

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

Colorado Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants Program

2018 - 2022 SUMMARY



Introduction

In 2017, the Colorado General Assembly passed, and Governor Hickenlooper signed into law, HB 17-1250 establishing the Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Program. Funding for the program is derived from a portion of long-standing Non-game Tax Check-off option for voluntary donations on Colorado income tax return forms.

The Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Program annually provides funding through a competitive process to Colorado wildlife rehabilitators. Rehabilitators submit funding applications through Colorado Parks and Wildlife in the late fall. Funding is allocated by an independent review panel comprised of representatives of the wildlife rehabilitation community, animal welfare organizations, conservation organizations, a wildlife biologist, the general public and Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

In the first four years of grants, the board has awarded 33 grants totaling \$72,384 to 20 wildlife rehabilitators across the state. Funding recipients have include wildlife rehabilitation facilities in North Park, Wetmore, Silt, Colorado Springs, Brighton, Dove Creek, Ft. Collins and other locations. Awardees have applied more than 99.5% of grant funds to their rehabilitation efforts.

Roughly two-thirds of the grants have supported capital investments in new, rehabilitated or expanded recovery

enclosures for species ranging from bobcats and raccoons; to raptors, songbirds and bats; to amphibians and reptiles. Other grants have helped cover the cost of specialized food, medical supplies and veterinary services.

HB17-1250 Legislative Declaration

“The general assembly recognizes that little public or private funding or formal support exists to finance wildlife rehabilitation ... wildlife rehabilitators provide their services free of charge. Because they provide a vital public service, providing a method by which some rehabilitators’ activities may be funded or expenses defrayed is in the public interest.”

Approximately thirty wildlife rehabilitators operate in Colorado. Many of those facilities are shoestring operations, depending heavily on the personal time and funding of individual rehabilitators, along with volunteers and donations from the general public. Rehabilitators are licensed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife and extensive training and hands-on experience is required to obtain a rehabilitator license.

Rehabilitators are often on call at all hours of the day and night. In addition to treatment of wildlife, rehabilitators must determine and execute an appropriate species- and age-specific diet, hydration and feeding schedule, maintain



a clean facility, assure safe and appropriate recovery enclosures are provided, educate the public on reducing wildlife injuries and many other activities.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Results and Impacts --

The following are from post-grant reports or from application letters of support for awarded applicants:

Moore Lumber (Pine Junction, CO) was so extremely supportive. They gave me their employee discount which is cost plus 10%. The owner has agreed to give me that discount until get all of my caging and out buildings built. I couldn't have done it without you and Moore Lumber. I did get donations from people this year when they brought me wildlife and wanted to help support the cause. It's been a blessing. I'm beyond grateful to you and the board for helping me in such a big way. I can't wait to rip down my final (old) caging.

-- Shellee Lawson, Bailey CO

I would like to say thank you again for this opportunity helping with the purchase of the caging for my rehabilitation. I have been purchasing Behlen panel systems for caging as I could. These units are very expensive. The money allowed in this grant helped me finish with those systems.... Last year I purchased the panels that go with the above tops and

adapter bars. This will complete three new cages. I now have 1 10x20 and 1 10x10 or 3 10x10.

-- Lynette Carson, DHC Wildlife Rehabilitation, Beulah, CO

Wet Mountain Wildlife is the only rehabilitator in the Southwest region that takes in bears and as such houses, feeds and prepares for release between 15 and 20 bear cubs each year. In addition to bears, they take in deer, antelope, bobcats and other mammals. The work involved in the care and feeding of these animals requires special training and careful handling.

