

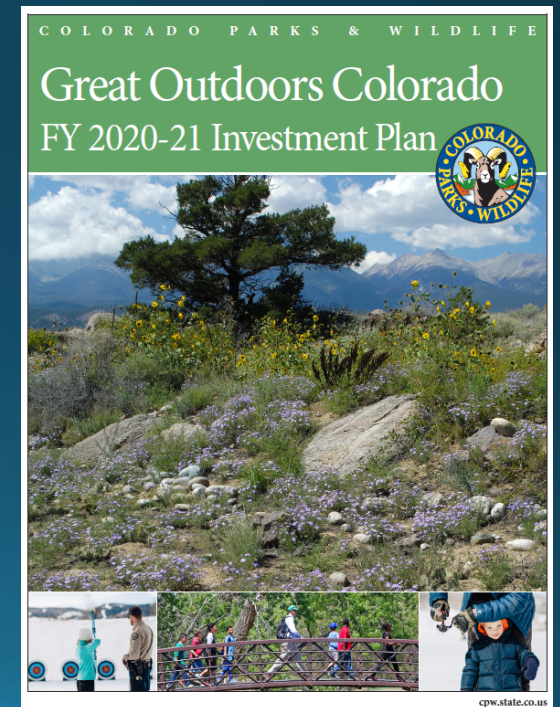
March 18, 2020

# Colorado Parks and Wildlife Financial Update

# GOCO Investment Plan

Many of the priorities in this FY 2020-21 investment plan are similar to those in previous plans. Notable changes in this plan include:

- Funding to support 14 state parks capital projects statewide, see page 7.
- Increase in wildlife habitat funding to help offset the expanded use of Habitat Stamp funds, see page 39.
- CPW proposed a change to the way that funding for wildlife purpose capital projects is awarded and administered. For more information, see page 46.
- Ongoing support for the new Wildlife Small Capital Program. For more information, see page 51.



		CPI Adj		
		0.00%		
<i>Big Game</i>	FY 18-19	FY 26-27		
Elk	48,833,648	48,833,648		
Deer	9,505,108	9,505,108	▲	
Pronghorn	1,244,005	1,244,005		
Moose, Sheep, Goat, Lion, Bear	2,275,483	2,275,483		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>61,858,244</b>	<b>61,858,244</b>		▼
<i>Annual change</i>	\$	-		
<i>Change from base</i>	\$	-		
<i>Cummulative Change in revenue</i>	\$	-		

		Change in license sales		
		-1.00%		
<i>Big Game</i>	FY 18-19	FY 26-27		
Elk	48,833,648	45,060,989		
Deer	9,505,108	8,770,788	▲	
Pronghorn	1,244,005	1,147,899		
Moose, Sheep, Goat, Lion, Bear	2,275,483	2,099,690		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>61,858,244</b>	<b>57,079,367</b>		▼
<i>Annual change</i>	\$	(576,559)		
<i>Change from base</i>	\$	(4,778,878)		
<i>Cummulative Change in revenue</i>	\$	(21,757,075)		

		<u>Net Effect</u>
<i>Annual change</i>	\$	(576,559)
<i>Change from base</i>	\$	(4,778,878)
<i>Cummulative Change in revenue</i>	\$	(21,757,075)







# Great Outdoors Colorado

## FY 2020-21 Investment Plan





## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Outdoor Recreation Tables.....	3
<i>Outdoor Recreation: Establish and Improve State Parks and Recreation.....</i>	<i>5</i>
Land Acquisition and Leases.....	6
Park Improvements.....	7
Capital Development Program.....	11
Recreation Management on State Parks.....	12
Natural Resource Management Program.....	14
Fuels Mitigation Management Program.....	16
Invasive and Noxious Weed Management Program.....	17
Director’s Innovation Fund.....	19
<i>Outdoor Recreation: Public Information and Environmental Education.....</i>	<i>20</i>
Public Information.....	21
Volunteer Program.....	22
Environmental Education and Youth Programs.....	24
<i>Outdoor Recreation: Trails and River Greenways.....</i>	<i>28</i>
State Trails Program.....	29
Trail Grants Program.....	30
Trails in State Parks.....	31
<i>Outdoor Recreation: Water for Recreation Purposes.....</i>	<i>32</i>
Water Program.....	33
Water Acquisitions and Leases.....	34

## Table of Contents Cont.

Wildlife Tables.....	36
<i>Wildlife: Habitat Management</i> .....	38
Acquire High Priority Habitat.....	39
Enhance Habitat on Land and Water.....	41
Wetlands Conservation.....	43
GIS Habitat Information.....	45
Protection and Restoration of Wildlife Habitat.....	46
Wildlife Small Capital.....	50
Director’s Innovation Fund.....	52
<i>Wildlife: Wildlife Heritage</i> .....	53
Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery.....	54
Native Species Protection.....	56
Propagation of Aquatic Species at Risk.....	58
<i>Wildlife: Wildlife Education and Environment</i> .....	59
Education and Volunteer Program.....	60
Youth Programs.....	62
Angler Education.....	65
<i>Wildlife: Wildlife Viewing</i> .....	66
Wildlife Viewing.....	67

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) is a vital funding partner for Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), helping Colorado become a national leader in a broad range of outdoor recreation and wildlife programs. 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 restore critical areas.

In 2015, both CPW and GOCO adopted new strategic plans that align in several areas. These plans include input from stakeholders, partners, and the public at large. This FY 2020-21 investment plan addresses many priorities from these two strategic plans.

CPW's strategic plan identifies six goals:

1. Conserve wildlife and habitat to ensure healthy sustainable populations and ecosystems.
2. Manage state parks for world-class outdoor recreation.
3. Achieve and maintain financial sustainability.
4. Maintain dedicated personnel and volunteers.
5. Increase awareness and trust for CPW.
6. Connect people to Colorado's outdoors.

GOCO is also a vital partner in helping CPW to meet Governor Polis' Wildly Important Goals, or WIGs. The two WIGs CPW is tasked with meeting are to increase public access to achieve financial sustainability. GOCO support is critical in CPW's ability to increase public access, as evidenced by the planned development of a state park at Fishers Peak, with GOCO contributing substantially to the purchase of the property. Additionally, GOCO's flexibility has lent substantial help to CPW's significant strides toward financial sustainability by offering increased flexibility in both the timing and the use of grant funds. CPW built its FY 2020-21



investment plan to be consistent with these goals and with the overarching priorities of GOCO's strategic plan: Protect, Connect, and Inspire.

This investment plan is a comprehensive document that represents the full scope of work conducted by CPW programs, parks, and wildlife areas. The CPW FY 2020-21 Investment Plan requests \$17,624,959 in Outdoor Recreation purpose funding and \$20,189,089 in Wildlife purpose funding. Grant requests show both total projected expenditures and the requested GOCO funding.

Like all environments, the condition of the Colorado outdoors is in a constant state of flux, and CPW's planned budget for a given year can change significantly due to changing circumstances. As such, the budget tables presented in this investment plan are for informational purposes only and are not binding with regard to actual expenditures during the fiscal year. As CPW continues to plan for the implementation of the Future Generations act and responds to governor priorities and emergent opportunities such as Fishers Peak, the division may need to embark on discussions with the GOCO board to discuss future funding plans or reprioritization of existing grants.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife uses an activity-based budgeting system, and narratives for each grant list a series of activities that staff may perform under the grant. The listed activities include the primary activities that CPW will perform within each grant, but the list is not exhaustive. Staff may undertake unlisted activities when reasonable and when necessary to accomplish the grant's underlying purpose and intent. If questions arise about activities that are not included in these lists, CPW and GOCO staff will work together to determine if they fall within the intent of the grant described in this Investment Proposal.

