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

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People from around the world come to Colorado for its renowned outdoor recreation, wide open spaces, and stunning scenery. And yet, we face the same issue as the rest of the country.

**Kids today spend less than half the time outside that their parents’ generation did.**

But Coloradans are doing something about that.

In 2018, GOCO doubled down on our commitment to build the next generation of outdoor lovers. Nature is a stress reliever and creativity builder, and it helps us be better people. But just as importantly, the great outdoors is something that nearly all Coloradans hold dear.

**In Colorado, 75% of people identify as conservationists and 75% as outdoor recreation enthusiasts.**

GOCO’s work will ensure those values endure, and that our next generation will take care of Colorado into the future. Our mission is to best serve the people of Colorado and what they care deeply about.

We do this by continuing our work to conserve land for people and wildlife and by building trails and parks that ensure equitable access to the outdoors for every person lucky enough to call this spectacular state home.
**GOCO At-a-Glance**

Projects funded in FY 2018*

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

*GOCO's FY 2018 ran from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

In FY 2018, our grantees put GOCO funds to work for:

- 98 PROJECTS FUNDED
- 41 COUNTIES
- 50,000 KIDS IMPACTED
- 28 SPECIES OF WILDLIFE PROTECTED
- 64,816 ACRES CONSERVED
- 138 ACRES OF HABITAT RESTORED
- 21 RURAL COMMUNITIES FUNDED
- 19 LOCAL PARKS IMPROVED

KEY

- Inspire/Generation Wild Coalition
- Park/Planning
- Habitat Restoration
- Trail
- State Park
- School Playground
- Wildlife Project
Serving Colorado

Since our inception in 1992:

3:1 DEMAND FOR REQUESTED VS. AVAILABLE FUNDING

INVESTED IN efforts supporting 43 ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES

CREATED & IMPROVED MORE THAN 1,600 community parks and outdoor recreation areas

TRANSFORMED 56 school playgrounds that serve 21,000 STUDENTS

5,209 projects were funded in all 64 COUNTIES

EMPLOYED 9,400 young people through the Colorado Youth Corps Association

900 miles of trails

NEARLY 1,000 miles of rivers protected

ADDED OVER 47,000 acres to the State Parks system

MORE THAN 1.2 MILLION ACRES have been conserved

1.2 BILLION

OUTDOOR RECREATION contributes $28 billion to the Colorado economy, creating 229,000 jobs in the state.

Serving Colorado OUTDOOR RECREATION contributes $28 billion to the Colorado economy, creating 229,000 jobs in the state. (Outdoor Industry Association: Outdoor Recreation Economy Report (2017)).

HUNTING AND FISHING contribute more than $2.8 billion to Colorado’s economy.

COLORADO HUNTING AND FISHING contribute more than $2.8 billion to Colorado’s economy. (Colorado Parks and Wildlife Fact Sheet (2017)).

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

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OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL SPENDING in local and regional parks in Colorado created $4.6 billion in economic activity and supported over 36,000 jobs in 2013.

COLORADO OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL SPENDING in local and regional parks in Colorado created $4.6 billion in economic activity and supported over 36,000 jobs in 2013. (2014 Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and 2013 Economic Impact of Local and Regional Park Agencies’ Spending study).
GOCO created the Protect Initiative as part of its 2015 strategic plan to conserve more land for wildlife and people.

In FY 2018, GOCO funded two projects that will achieve both of those goals.

Fisher’s Peak, the iconic backdrop to the City of Trinidad, will be opened to the public for the first time in decades. It will fill a gap in available parks and trails for locals and establish Trinidad as an outdoor recreation destination.

Sandstone Ranch near Larkspur will be turned into a public open space to alleviate crowding at other popular Douglas County destinations, along with preserving unique red rock scenery.
Trails are more than just a way to get from point A to point B. Trails get people out of their cars and into their communities. They attract economic development. They bring people together and make communities thrive.

GOCO’s Connect Initiative helps communities embark upon bold new visions of what trails can do to connect people to the great outdoors.
Bringing change to a community is not the same as empowering change within one.

GOCO invested in 15 locally led Generation Wild coalitions to look inward and decide what solutions would best serve their communities when it came to getting kids outside.

Our funding brought unprecedented levels of collaboration amongst local governments, schools, and nonprofits across sectors to elevate the voices of community members, particularly the youth themselves.

In FY 2018*, we awarded more than $14 million in funding to help them bring their visions to life, advancing innovative work to drive equitable access to the outdoors.

*GOCO’s FY 2018 ran from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. This annual report summarizes those funding decisions.
GOCO created Generation Wild to reconnect kids with nature and encourage them to experience the incredible adventures waiting right outside their front door.

In 2018, we started seeing results.