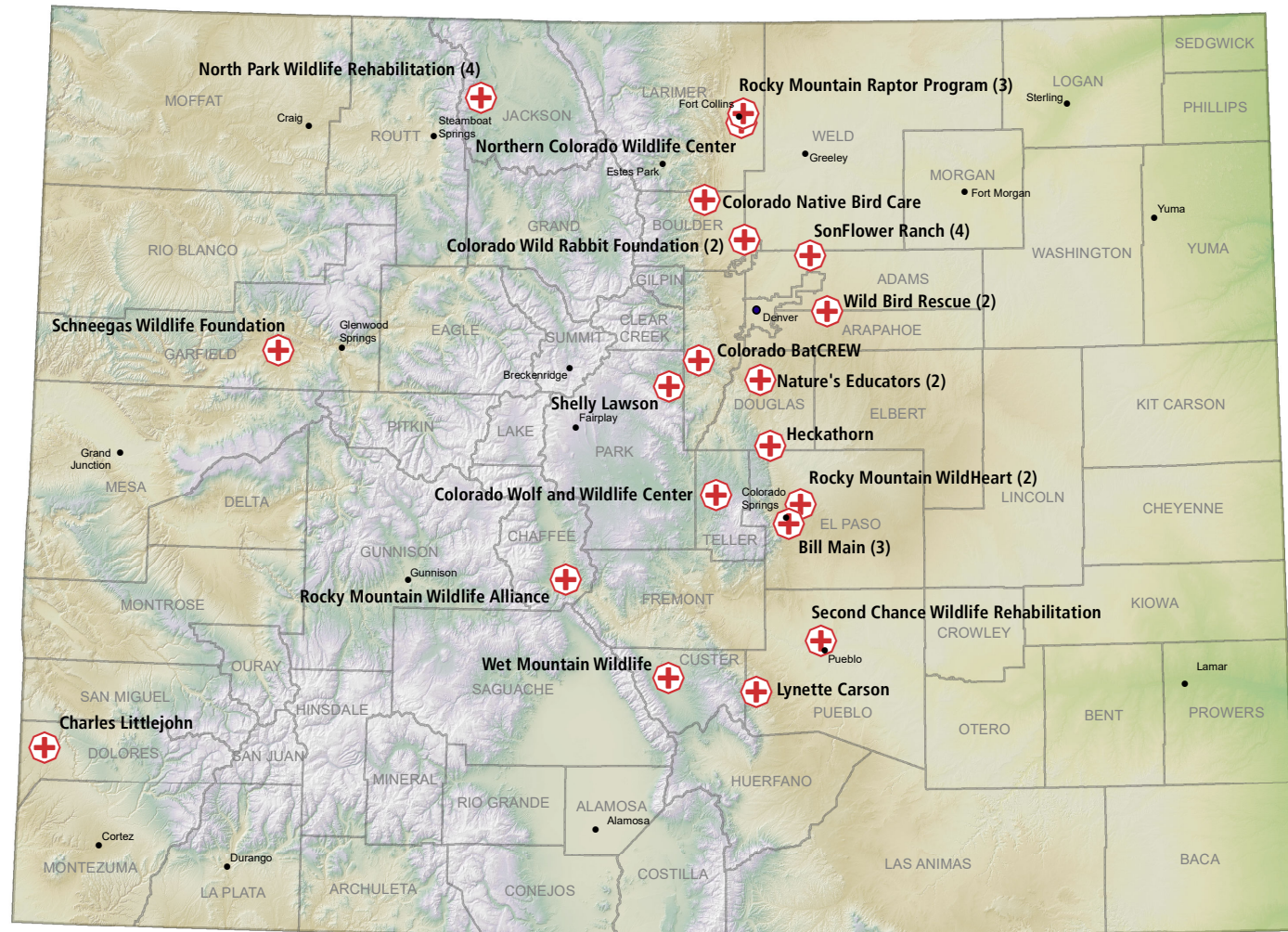
-- Vicki Moss, in support of Wet Mountain Wildlife Rehabilitators, Wetmore, CO

I have been very impressed by the effort that Charles puts into making sure that the raptors he has are well cared for, rehabilitated in the stages they need, and released right back where they were found. He has had to construct his own facility in his house to raise gerbils to feed the raptors, and is always looking for sources of meat. He feeds and cares for all of the birds with the time outside of his full-time job and mostly with his own money.

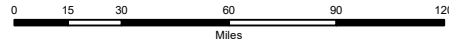
-- Becca de Vergie, CPW, in support of Charles Littlejohn, Dove Creek

Each year the number of injured and orphaned wildlife grows but the number of rehabilitators does not, at least not enough for the need. We anticipate this trend will continue due to weather pattern changes, loss of habitat due to fires and population increases. The future without support would be daunting. I'm sure we speak for all rehabilitators and probably some who would consider this commitment if they knew there could be financial help offered. This year was especially hard financially due to COVID and the lack of financial assistance from the public. We were largely self funded other than the CPW grant... We care for critters from many counties. The grant from CPW helps us enormously and we sincerely hope the grant will be offered for the future.

-- Deb McLachlan, North Park Wildlife Rehabilitation



2018 - 2022 Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants



<https://cpw.state.co.us/wildlife-rehab-grant-board>

Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Awards 2018 -- 2022

Wildlife rehabilitation facility - location	Funded activities	Total funding awards (cumulative for each facility)
Wet Mountain Wildlife – Wetmore	Veterinary care, food, supplies	\$1,000
N. Colorado Wildlife Center – Ft. Collins	Reptile and amphibian indoor enclosures	\$2,900
Colorado Native Bird Care -- Lyons	Food, supplies, other expenses	\$2,184
Colorado Wildlife Rabbit Foundation – Erie	Veterinary care and testing	\$2,500
Second Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation – Pueblo	New multi-species enclosure	\$2,500
Schneegrass Wildlife Foundation – Silt	Flight cage upgrades	\$3,000
Sarah Heckathorn-- Larkspur	New bobcat pen	\$1,500
Rocky Mountain Wildlife Alliance -- Sedalia	Mobile flight enclosure	\$1,500
Bill Main – Colorado Springs	Raccoon enclosure, medical supplies, food	\$3,000
SonFlower Ranch – Brighton	New rehabilitation building, food, medical supplies	\$16,500
Rocky Mountain WildHeart – Colorado Springs	Food, medical supplies, cages	\$1,500
Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center - Divide	New outdoor enclosures	\$3,500
North Park Wildlife Rehabilitation -- Walden	ICU Unit, food, caging, medical supplies	\$10,700
Rocky Mountain Raptor – Ft. Collins	Food, vet services, facility repair	\$3,700
Shellee Lawson - Bailey	Enclosure building materials	\$1,000
Rocky Mountain WildHeart – Colorado Springs	Food, supplies, medical supplies	\$2,000
Lynette Carson - Beulah	Raccoon enclosure	\$3,000
Colorado BatCREW -- Conifer	Flight cages and equipment to overwinter bats	\$2,000
Emily Davenport - Sedalia	Testing equipment, flight cage materials	\$6,000
Charles Littlejohn - Dove Creek	Raptor food	\$2,400