Many of the priorities in this FY 2020-21 investment plan are similar to those in previous plans. Notable changes in this plan include:

- CPW is requesting funding to support 14 state parks capital projects statewide, see page 7.
- CPW requests an increase in wildlife habitat funding to help offset the expanded use of Habitat Stamp funds, see page 39.
- CPW proposes a change to the way that funding for wildlife purpose capital projects is awarded and administered. For more information, see page 46.
- CPW is requesting ongoing support for the new Wildlife Small Capital Program. For more information, see page 51.

**Colorado Parks and Wildlife Fiscal Year 2020-21**  
**Great Outdoors Colorado Investment Plan**  
**Outdoor Recreation Funds**  
**Summary Table #1: Comparison of GOCO Funds**  
**FY 2019-20 to FY 2020-21**

	FY 2019-20			FY 2020-21		
	Capital	Program Operating	Total	Capital	Program Operating	Total
<b>INVESTMENT REQUEST</b>						
<b>Enhance and Improve State Parks</b>						
Land Acquisition and Leases	700,000	-	700,000	700,000	-	700,000
Park Improvements	8,352,917	-	8,352,917	6,991,024	-	6,991,024
Capital Development Program	-	1,020,000	1,020,000	-	1,020,000	1,020,000
Recreational Management on State Parks	-	2,200,000	2,200,000	-	2,750,000	2,750,000
Natural Resource Management Program	-	1,092,500	1,092,500	-	1,092,500	1,092,500
Fuels Mitigation Management Program	300,000	-	300,000	300,000	-	300,000
Invasive and Noxious Weed Management Program	-	400,000	400,000	-	400,000	400,000
Director's Innovation Fund	-	75,000	75,000	-	75,000	75,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>9,352,917</b>	<b>4,787,500</b>	<b>14,140,417</b>	<b>7,991,024</b>	<b>5,337,500</b>	<b>13,328,524</b>
<b>Public Information and Environmental Education</b>						
Public Information	-	296,000	296,000	-	296,000	296,000
Volunteer Programs	-	306,000	306,000	-	306,000	306,000
Environmental Education and Youth Programs	-	1,373,500	1,373,500	-	1,373,500	1,373,500
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,975,500</b>	<b>1,975,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,975,500</b>	<b>1,975,500</b>
<b>Trails and River Greenways</b>						
State Trails Program	-	370,935	370,935	-	370,935	370,935
Trails Grant Program	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Trails in State Parks	500,000	-	500,000	500,000	-	500,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>370,935</b>	<b>1,870,935</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>370,935</b>	<b>1,870,935</b>
<b>Water for Recreational Purposes</b>						
Water Program	-	150,000	150,000	-	150,000	150,000
Water Acquisitions and Leases	300,000	-	300,000	300,000	-	300,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>450,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>11,152,917</b>	<b>7,283,935</b>	<b>18,436,852</b>	<b>9,791,024</b>	<b>7,833,935</b>	<b>17,624,959</b>

*Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
Fiscal Year 2020-21  
Great Outdoors Colorado Investment Plan  
Table 2: Comparative Summary of Program Costs  
FY 2019-20 to FY 2020-21*

Outdoor Recreation Grant Name		FY 19-20 Request			FY 20-21 Request		
		GOCO	CPW	Total	GOCO	CPW	Total
<b>Establish and Improve State Parks</b>							
	Land Acquisition and Leases	700,000	86,066	786,066	700,000	289,547	989,547
	Park Improvements	8,352,917	7,603,322	15,956,239	6,991,024	9,580,196	16,571,220
	Capital Development Program	1,020,000	682,930	1,702,930	1,020,000	567,076	1,587,076
	Recreation Management on State Parks	2,200,000	5,195,548	7,395,548	2,750,000	6,432,844	9,182,844
	Natural Resource Management Program	1,092,500	740,341	1,832,841	1,092,500	986,565	2,079,065
	Fuels Mitigation Management Program	300,000	-	300,000	300,000	-	300,000
	Invasive and Noxious Weed Management Program	400,000	36,330	436,330	400,000	439	400,439
	Director's Innovation Fund	75,000	-	75,000	75,000	-	75,000
	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>14,140,417</b>	<b>14,344,537</b>	<b>28,484,954</b>	<b>13,328,524</b>	<b>17,856,667</b>	<b>31,185,191</b>
<b>Public Information and Environmental Education</b>							
	Public Information Program	296,000	334,567	630,567	296,000	322,251	618,251
	Volunteer Program	306,000	9,518	315,518	306,000	-	306,000
	Environmental Education and Youth Programs	1,373,500	56,316	1,429,816	1,373,500	39,325	1,412,825
	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>1,975,500</b>	<b>400,401</b>	<b>2,375,901</b>	<b>1,975,500</b>	<b>361,576</b>	<b>2,337,076</b>
<b>Trails and River Greenways</b>							
	State Trails Program	370,935	247,290	618,225	370,935	153,093	524,028
	Trails Grant Program	1,000,000	2,500,000	3,500,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	3,000,000
	Trails in State Parks	500,000	500,000	1,000,000	500,000	2,800,000	3,300,000
	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>1,870,935</b>	<b>3,247,290</b>	<b>5,118,225</b>	<b>1,870,935</b>	<b>4,953,093</b>	<b>6,824,028</b>
<b>Water for Recreational Purposes</b>							
	Water Program	150,000	17,931	167,931	150,000	-	150,000
	Water Acquisitions and Leases	300,000	-	300,000	300,000	60,000	360,000
	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>17,931</b>	<b>467,931</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>510,000</b>
	<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>18,436,852</b>	<b>18,010,159</b>	<b>36,447,011</b>	<b>17,624,959</b>	<b>23,231,336</b>	<b>40,856,295</b>

Budget figures in the "CPW" column represent the maximum CPW contribution, and are shown for informational purposes only.

*Outdoor Recreation: Establish and Improve State Parks and Recreation*

CPW uses GOCO funding to provide a quality state parks system and provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation that educates and inspires current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado’s natural resources. These outcomes align activities with the goals and objectives from CPW’s and GOCO’s 2015 strategic plans.

Great Outdoors Colorado 2015 Strategic Plan:

- Inspire Coloradans to get outside and take care of our great outdoors.
- Protect more land and wildlife habitat.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2015 Strategic Plan:

- Goal II: Manage state parks for world-class outdoor recreation.
  - Objective A: Manage facilities and outdoor recreation amenities within state parks to provide positive experiences for Coloradans and visitors.
  - Objective B: Explore fiscally sound real estate opportunities for new or expanded state parks.
  - Objective C: Market the special qualities of Colorado’s state parks.
- Goal VI: Connect people to Colorado’s outdoors.
  - Objective A: Broaden the access and variety of recreation opportunities available to Coloradans and visitors.
  - Objective B: Provide facilities, infrastructure, and access to support opportunities for premier outdoor recreation experiences.

