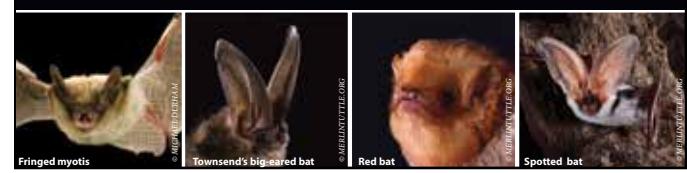
C O L O R A D O P A R K S & W I L D L I F E

## Bats of Colorado: Shadows in the Night

WILDLIFE VIEWING POCKET GUIDE



Hoary bat



Fringed myotis ©MERLINSATTLE.ORG  
Townsend's big-eared bat ©MERLINSATTLE.ORG  
Red bat ©MERLINSATTLE.ORG  
Spotted bat ©MERLINSATTLE.ORG

# Grant Detail FY 2024–2025

Section I of Article XXVII of the Colorado Constitution describes eight basic objectives for GOCO investments in outdoor recreation and wildlife programs:►

## OUTDOOR RECREATION

- ★ Establish and improve state parks and recreation areas throughout Colorado.
- ★ Develop appropriate public information and environmental education resources on Colorado's natural resources at state parks, recreation areas, and other locations throughout the state.
- ★ Acquire, construct, and maintain trails and river greenways.
- ★ Provide water for recreational purposes through the acquisition of water rights or through agreements with holders of water rights, all in accord with applicable state water law.

## WILDLIFE

- ★ Develop wildlife-watching opportunities.
- ★ Implement educational programs about wildlife and wildlife environment.
- ★ Provide appropriate programs for maintaining Colorado's diverse wildlife heritage.
- ★ Protect crucial wildlife habitats through the acquisition of lands, leases, or easements and restoring critical areas.

The following tables contain information about GOCO reimbursements to CPW in FY 2024-25 organized by the structure outlined in the Colorado Constitution.

**STATE PARKS PURPOSE: ESTABLISH AND IMPROVE STATE PARKS AND RECREATION**

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2024-25 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
20200	Park Improvements	6,991,024	5,046,817	1,591,524
21200	Park Improvements	5,054,334	3,748,164	698,357
22200	Land Acquisition and Leases	6,119,195	3,589,354,	304,21
22223	Fuels Mitigation Management Program	300,000	16,409	283,591
22225	Director's Innovation Fund (Parks)	25,000	21,819	-
23000	Park Improvements	5,183,550	20,586	5,162,964
23221	Trails in State Parks Program	500,000	49,091	139,095
23223	Fuels Mitigation Management Program	100,000	-	100,000
23225	Director's Innovation Fund (Parks)	75,000	47,629	24,940
24172	Capital Development Program	1,010,749	-	1,010,749
24173	Natural Resource Management Program	1,292,500	-	1,292,500
24174	Invasive and Noxious Weed Management Program	225,530	-	221,664
24175	Recreation Management on State Parks	4,211,420	-	4,211,420
24197	Recreation Mobility Data	400,000	-	-
24200	Park Improvements	6,656,269	-	3,189,981
24225	Director's Innovation Fund (Parks)	75,000	-	30,987
24532	FY24 CPW Centennial Projects - Outdoor Recreation	11,900,000	-	18,500
25172	Capital Development Program	1,008,222	-	-
25173	Natural Resource Management Program	1,292,500	-	-
25174	Invasive and Noxious Weed Management Program	329,358	-	-
25175	Recreation Management on State Parks	4,211,420	-	-
25200	Park Improvements	4,750,234	-	-
25225	Director's Innovation Fund (Parks)	75,000	-	-
<b>Totals this section:</b>		<b>\$ 61,786,305</b>	<b>\$ 12,539,871</b>	<b>\$18,280,294</b>

### STATE PARKS PURPOSE: PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2024-25 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
21222	Website Redesign	700,000	521,342	152,179
24187	Public Information Program	296,000	–	296,000
24188	Environmental Education and Youth Programs	1,500,000	–	1,500,000
24189	Volunteer Programs	73,040	–	73,040
25187	Public Information Program	296,000	–	–
25188	Environmental Education and Youth Programs	1,500,000	–	–
	<b>Totals this section:</b>	<b>\$ 4,365,040</b>	<b>\$ 521,342</b>	<b>\$ 2,021,219</b>

### STATE PARKS PURPOSE: TRAILS AND RIVER GREENWAYS

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2024-25 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
18233	Legacy Loop - Rock Island Trail	500,000	–	500,000
21192	Trails Grant Program	1,000,000	646,985	71,972
22192	Trails Grant Program - Capital	1,000,000	631,078	211,842
22221	Trails in State Parks	500,000	471,844	28,029
23192	Trails Grant Program - Capital	1,500,000	138,894	753,320
24191	State Trails Program - Operating	400,000	–	395,021
24192	Trails Grants Program - Capital	1,500,000	–	35,276
24221	Trails in State Parks	500,000	–	24,075
25191	State Trails Program -Operating	400,000	–	–
25192	Trails Grant Program	1,500,000	–	–
25221	Trails in State Parks	500,000	–	–
	<b>Totals this section:</b>	<b>\$ 9,300,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,888,800</b>	<b>\$ 2,019,535</b>