Not only did GOCO invest $14.1 million in grants in 15 Generation Wild coalitions, in 2018 we also completed the first full year of a statewide marketing campaign to get kids outside.

One highlight of the effort: 85% of moms surveyed said Generation Wild encouraged them to get their kids outside more often.

Our work is just getting started. As we lift up the work of our coalitions, we also spread the Generation Wild message broadly with new tips and inspiration for parents, grandparents, and others in the lives of Colorado children.

Because kids grow better outside.

Visit GenerationWild.com to learn more and download the list of 100 Things To Do Before You’re 12.
Natural beauty doesn’t always mean untouched. Colorado’s trails, wildlife habitat, and waterways often need a little human intervention to ensure our state isn’t loved to death.

Building trails, removing invasive weeds, and thinning trees from overcrowded forests to reduce severity of wildfires are all part of taking care of the outdoor places we enjoy.

GOCO funds these projects through our habitat restoration and Youth Corps programs. We also supported the Statewide Stewardship Initiative, a project by the Colorado Outdoor Stewardship Coalition that’s advancing common stewardship best practices and creating a unified approach to measuring stewardship project success.

**THIS YEAR**

$1 MILLION AWARDED

- **138 ACRES OF HABITAT RESTORED**, fixing issues like erosion, poor water quality, and risk of flooding
- **39 MILES OF STREAMS AND OTHER WATERWAYS RESTORED**
- **75 ACRES OF TREES THINNED TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK**
- **3,600 NEW PLANTS AND TREES ADDED TO PARKS AND OTHER AREAS**
- **2,035 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER LABOR**
- **226 YOUNG ADULTS EMPLOYED**
Local Parks

GOCO funding helps Colorado communities build the parks, trails, and other recreation amenities that get people outside.

Whether a small town wants to upgrade its fishing pond or a city aims to bring nature into its neighborhoods, GOCO grants help make it happen.

Across the years, we’ve funded playgrounds, athletic fields, bike parks, splash pads where kids cool their heels on hot summer days, and a world-class ice park – a true winter haven.

Each project brings an array of benefits for the community.

THIS YEAR

$4.9 MILLION AWARDED

16 RURAL COMMUNITIES RECEIVED FUNDING

3 RIVER PARK PROJECTS FUNDED

3 FISHING AREAS TO BE UPDATED

136 ACRES OF NEW PARKLAND TO BE ACQUIRED

6 BALLFIELDS TO BE IMPROVED

6 TRAIL PROJECTS FUNDED

5 MASTER PLANNING PROJECTS IN THE WORKS

1 RODEO ARENA TO BE UPDATED
As Colorado continues to grow, it’s important to balance the need for development with permanently conserving space and protecting our water resources.

GOCO funds projects that sustain local agriculture and economies, give outdoor recreationists a place to play (or simply to enjoy the view), protect wildlife habitat, safeguard the state’s water supply, and improve conservation best practices to help make sure we keep Colorado great.

This Year

- $5.1 million awarded
- 33,578 acres protected
- $9.8 million in land value donated by landowners
- 13 land conservation projects funded
- 2 pilot projects to address the future of land trust fundraising in Colorado
- 140 miles of river protected
- 8 working ranches kept in agricultural production
- 4 new areas for public recreation
- 8,000 acres of scenic views

Pictured: Focus Ranch in Routt County. Photo by John Fielder.
A local school’s playground can often be the closest place for kids and their families to get outside. But in Colorado, many schools have decades-old playgrounds and campuses with uninspiring vacant lots.

With the help of GOCO grants, students are leading the charge to redesign the outdoor spaces at their schools to create inspiring places to play and learn.

GOCO-funded elementary schools are also eligible to participate in Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s School and Outdoor Learning Environments (SOLE) program, which provides teacher training, family nature nights, and other outdoor education opportunities.
Half of GOCO’s funding supports Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), including our state’s 41 state parks.

GOCO funding goes beyond state park boundaries though, helping CPW carry out its work to support the outdoor recreation needs of Coloradans in every corner of the state. Statewide programs help build trails, reduce wildfire risk, remove invasive weeds, and more.

GOCO funds also support CPW’s volunteer and internship programs.

**THIS YEAR**

- $16.6 million invested
- 1 historical building saved
- 9.3 miles of winter trails to be maintained with Steamboat Lake State Park’s new groomer
- $1.3 million invested in trails projects across the state
- $25,000 invested to cover costs of Fresh Air Friday, a free day in state parks the day after Thanksgiving
- 13 state park operating budgets supported
- 8 capital construction projects at state parks funded

*Pictured: North Sterling State Park in northeast Colorado. PHOTO BY VERDON ROMANO, COURTESY OF CPW.*
Wildlife

GOCO invests half of its funding in Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) each year with $15.1 million invested in wildlife projects during FY 2018.