Establish and Improve State Parks	Great Outdoors Colorado Funding FY 2020-21
Land Acquisitions and Leases	\$700,000
Park Improvements	6,991,024
Capital Development Program	1,020,000
Recreational Management on State Parks	2,750,000
Natural Resource Management Program	1,092,500
Fuels Mitigation Management Program	300,000
Invasive and Noxious Weed Management Program	400,000
Director’s Innovation Fund	75,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$13,328,524</b>



## Land Acquisitions and Leases

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget: \$ 989,547  
FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request: \$ 700,000 (capital)

Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Capital Acquisitions	\$700,000
Contractual	0
Equipment	0
Other	175,785
Perm PS	82,030
Perm PS - Benefits	31,732
Supplies	0
Temp PS	0
Temp PS - Benefits	0
Travel	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$989,547</b>

### Description and Objectives:

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Real Estate Program is responsible for negotiating with property owners or their agents for land acquisition, including buffers and in-holding acquisitions, exchanges, leases, or limited use of lands and interests in real property for public recreation purposes. This includes drafting purchase contracts and deeds, and obtaining and reviewing appraisals, title commitments, surveys, mineral reports, environmental assessments, and other due diligence involved in purchasing and acquiring recreation lands. This grant is used for direct purchase of land and associated due diligence costs for purchasing and acquiring these assets. This grant also supports strategic leases that promote recreation and protect habitat, including associated transaction costs. Please note that the GOCO component of this program consists of capital funding only.

CPW purchased many of the properties that now constitute state parks as opportunities arose and with funds available at the time, sometimes resulting in an incomplete land base (i.e., larger areas fragmented by private in holdings) that is insufficient to serve visitor needs or to protect the natural and recreational resources of the park. Other parks are experiencing growth pressures, with residential and commercial development encroaching right up to the park borders. CPW often leverages state resources for purchases through partnerships with local government agencies or non-profit land trusts with common interests in protecting open lands.

### Primary Activities:

- Acquire and dispose of legal interests in real property (lands)
- Gather information on and evaluate potential acquisition candidates
- Contact and negotiate with prospective sellers
- Work with counties and local governments on proposed acquisitions

- Work with Capital Development Committee and members of the General Assembly on proposed acquisitions
- Administer appraisals and boundary surveys
- File real estate actions

(CPW activity 1321, Acquire Land P/OR)

**Park Improvements**

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget: \$ 16,571,220  
 FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request: \$ 6,991,024 (capital)

Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	0
Other	0
Perm PS	0
Perm PS - Benefits	0
Supplies	0
Temp PS	0
Temp PS - Benefits	0
Travel	0
To Be Determined	16,571,220
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,571,220</b>

(Please note that CPW will not know the categorization of these expenses until capital projects are complete.)

**Description and Objectives:**

Colorado’s state parks system is over 60 years old and the continuous maintenance, restoration, and improvement of facilities and infrastructure is an enormous task. Maintaining and improving basic park facilities is an important part of sustaining a visitation base and generating the revenue necessary to cover day-to-day operating costs for the state park system. Colorado Parks and Wildlife manages a large portfolio of built facilities and other structures within the state parks. Colorado Parks and Wildlife also constructs new facilities with the goal of modernizing the state parks system to meet the needs of the next generation of park users. Each year capital projects are selected and prioritized based on risk assessments, mission priorities, the nature of the work, and the impact of delaying or not repairing a structure.

GOCO is an invaluable partner to CPW in funding capital projects. CPW’s overall state parks capital program is funded primarily with GOCO funding and the agency’s direct distribution of Colorado Lottery funds. For fiscal year 2020-21, CPW proposes a continuing the funding model for the state parks component of CPW’s Capital Development Program introduced in the prior year. Rather than separate grants for each capital project, as has historically been the

practice to this point, GOCO will award a single large grant to support CPW's entire slate of capital projects, typically matched with Lottery funding.

For FY 2020-21, the entire state parks capital program consists of 14 projects with a total cost of \$16,571,220. CPW requests GOCO funding of \$6,991,024 to support this program, to be matched with \$9,580,196 in Lottery and other funding.

The state parks capital program for FY 2020-21 consists of the following projects:

Cameo Shooting Range and Education Complex Access Road, \$750,000: The Cameo Shooting and Education Complex Recreation Area is the newest addition to Colorado's state park/state recreation area system. The complex currently includes ranges for rifle, shotgun, pistol, and archery, as well as picnic pavilions and a retail shop; planned future amenities include a central customer service center and office space. This project will result in a year-round access road to the south end of the complex, which will open up more area for future development.

Cherry Creek State Park Road Improvements (phase 1 of 12), \$2,762,000: Cherry Creek is one of the most popular parks in the CPW system and its roads experience extremely heavy use, including a large number of heavy recreational vehicles and boat trailers. This project is the first phase in a comprehensive overhaul of the park's road system. Specific components of this project include repairs to the east exit lane and repair/rehabilitation of another 1.02 miles of park road.

Eldorado Canyon State Park Road Improvements, \$300,000: Eldorado Springs is a very popular park that experiences a large volume of vehicle traffic. The access roads to the park undergo wear and tear every year from vehicles and weather conditions. In conjunction with the local Artesian Springs community (and possibly Boulder County), CPW will improve the park's main access road to create a permanent, established roadway that provides both vehicle and pedestrian access to Eldorado Springs, the Eldorado Spring Pool complex, and Eldorado Canyon State Park. The project also includes designated parking and storm water management infrastructure.

Golden Gate Canyon State Park Monitoring Wells, \$250,000: This project includes the construction of three groundwater wells to monitor the total dissolved solids concentration of wastewater released by the park's wastewater treatment facility. The project also includes 1,200 linear feet of access road and the installation of pumps. This project is necessary to meet Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment requirements for wastewater.

John Martin Reservoir State Park Point Campground Pilot Phase, \$310,000: The campground at John Martin currently offers no shelter from the elements. Given the potential for extreme conditions (both hot and cold) in southeastern Colorado, this limits the use of the campground at certain times of the year. The campground also does not meet ADA accessibility requirements. This project includes the installation of shade and wind shelters for approximately 25 camping sites and other improvements that will make the campground fully

ADA compliant. Additional phases will include the installation of water and electrical infrastructure to the campground.

John Martin Reservoir State Park Road Rehabilitation (phase 2 of 2), \$1,670,000: John Martin's roads are badly in need of repair and this project will continue work started with a previous capital project. Approximately 5,500 linear feet of road will be rehabilitated, focused on the parking area for the park's west boat ramp and the Lake Hasty Campground Road. The project also includes centerline and edge lines, shoulder adjustments with aggregate base course, and drainage modifications.

Lake Pueblo State Park Back Hoe, \$189,000: State parks and wildlife areas are in constant need of heavy equipment to maintain habitat and facilities. Lake Pueblo is one of the largest parks in the CPW system and must frequently manipulate large habitat areas. This back hoe will be used primarily at Lake Pueblo but could also be used at other regional parks and wildlife areas.

Navajo State Park Mooring Ball Grid, \$147,000: The marina at Navajo is extremely popular and sees high usage in the summer and shoulder months. The marina's existing mooring ball grid system is at the end of its expected design life; some mooring balls have broken off in high winds, creating a potential safety issue. This project include an inspection of the current system, including some underwater diving; the development of a repair plan and actual repair work; and development of a long-term maintenance plan for the newly rehabilitated mooring ball system.

Ridgway State Park Lift Station Replacement (phase 1 of 2), \$613,000: The lift stations at Ridgway are nearly 30 years old and are not functioning well. The pumps and controls require constant maintenance and upkeep, and at times simply do not function. When the pumps malfunction, the controls (which are located underground) become flooded, forcing staff to conduct repairs in unhealthy and unsafe conditions. This project will replace four above-ground packaged duplex lift stations and their associated controls.