### STATE PARKS PURPOSE: WATER FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2024-25 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
21194	Water Acquisitions and Leases	300,000	210,168	89,832
24193	Water Program	22,059	–	22,056
23193	Water Program	21,115	–	–
	<b>Totals this section:</b>	<b>\$ 343,171</b>	<b>\$ 210,168</b>	<b>\$ 111,888</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL, STATE PARKS PURPOSE</b>	<b>\$75,794,516</b>	<b>\$15,160,182</b>	<b>\$ 22,432,937</b>

### WILDLIFE PURPOSE: HABITAT MANAGEMENT

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2024-25 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
22150	Acquire High Priority Habitat- Capital	1,223,088	5,750	401,218
22153	Wetlands Conservation	1,100,000	870,493	224,024
22531	FY22 CPW Centennial Projects	1,564,500	1,564,500	–
23153	Wetlands Conservation	1,100,000	238,791	234,595
24150	Acquire High Priority Habitat - Capital	4,012,288	–	10,750
24151	Acquire High Priority Habitat - Operations	450,884	–	450,884
24152	Enhance Habitat on Lands and Water	1,000,000	–	1,000,000
24153	Wetlands Conservation	1,100,000	–	189,766
24154	GIS Habitat Information	410,186	–	406,745
23531	FY23 CPW Centennial Projects	6,250,000	6,250,000	–
24531	FY24 CPW Centennial Projects	22,985,500	–	–
25150	Acquire High Priority Habitat - Capital	2,830,998	–	–
25151	Acquire High Priority Habitat - Operations	450,884	–	–
25152	Enhance Habitat on Lands and Water	1,000,000	–	–
25153	Wetlands Conservation	1,100,000	–	–
25154	GIS Habitat Information	408,784	–	–
<b>Totals this section:</b>		<b>\$46,987,112</b>	<b>\$ 8,929,534</b>	<b>\$ 2,917,982</b>

### WILDLIFE PURPOSE: SPECIES PROTECTION

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2024-25 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
23155	Propagation of Aquatic Species at Risk	488,129	–	483,885
24161	Threatened, Endangered, and Native Species Conservation	4,740,346	–	4,740,346
25155	Propagation of Aquatic Species at Risk	465,110	–	–
25161	Threatened, Endangered, and Native Species Conservation	4,740,346	–	–
<b>Totals this section:</b>		<b>\$ 10,433,490</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>\$ 5,224,231</b>

### WILDLIFE PURPOSE: WILDLIFE EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENT

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2024-25 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
21166	Website Redesign	1,300,000	968,207	282,618
22163	Director's Innovation Fund	25,000	24,450	–
23163	Director's Innovation Fund	75,000	49,961	4,913
24158	Youth Programs	918,637	–	918,637
24159	Education and Volunteer Programs	400,183	–	400,183
24160	Angler Education	161,000	–	161,000
24163	Director's Innovation Fund	75,000	–	66,918
25158	Youth Programs	918,637	–	–
25159	Education Programs	306,926	–	–
25160	Angler Education	161,000	–	–
25163	Director's Innovation Fund	75,000	–	–
	<b>Totals this section:</b>	<b>\$ 4,416,383</b>	<b>\$ 1,042,617</b>	<b>\$ 1,834,270</b>

### WILDLIFE PURPOSE: WILDLIFE VIEWING

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2024-25 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
24162	Wildlife Viewing	144,899	–	144,899
25162	Wildlife Viewing	144,899	–	–
	<b>Totals this section:</b>	<b>\$289,798</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>\$144,899</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL, WILDLIFE PURPOSE</b>	<b>\$ 62,127,223</b>	<b>\$ 9,972,151</b>	<b>\$ 10,121,382</b>

### PARTNERSHIPS

GOCO LOG	DESCRIPTION	AWARD (\$)	TOTAL PRIOR REIMBURSEMENTS (\$)	FY 2024-25 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST (\$)
22351	Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative (Capacity)	500,000	170,591	329,409
22352	Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships (Regrant)	3,000,000	761,923	1,434,444
	<b>Totals this section:</b>	<b>\$3,500,000</b>	<b>\$932,514</b>	<b>\$1,763,853</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL, INCLUDING OUTDOOR RECREATION, WILDLIFE, AND PARTNERSHIPS</b>	<b>\$ 141,421,739</b>	<b>\$ 26,064,847</b>	<b>\$34,318,172</b>







## **CPW Mission**

The mission of Colorado Parks and Wildlife is to perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state, to provide a quality state parks system, and to provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado's natural resources.

## **GOCO MISSION**

To help preserve, protect, enhance, and manage the state's wildlife, park, river, trail and open space heritage.



**Colorado Parks & Wildlife**  
6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216  
(303) 297-1192 • [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us)