That funding supports efforts to preserve and improve wildlife habitat and to help protect the hundreds of diverse species that call our state home.

A CPW volunteer teaches a girl how to shoot a compound bow at the first-ever Outdoor Adventure Expo, hosted by CPW at Cherry Creek State Park.

Photo by Mike Delliveneri, courtesy of CPW.

THIS YEAR
$15.1 MILLION INVESTED

10,000 ACRES OF WILDLIFE HABITAT PROTECTED

140 VOLUNTEERS WHO PARTICIPATE IN RIVER WATCH EVERY YEAR, A PROGRAM TO MEASURE THE HEALTH OF COLORADO’S RIVERS

3 DAM MAINTENANCE PROJECTS FUNDED

32 SPECIES OF WILDLIFE MANAGED

4 WILDLIFE STUDIES FUNDED TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW TO MANAGE HUMAN CONFLICT

2 FISHING PONDS TO BE BUILT
Finances

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

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

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

FY 2018 ran from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. GOCO received $66.2 million from the Colorado Lottery, making this year the eleventh year in a row we have met our Constitutionally-mandated cap. This cap is adjusted each year for inflation; for FY 2019 it is set at $68.4 million.

In FY 2018 GOCO awarded $76.2 million across 12 grant programs.

For our complete FY 2018 financial statements, visit GOCO.org/finance.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUES</th>
<th>FY 2017-2018</th>
<th>AMOUNT TO DATE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lottery Proceeds</td>
<td>$66,250,998</td>
<td>$1,165,680,011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; Other Income</td>
<td>$3,180,097</td>
<td>$42,183,130</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenues</td>
<td>$69,431,095</td>
<td>$1,207,863,141</td>
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EXPENDITURES | GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO EXPENDITURES INCLUDE PAYMENTS TO GRANTEES AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES INCLUDE OPERATING COSTS AND BOARD EXPENSES.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURES</th>
<th>FY 2017-2018</th>
<th>AMOUNT TO DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant Expenditures</td>
<td>$66,377,373</td>
<td>$1,079,313,576</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>$4,492,842</td>
<td>$45,082,239</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td>$70,870,215</td>
<td>$1,124,395,815</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BUDGET | FISCAL YEAR 2019 ESTIMATED BUDGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUDGET</th>
<th>FY 2017-2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lottery Proceeds</td>
<td>$67,124,547</td>
<td>$1,079,313,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; Other Income</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenues</td>
<td>$68,124,547</td>
<td>$1,124,395,815</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Difference between budget revenues and expenditures reflects monies designated for prior grant obligations.

Lottery Proceeds Distribution

- GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO: 50% - $66.2 million in FY 2018
- CONSERVATION TRUST FUND: 40%
- COLORADO STATE PARKS: 10%

After GOCO cap is met, spillover funds go to the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) program by the Colorado Department of Education.
Mission

The Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund was created in 1992 when voters approved Amendment Article XXVII to the Colorado Constitution to allocate Colorado Lottery proceeds. It directs a portion to GOCO for projects that preserve, protect, and enhance the state’s wildlife, park, river, trail, and open space heritage, and created a board of trustees to govern distribution. The text is available at GOCO.org/amendment.

Governance

GOCO is governed by a 17-member board, whose members serve two four-year terms. Board members are appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Colorado State Senate. The GOCO Board must have two members of different political parties from each of the state’s seven congressional districts and also includes representatives from Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources. Learn more at GOCO.org/board.

Members by Congressional District

1: Katherine Cattanach (R), Hollie Velasquez Horvath (D), both Denver
2: Jenn Dice (U), Boulder; Tony S. Lewis (D), Longmont
3: Tom Burke (R), Grand Junction; Julie Thibodeau (D), Durango
4: Chana Reed (R), Lamar; Jody Rogers (U), Yuma
5: Warren Dean (D), Dave Palenchar (R), both Colorado Springs
6: Jason Brinkley (R, chair), Linda Strand (D), both Aurora
7: Jacy Rock (U), Karma Giulianelli (D), both Golden

State Agency Representatives

Natural Resources: Bob Randall
Parks and Wildlife Commission: John V. Howard, Jr. and Michelle Zimmerman

GOCO UPDATEs

GOCO welcomed two new board members: Warren Dean and Julie Thibodeau. A new Parks and Wildlife Commission representative was also named to the board; Carrie Besnette Hauser replaced Michelle Zimmerman. In September, Jacy Rock replaced Jason Brinkley as board chair.

In spring 2018, the state legislature and Gov. John Hickenlooper reauthorized the Colorado Lottery, GOCO’s sole funding source, for another 25 years.

GOCO also restructured its staff in July 2018, welcoming three new staff members and organizing staff to better serve grant applicants and recipients. Learn more at GOCO.org/staff.