Stagecoach State Park Visitor Center Design (phase 2 of 3), \$203,000: Stagecoach State Park has a park office but not a true visitor center. This project will develop a new visitor center with space for interpretive exhibits and retail sales, a classroom, restrooms, improved customer contact, and staff offices. The design will be based on a standard model used for CPW offices in the western part of the state. This phase includes conceptual planning, scoping, and site selection; the development of operational, programming, and staffing plans; and a schematic design.

State Forest State Park North Michigan Dam Rehabilitation, \$7,000,000: This dam is currently under a ten-foot pool restriction by the State Engineer's Office because of a seepage issue on the right abutment. In 2015, an engineering investigation was completed based on the problems with the dam, and an alternatives report was completed to determine the alternative to carry forward to design and construction. This request will fund further engineering work and actual construction on the dam. Work includes the construction of a



two-stage filter, with a buttress, spillway improvements, and rehabilitation of the outlet works.

State Parks Dams Hydrology Update, \$200,000: CPW owns and operates 110 dams around the state, including 35 dams rated as high hazard or significant hazard. With this funding CPW will hire a consultant to review and update hydrology information for all the high and significant hazard dams located on state park property. This information can then be used to prioritize repair and maintenance schedules.

State Parks Dam Maintenance, \$600,000: CPW owns and operates 110 dams around the state. Dams are like any other manmade infrastructure in that conditions slowly deteriorate over time and regular maintenance and minor repairs are necessary for continued safe and efficient operation. High and significant hazard dams also present a hazard to the downstream public so timely maintenance is a critical risk reduction activity for the agency. Major dam repair and renovation projects are funded through the agency's regular project selection process. CPW maintains this budget for smaller, regular maintenance projects and for repair projects that emerge mid-fiscal year.

Staunton State Park Stream Measuring Structure, \$103,000: Staunton includes three small ponds for the enjoyment of park visitors. CPW is developing an augmentation plan that will provide more certainty for the park's water supply; this plan will likely include pumping water from as many as eight wells to maintain the water level in the ponds. This funding will support the purchase and installation of measuring/recording devices on Jones Creek and possibly Elk Creek to help the implementation of the augmentation plan.

State Park Capital Projects Programmatic Contingency, \$1,474,220: CPW calculates contingency on a per project basis, based on a number of factors including project scope, complexity, location, and potential for delays. Based on this review of the agency's slate of FY 2020-21 capital projects, CPW requests \$1,474,220 in contingency funding for the agency's state park-related projects.

## Capital Development Program

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget: \$ 1,587,076  
FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request: \$ 1,020,000

Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	0
Other	23,625
Perm PS	1,141,129
Perm PS - Benefits	404,210
Supplies	0
Temp PS	10,530
Temp PS - Benefits	2,302
Travel	5,280
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,587,076</b>

### Description and Objectives:

The Capital Development Program grant supports ongoing operations of CPW's Capital Development program, including designing capital construction projects; developing and updating maintenance schedules for CPW's properties, roads, infrastructure, dams, and buildings; and performing asset condition assessment and updating the division's maintenance schedules. This grant encompasses work on a wide variety of park capital projects funded by several different funding sources including GOCO, Lottery, and federal funds.

### Primary Activities:

- Secure and manage consultant contractors
- Provide consulting and preliminary design and costs for proposed engineering projects
- Conduct site surveys and field investigations
- Perform engineering design and analysis
- Research products, methods, and materials
- Calculate quantities and prepare cost estimates
- Prepare engineering drawings
- Review projects
- Prepare permit applications
- Establish and implement design-related policies
- Continual condition assessment
- Identify maintenance projects
- Prioritize and filter maintenance projects and prepare justification for projects
- Long-range planning
- Budget requests
- Track and monitor planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of controlled maintenance projects
- Pre-construction meetings

- Submittal and shop drawing review
- Materials testing
- Construction surveying
- Construction inspection
- Prepare appropriate construction and contract documents
- Project scheduling
- Review, negotiate and mediate claims

(CPW activity 8321, Capital Planning and Design P/OR and activity 8331, Construction Management P/OR)

**Recreation Management on State Parks**

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget:           \$ 9,182,844  
 FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request:         \$ 2,750,000

Categorized Budget:

<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>Projected Budget</b>
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	29,216
Other	1,649,300
Perm PS	3,508,357
Perm PS - Benefits	1,408,818
Supplies	302,572
Temp PS	1,939,861
Temp PS - Benefits	326,220
Travel	18,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,182,844</b>

**Description and Objectives:**

GOCO’s historic support for basic 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. This funding has evolved over time from a series of park-specific grants that funded only some components of park operations to a single grant that funds nearly every aspect of day-to-day operations at the state parks. (GOCO funding does not support law enforcement operations or equipment, and a few other park management activities.)

CPW uses an “activity-based” budgeting system, developing budgets based on the actual work performed by agency staff. The most basic activity used for park operations is Activity 5350, Recreation Management on State Parks, and this is the activity that GOCO and CPW have agreed to use to determine GOCO’s level of support for park operations. (The Recreation Management on State Parks activity is the broadest and most encompassing park operating budget. Several other activity budgets also support park operations, including budgets for

small capital projects, volunteer activities, environmental education, weed and forest management, and trail development.) For the FY 2019-20 investment plan, CPW's total budget for the activity was \$7,395,548, and the GOCO grant supporting park operations was awarded in the amount of \$2,200,000.

Consistent with the prior year request, CPW requests GOCO funding equal to 30 percent of the total budget for the Recreation Management on State Parks activity, or \$2,750,000.

**Primary activities:**

- Activities specifically and directly related to maintaining and managing recreational opportunities on state parks and state recreation areas including: camping, picnicking, hiking, biking, walking, horseback riding, sightseeing, hunting, boating, fishing, swimming, water sports, and other recreational activities. Boating activities does not include Activity 5370, Boating Safety and Boating Safety Education.
- Generally maintain properties to support park activities and promote park recreational opportunities that benefit park visitors
- Maintain signs, fences, roads, structures, wells and other improvements
- Develop and maintain public facilities
- Providing utilities that support and promote park and outdoor recreation
- Public health water management activities such as testing of drinking, waste, swim beach water at state parks
- Does not include the following: Law Enforcement activities; Activity 1501 - Invasive and Noxious Weed Management on State Parks, Activity 6135 -Youth Education & Outreach - P/OR: Environmental Education, Activity 5410 - Law Enforcement Administration, Activity 5360 - Trails Management & Planning, Activity 5361 - Motorized Trails Management, Activity 5363 - Recreational Trails Management, Activity 5370 - Boat Safety and Boat Safety Education, Activity 6261 - Manage Volunteers - P/OR, Activity 6262 - Manage Volunteers - Combined, and Activity 8161 - Maintain Facilities, Equipment, and Vehicles.

(CPW activity 5350, Recreation on State Parks Management)



## Natural Resource Management Program

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget: \$ 2,079,065  
FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request: \$ 1,092,500

Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Contractual	\$302,609
Equipment	3,000
Other	172,319
Perm PS	918,083
Perm PS - Benefits	382,586
Supplies	20,500
Temp PS	209,655
Temp PS - Benefits	45,813
Travel	24,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,079,065</b>

### Description and Objectives:

The CPW Natural Resource Management Program exists to protect, preserve, restore and enhance the natural, scenic, scientific, cultural and outdoor recreation values of Colorado's public recreation areas. As described in more detail below, this program is comprised of five major activities:

- Develop plans and standards for state parks
- Manage state park natural resources
- Natural Areas Management
- Geographical Information System (GIS)
- Cultural Resource Management

The grant does not support invasive and noxious weed management, large-scale statewide fuels mitigation, and improvements to park administrative facilities. These activities are supported through specific grants within this investment proposal.

### Primary Activities:

*Develop plans and standards for state parks:*

- Establish stewardship plans for each state park
- Develop management plans or re-development plans to provide an overarching framework that serves as a resource and guide for property-level management or development decisions
- Develop annual work plans based on established policies, stewardship, and master management plans
- Plan, lead, or assist with the public involvement associated with the development of property management or master plans

- Does not include development of weed management plans referenced in activity 1501, Invasive and Noxious Weed Management on State Parks

*Manage state park natural resources:*

- Improve and maintain habitat and natural resources on state parks
- Individual tree management, including site specific effort to reduce risk of trees causing damage by falling on infrastructure or visitors
- Tree thinning, hazardous and dead tree removal at campgrounds and other areas requiring defensible space
- Various activities designed to combat the spread of pine beetle infestation, including spraying individual trees in selected locations and other activities
- Provide statewide forest health management and fuels mitigation including reducing risk of catastrophic wildfires, improving forest resiliency to insect and disease, and promoting biological diversity
- Evaluate and identify areas at-risk and plan additional projects for future years
- Overall effort to improve statewide forest health such as forest thinning or prescribed burn
- Provide interpretive materials containing education information about forests, wildfires, and forest insects
- Perform surveys of natural resources, e.g., bird and plant surveys
- Environmental and cultural reviews
- Re-vegetation and restoration efforts
- Does not include activities referenced in Activity 1501, Invasive and Noxious Weed Management on State Parks; or facility improvements on CPW administrative office sites or other specific-purpose sites, as referenced in Activity 8161, Maintain Facilities, Equipment and Vehicles

*Natural Areas Management:*

- Administer the Colorado Natural Areas Council, and the Colorado Natural Areas Program
- Identify, evaluate, and protect natural areas as defined by statute
- Develop and manage a statewide system of designated natural areas

*GIS:*

- Provide data, data modeling, analysis, mapping, and other GIS services
- Maintain the existing data sets due to changes that occur over time
- Add new data regarding habitats, populations, natural resources, trails, and facilities
- Support agency personnel in working with county land use planners to understand the impacts of proposed developments on outdoor recreation and provide information for informed public participation in land use decisions as they relate to outdoor recreation
- Generate interactive maps on demand to the public through CPW's Internet site

*Cultural Resource Management:*

- Conduct cultural and archaeological surveys
- Provide stewardship for cultural and archeological resources

(CPW activity 1481, Develop Plans and Standards for State Parks; activity 1491, Manage State Park Natural Resources P/OR; activity 1496, Natural Areas Management P/OR; and activity 8241, GIS P/OR)

**Fuels Mitigation Program**

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget: \$ 300,000  
 FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request: \$ 300,000 (capital)

Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Contractual	\$300,000
Equipment	0
Other	0
Perm PS	0
Perm PS - Benefits	0
Supplies	0
Temp PS	0
Temp PS - Benefits	0
Travel	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>

**Description and Objectives:**

The Fuels Mitigation Program grant provides funding for on-the-ground fuels mitigation and forest health projects, primarily in conjunction with the Colorado State Forest Service as a both a funding and operational partner. The purpose of these projects is to improve the resilience of state park areas to recover from the effects of wildfire and insect/disease epidemics. By investing in the treatment of hazardous forest fuels every year, CPW can reduce long-term suppression costs, improve visitor safety, reduce impacts on water and air quality, improve wildlife habitat, and significantly reduce fire mitigation costs.

Investing in these forest treatments will reduce the risk of fire to homes and communities adjacent to many of Colorado’s state parks. These projects will directly benefit park visitors and neighbors. The core of this effort is to reduce the wildfire hazard and to address the hazard of trees falling due to insects and disease. This is typically accomplished by contracting with specialized heavy equipment operators to remove trees in strategic areas.

Projects that are specific to mountain pine beetle and spruce beetle will have the added benefit of ensuring that these areas can continue to be used safely by visitors and park staff. CPW will also use this funding for limited pine beetle preventative spraying and tree seedling planting, or transplanting projects to reforest high-use areas and high priority habitats devastated by wildfire or insect and disease epidemics and in other declining forests. When necessary, CPW may use this funding to hire temporary staff to help manage forest management program contracts.

**Primary Activities:**

- Improve and maintain habitat and natural resources on state parks
- Individual tree management - site specific effort to reduce risk of trees causing damage by falling on infrastructure or visitors
- Tree thinning, hazardous and dead tree removal at campgrounds and other areas requiring defensible space
- Various activities designed to combat the spread of pine beetle infestation, including spraying individual trees in selected locations and other activities
- Provide statewide forest health management and fuels mitigation – including reducing risk of catastrophic wildfires, improving forest resiliency to insect and disease, and promoting biological diversity
- Evaluate and identify areas at risk and plan additional projects for future years
- Overall effort to improve statewide forest health such as forest thinning or prescribed burn
- Provide interpretive materials containing education information about forests, wildfires, and forest insects
- Perform surveys of Natural Resources, i.e., bird and plant surveys, etc.
- Environmental and cultural reviews
- Re-vegetation and restoration efforts

(CPW activity 1491, Manage State Park Natural Resources P/OR)

**Invasive and Noxious Weed Management Program**

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget:           \$ 400,439  
FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request:         \$ 400,000

**Categorized Budget:**

<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>Projected Budget</b>
Contractual	\$2,000
Equipment	0
Other	114,581
Perm PS	93,756
Perm PS - Benefits	36,076
Supplies	92,670
Temp PS	50,353
Temp PS - Benefits	11,003
Travel	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$400,439</b>

### **Description and Objectives:**

GOCO investments for mechanical and other vegetative management efforts are important funding for on-the-ground resource protection on state parks. Primary efforts include identifying non-native plant areas through mapping, monitoring, and other means; development of integrated weed management plans, including weed management priorities; selective application of herbicides, bio-controls, and weed agents; and restoration with native grasses, shrubs, and trees best suited for habitat improvements. A large portion of CPW's state parks program management efforts are cooperative, with local county weed control coordinators, county land use officials, the Colorado State Forest Service, the Department of Agriculture, and adjoining landowners playing an important role.

### **Primary Activities:**

- Develop weed management plans for each state park
- Identify areas containing invasive and noxious weeds
- Landscaping and restoration projects on state parks to enhance, re-vegetate, or repair vegetation
- Contracting for professional services to conduct weed spraying, mapping, and planning for Colorado listed noxious weeds like Canada thistle, musk thistle, white top, knapweed, as well as other terrestrial and aquatic nuisance weed species
- Purchase of herbicides and applicators and other weed, re-vegetation, and tree management equipment for staff use at parks
- Certification and training for park staff on weed treatment
- Tamarisk and Russian Olive removal at water-based parks throughout the system

(CPW activity 1501, Invasive and Noxious Weed Management on State Parks P/OR)

**Director’s Innovation Fund (State Parks)**

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget:           \$ 75,000  
FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request:         \$ 75,000

**Categorized Budget:**

<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>Projected Budget</b>
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	0
Other	0
Perm PS	0
Perm PS - Benefits	0
Supplies	0
Temp PS	0
Temp PS - Benefits	0
Travel	0
To Be Determined	\$75,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>

(Please note that CPW will not know the categorization of these expenses until the final list of projects are selected.)

**Description and Objectives:**

The CPW Director’s Innovation Fund allows CPW staff to apply for funding for unique, one-time projects and programs, up to \$20,000, that would not otherwise be funded through the annual Investment Plan or other funding channels within the agency. This program was first funded in December 2016 with de-authorized funds from previous investment plans and has proved to be extremely popular. This request represents the state parks purpose portion of the total requested grant.

**Primary Activities:**

Activities will vary depending on the projects selected for awards by the CPW Director and the selection committee.

*Outdoor Recreation: Public Information and Environmental Education*

CPW's Public Information and Environmental Education section supports programs and activities that educate and inform Colorado's residents and visitors about available outdoor activities and develop a new generation of wildlife advocates, park users, and outdoor enthusiasts. CPW aligns these activities with various strategic goals and objectives.

Great Outdoors Colorado 2015 Strategic Plan:

- Connect people to the outdoors, and connect trails, parks and open space.
- Inspire Coloradans to get outside and take care of our great outdoors.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2015 Strategic Plan:

- Goal VI: Connect people to Colorado's outdoors
  - Objective A: Broaden the access and variety of recreation opportunities available to Coloradans and visitors.
  - Objective C: Foster partnerships to enhance recreation opportunities.
  - Objective D: Promote the value of CPW's mission and services to expand awareness, grow CPW's volunteer network, and inspire stewardship.
  - Objective E: Become familiar with the needs, interests, and expectations of residents and visitors who are new to outdoor recreation.

Public Information and Environmental Education	Great Outdoors Colorado Funding FY 2020-21
Public Information Program	\$296,000
Volunteer Program	306,000
Environmental Education and Youth Programs	1,373,500
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,975,500</b>



## Public Information

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget:           \$ 618,251  
FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request:         \$ 296,000

### Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	0
Other	227,050
Perm PS	270,767
Perm PS - Benefits	91,789
Supplies	14,600
Temp PS	11,527
Temp PS - Benefits	2,518
Travel	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$618,251</b>

### Description and Objectives:

The Public Information Program helps raise public awareness about Colorado's state parks. The objective of these activities is to increase Coloradans' knowledge beyond the one or two local state parks that are in their backyard, towards the many recreational activities and amenities that are available across the entire state park system. Awareness is the continued objective for the Public Information Program.

### Primary Activities:

- Establish annual publication priorities
- Establish product criteria including format, content, and bid specifications
- Design publications and videos
- Write and edit stories and scripts
- Plan and execute illustrations
- Take or buy photographs and video
- Edit videos
- Narrate scripts
- Distribute publications through the mail and customer service centers
- Identify key activities and issues and formulate strategies to effectively address these through the media
- Develop and maintain relations with the media
- Provide information to the media for print and electronic distribution that meet accepted professional criteria for timeliness, format, and interest
- Proactively encourage coverage on issues critical to CPW
- Respond to specific requests from the media regardless of distribution source
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the CPW's media relations
- Develop and maintain CPW's presence and information on the Internet

- Develop and implement marketing and promotional strategies that effectively engage our customers in outdoor recreation
- Develop mail and distribution strategies
- Develop new products in response to customer demand
- Participate in recreational expos and staff booths with personnel and volunteers that educate and promote outdoor recreation
- Advise and assist state parks with special events, etc., as requested
- Conceptualize and implement promotional campaigns (spring reservations, holiday, etc.)
- Coordinating requests for speaking engagements, presentations, sponsorship requests, etc., from community groups
- Promoting community involvement and interest with potential visitors
- Assure availability of informational materials and products
- Support and promote Friends groups for state parks
- Provide informational materials to other agencies for distribution to the public in response to requests for information or assistance

(CPW activity 7121, Produce Publications P/OR; activity 7131, Provide Information through the Media P/OR; and activity 7141, Marketing and Promotion P/OR)

**Volunteer Program**

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget:           \$ 306,000  
 FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request:         \$ 306,000

Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	0
Other	21,679
Perm PS	197,996
Perm PS - Benefits	71,543
Supplies	13,782
Temp PS	0
Temp PS - Benefits	0
Travel	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$306,000</b>

**Description and Objectives:**

The Volunteer Program supports the achievement of quality outdoor recreation experiences and resource stewardship for present and future generations. The program provides an organized, efficient, well-guided, and cost-effective approach to managing a wide range of volunteer efforts in CPW. Cooperation and partnership between the public and private sector are enhanced and promoted through volunteer engagement. The promotion and cultivation of volunteerism plays a major role in helping CPW meet its financial needs now and in the

future. Activities supported under this grant are specific to state park activities and include direct supervision, training, and oversight of volunteers on state parks.

The Volunteer Program has a central repository for all volunteers that includes distinct parks and wildlife activities as well as statewide management by CPW staff.

#### Primary Activities:

- Recruit and retain skilled volunteers for state park activities
- Analyze and coordinate volunteers to projects, based on location, skills of volunteers, and complexity of the project
- Recognize volunteers for their participation and achievement, which may include awards (plaques and certificates) and recognition items (pins, hats, mugs, gift cards)
- Provide adequate equipment and materials needed to complete projects and perform camp host duties as required
- Train and orient volunteers for state park and outdoor recreational projects and needs
- Manage volunteers and volunteer crews
- Provide miscellaneous reimbursement for costs related to volunteer activities required to complete projects (e.g., parking and mileage reimbursement, postage and printing, office supplies, uniforms, etc.)
- Maintain databases of volunteers and projects and utilize this information to address regional and statewide needs
- Train CPW staff volunteer program guidelines and policies
- Provide annual and group insurance coverage for volunteer events across the state
- Advise and educate CPW staff and volunteer leaders regarding overall volunteer management: recruiting, orientating, training, supervising, evaluating, and rewarding/recognizing the performance of volunteers, for the purposes of gaining and retaining a diversity of volunteers to meet the needs for state park projects. Represent the Volunteer Program in communities, and promote the program and its benefits to the general public, service groups, clubs, partnerships, and other agencies
- Identifying, creating, and modifying processes to quantify the impact of volunteer contributions to state parks, and apply these processes for reporting purposes
- Plan, design, implement, and evaluate trainings for CPW staff in areas of Volunteer Program planning and implementation
- Communicate and work with other nonprofit and governmental volunteer programs

(CPW activity 6261, Manage Volunteers P/OR and activity 6262, Manage Volunteers Combined

## Environmental Education and Youth Programs

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget: \$ 1,412,825  
FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request: \$ 1,373,500

### Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	0
Other	404,976
Perm PS	175,552
Perm PS - Benefits	64,032
Supplies	45,886
Temp PS	592,214
Temp PS - Benefits	130,165
Travel	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,412,825</b>

### Description and Objectives:

#### Youth Programs (\$60,000)

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is a strong proponent of providing outdoor education programs and opportunities for all ages. This proposal expands CPW's youth outreach programs by expanding and creating new opportunities that capture the attention of Colorado's youth. In addition to these components, CPW will continue supporting opportunities for Boy and Girl Scout groups, 4-H clubs, and school community service organizations. CPW is uniquely positioned to introduce Colorado's youth to the outdoors, expose them to potential natural resource careers, encourage more physical activity, and educate them about outdoor issues to foster environmental and natural resource stewardship.

### Primary Activities:

- Make classroom and field trip presentations to students
- Maintain and provide library materials and resource education kits to teachers
- Respond to requests for specific interpretive information
- Create and maintain an Internet home page about interpretive education
- Administer pre- and post-program surveys for reporting and program evaluation
- Staff booths at community or organization events or trade shows
- Develop and organize outdoor skills events that focus primarily on outdoor recreation-related activities
- Develop, implement, and manage interpretive programs, survival clinics, and general orienteering
- Provide experiential education to youth
- Provide other outdoor education related activities for youth

- Provide contract and program management for youth corps
- Solicit, review, and select parks and outdoor recreation related work sites for youth corps
- Establish youth corps work standards
- Enhance and approve environmental education curriculum for use by youth corps
- Evaluate programs and recommend improvements for youth corps
- Coordinate work projects with cost center managers for youth corps

### **Colorado Youth Corps Association (\$266,000)**

CPW uses youth corps crews at state parks for a variety of resource management and trail projects. In the past, projects have included trail re-routes and new trail development; fuel mitigation and other forest management work; vegetation management activities including Russian olive and tamarisk removal; fence removal, repair, and construction; and shoreline cleanup projects. This program support thus serves a dual role of improving conditions within the state parks while providing funding for CYCA and individual youth corps statewide.

### **Youth Internship Program (\$550,000)**

The purpose of the CPW Youth Internship Program is to prepare the next generation of natural resource professionals. This program is providing training and hands-on experience for youth interested in pursuing natural resource careers. The CPW Youth Internship Program Coordinator is responsible for statewide coordination of the program and prepares extensive training for the interns and CPW staff, monitors and recommends placement of interns equitably throughout CPW, documents activities, and identifies needs of the interns and CPW throughout the year. This program has the capacity to support approximately 55-80 interns throughout both parks and wildlife purposes and solicits youth between the ages of 16-24.

Activities supported under this grant are specific to state park activities and include intern selection, direct supervision, training, intern wages, and oversight of interns. There may be instances when an intern assigned to park activities has the opportunity to work with a wildlife program. These activities will still be funded within the parks purpose, as long as the activity is primarily for the benefit of the parks purpose.

#### **Primary Activities:**

- Day to day oversight of interns assigned to state parks activities
- Training to enhance the knowledge and skills towards conserving, protecting, and promoting future stewardship of natural resources in state parks
- Develop and coordinate projects for interns related to state parks activities
- Reimburse costs related to interns assigned to state park projects (e.g., parking and mileage reimbursement, postage, printing, office supplies, uniforms, etc.)
- Provide equipment and materials needed to complete projects and duties as required
- Provide statewide training to enhance the knowledge and skills towards conserving, protecting, and promoting future stewardship of natural resources
- Provide reimbursement for costs related to the overall management of the CPW Internship Program (e.g., parking and mileage reimbursement, postage and printing, office supplies, etc.)

- Solicit and evaluate intern qualifications to build and retain interns for the CPW Youth Internship program
- Identify, create, and modify processes to quantify and tabulate the impact of the Internship Program and apply these processes throughout the program
- Prepare reports that evaluate the progress of the Internship Program
- Plan, design, implement, and evaluate trainings for CPW staff regarding the process and execution of the CPW Internship Program

### **Schools and Outdoor Learning Environments (\$207,500)**

The Schools and Outdoor Learning Environments (SOLE) is designed to increase youth interest and participation in the outdoors by supporting and enhancing existing environmental education programs in Colorado schools and creating a network of sites and facilities to use as outdoor classrooms. The program has grown exponentially since its inception in 2013. There are now approximately 50 schools across the state participating in SOLE.

#### **Primary Activities:**

- Coordinate and recruit schools for participation in the Schools in Outdoor Learning Environments program
- Establish and coordinate field trips options, in-class programs, and family nature night programs with SOLE participating schools and partners
- Coordinate and provide funding for transportation to field trip locations
- Provide funding to SOLE participating schools to promote and enhance outdoor learning classrooms
- Administer pre- and post-program surveys for reporting and program evaluation of the SOLE program

(CPW activity 6120, Schools Outdoor Learning Environments; activity 6132, Support Education Programs in Schools P/OR; activity 6135, Youth Education and Outreach P/OR; activity 6221, Encourage Natural Resource Careers P/OR; and activity 6222, Encourage Natural Resource Careers combined)

### **Environmental Education (\$290,000)**

The Environmental Education program supports a wide variety of activities to develop environmental education resources for state parks visitors. By providing learning opportunities for visitors of all ages, CPW hopes that people will walk away with a desire to engage in outdoor experiences on their own while creating a stronger bond with, understanding of, and sense of stewardship towards the ecosystems in which we all live. The Environmental Education Program works closely with state parks to provide educational resources and support since their many venues and facilities make ideal outdoor classrooms for connecting visitors to and educating school groups about nature's wonders.

### Primary Activities:

- Daily contacts with park visitors to provide assistance, information, educational programs, and events
- Development of self-directed interpretation hikes and experiences, discovery packs, trail brochures and maps, and interpretive signs and exhibits
- Educational “campfire” programs and Junior Ranger program materials and packets
- Classroom programs conducted for children of all ages
- Staffing educational exhibits and information centers in park visitor centers
- Coordination and resources for volunteer naturalists providing programs for visitors
- Writing weekly newspaper columns, park newsletters, plant identification booklets, web page updates, and hunting and fishing information packets
- Supporting various “kids and families outdoors” initiatives and events

(CPW activity 6135, Youth Education and Outreach P/OR)



### *Outdoor Recreation: Trails and River Greenways*

Recreational trails are one of the most popular outdoor recreation amenities in Colorado. The 2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) identifies a very high level of demand for trail maintenance and development funding across all regions of the state. CPW aligns these activities with various strategic goals and objectives.

#### Great Outdoors Colorado 2015 Strategic Plan:

- Connect people to the outdoors, and connect trails, parks, and open space.

#### Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2015 Strategic Plan:

- Goal VI: Connect people to Colorado's outdoors.
  - Objective A: Broaden the access and variety of recreation opportunities available to Coloradans and visitors.
  - Objective B: Provide facilities, infrastructure, and access to support opportunities for premier outdoor recreation experiences.

Trails and River Greenways	Great Outdoors Colorado Funding FY 2020-21
State Trails Program	\$370,935
Trails Grant Program	1,000,000
Trails in State Parks Program	500,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,870,935</b>

## State Trails Program

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget: \$ 524,028  
FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request: \$ 370,935

Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	1,400
Other	29,550
Perm PS	279,365
Perm PS - Benefits	112,457
Supplies	3,000
Temp PS	76,700
Temp PS - Benefits	16,759
Travel	4,797
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$524,028</b>

### Description and Objectives:

The State Trails Program was established through the authority of the Recreational Trails System Act of 1971. The program's primary goal is to provide funds for recreational trails throughout the state. Trail use continues to be by far the most popular outdoor recreation activity in Colorado.

A variety of project sponsors are eligible to receive Trails Program capital funding, including towns, cities, counties, school districts, nonprofit groups, state and federal land-management agencies. Project sponsors are matched to appropriate funding sources to ensure compliance with federal, state, and GOCO eligibility requirements. CPW awards grants for trail planning, maintenance, construction, special projects, and trail equipment.

CPW provides technical assistance to communities, other agencies, land managers, and organizations devoted to trails, conservation, and open space. This assistance includes help with planning, coordination with other agencies, trail volunteers, organization building, funding and other resources, land development regulations, and trail maintenance and management. CPW acts as a clearinghouse for trails information in Colorado and must stay apprised of trail development projects and processes across the country. The grant sponsors workshops and conferences to bring trails advocates, community planners, and agency representatives together to learn new techniques and discuss trails issues. CPW staff also provides assistance in planning, publicity, and programs for regional workshops and statewide conferences.

**Primary Activities:**

- Administer sub-grant programs for trail planning, development, and maintenance projects
- Develop and maintain recreational trail and signing standards for Colorado, coordinate the development of these standards with federal land managers
- Promote, support, and work with volunteer organizations involved with recreation trails throughout Colorado
- Construct, repair, maintain, and renovate recreational trails
- Promote the development of regional trail connections throughout Colorado, to include the Front Range Trail, the Colorado River Trail, the Eagle Valley Trail, the Poudre River Trail, St. Vrain Trail, Clear Creek Trail, the Colorado Trail, and Trails in State Parks

(CPW activity 5363, Recreational Trails Management)

**Trails Grant Program**

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget: \$ 3,000,000  
FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request: \$ 1,000,000 (capital)

**Categorized Budget:**

Expense Category	Budget
Trails Grant - Capital	\$3,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>

**Description and Objectives:**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife will award this funding to trail management entities across Colorado for the construction of new trails, maintenance of existing trails, and planning for new trail development. Grant funds are awarded each year for individual grants selected by the State Trails Committee. This program has one grant cycle annually, with the recreation trails grant applications due November 1st. This GOCO funding request supports grant applications in three project categories: Small, Large, and Planning.

Each project receives a composite score derived from an average of the scores awarded by peer reviewers (including GOCO staff) and CPW staff. The average scores from peer reviewers for each project account for 50% of each score and the CPW staff scores account for 50% of each score. The projects are then ranked based on the averaged scores, and this rank determines whether the project will receive funding. Reviewers remain anonymous during the process of compiling scores.

Project rankings and summary descriptions are then provided to the State Trails Committee. This committee and CPW staff consider reviewer evaluations, with a focus on the relative merits and overall qualities of projects, from a statewide perspective. The State Trails Committee presents its funding recommendations to the Parks and Wildlife Commission and

the GOCO Board who consider the recommendations and make the final decisions on grant awards at separate meetings.

CPW supports a wide variety of trail development and planning projects; these projects vary in scope from relatively short natural surface trails to longer concrete trails that require significant engineering and other technical expertise. Because of this variation, costs can vary significantly from project to project, and CPW cannot estimate with certainty how many total projects will be supported with this GOCO funding. Based on experience from previous trail grant cycles, CPW estimates that between 8-12 individual projects will be funded.

### Trails in State Parks

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget: \$ 3,300,000  
FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request: \$ 500,000 (capital)

Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Budget
Trails in State Parks	\$3,300,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,300,000</b>

### **Description and Objectives:**

Colorado's state parks contain more than 700 miles of trails, many of which accommodate multiple uses including hiking, biking, and equestrian use. There are still many opportunities for new trails within the 180,000 acres that comprise the land base of the overall CPW State Parks system. Beginning in 2016, CPW and partners launched a multi-year *Trails Strategic Plan* with the goal of maintaining the existing trail opportunities in our parks and constructing high priority trail segments that will serve the ever-increasing demand for new trail opportunities.

CPW staff continue to incorporate changes into GIS regarding existing and new trails within the parks, including an assessment of their condition as well as identifying possible locations for new trails. CPW has completed a comprehensive effort to accurately map all designated trails in every state park that features trails maintained for public access and use. The interactive format enables a person to track and determine their exact location on any of the trails mapped using a smart phone or tablet with GPS capabilities.

CPW leadership will prioritize the trail maintenance and development projects that will be supported during FY 2020-21. Upon approval, CPW will share this information with GOCO staff as part of the Trails in State Parks program.

### *Outdoor Recreation: Water for Recreational Purposes*

CPW uses GOCO funding to support water conservation, leasing, purchasing, and constructing water storage for outdoor recreation to ensure that CPW state parks and other properties are managed sustainably for the long-term benefit of Colorado citizens and visitors. CPW aligns these activities with various strategic goals and objectives.

#### Great Outdoors Colorado 2015 Strategic Plan:

- Protect more land and wildlife habitat.

#### Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2015 Strategic Plan:

- Goal I: Conserve wildlife and habitat to ensure healthy sustainable populations and ecosystems.
  - Objective D: Protect and enhance water resources for fish and wildlife populations.
- Goal II: Manage state parks for world-class outdoor recreation.
  - Objective B: Explore fiscally sound real estate opportunities for new and expanded state parks.

Water for Recreational Purpose	Great Outdoors Colorado Funding FY 2020-21
Water Program	\$150,000
Water Acquisitions and Leases	\$300,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$450,000</b>

## Water Program

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget:           \$ 150,000  
FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request:         \$ 150,000

### Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	1,500
Other	5,200
Perm PS	103,398
Perm PS - Benefits	36,702
Supplies	1,200
Temp PS	0
Temp PS - Benefits	0
Travel	2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>

### Description and Objectives:

The CPW Water Program manages the agency's various water resources activities including assessing and adjudicating water rights, developing stream and reservoir operations, and developing and protecting groundwater assets. This grant allows CPW to provide technical, legal, and water policy expertise necessary to protect and expand CPW's interests in all aspects of water resources management; the Attorney General's office provides additional legal assistance. Management of the program also includes supervising CPW's water court actions, management of groundwater and well permitting, assessing water markets to acquire water for individual parks when necessary, and coordinating with federal, state, and local user groups to maximize the state's water supplies for recreational benefits.

GOCO funds enable CPW to secure water supplies for a variety of state parks that experience inadequate water for drinking and sanitary, landscape irrigation, and recreational uses. This is accomplished in a number of ways, including water purchases and leases, innovative cooperative water management plans with larger water providers, and leasing, purchasing, or constructing water storage in reservoirs to store water for later uses.

### Primary Activities:

- Maintain records of all transactions of real property in systematic, legally defensible, and readily retrievable fashion
- Administer appraisals of water rights
- Research, defend, maintain, file for, change, or acquire water rights
- Attend water court hearings, respond to user's actions, and draft water court applications
- Maintain records of water use in state parks
- Monitor minimum or conservation pools in reservoirs where the state has an interest

- Participate in multi-agency water management dialogues to ensure water needs for parks and outdoor recreation are addressed
- Manage water rights and engineering analysis of water
- Perform due diligence and other legal work to secure water
- Coordinate and negotiate appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures for federally permitted water projects with other cooperating agencies and ensure compliance with NEPA and other federal permitting guidelines and timetables as well as timeliness, adequacy, compliance of all mitigation obligations necessary to meet federal requirements

(CPW activity 1351, Secure and Manage Water P/OR)

**Water Acquisitions and Leases**

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget:           \$ 360,000  
 FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request:       \$ 300,000 (capital)

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	0
Other	360,000
Perm PS	0
Perm PS - Benefits	0
Supplies	0
Temp PS	0
Temp PS - Benefits	0
Travel	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$360,000</b>

**Description and Objectives:**

The Water Acquisitions and Leases Program was established in 1984 to provide a means to protect water levels at Cherry Creek Reservoir. Since then, the program has grown to include water management plans for 41 parks in Colorado. Approximately 75 percent of the parks have either reservoirs or rivers as a key resource base to serve state park customers, making maintenance of water levels or sufficient stream flows for recreational purposes a high priority for CPW. The most visited parks in our system are parks that offer water-based recreational opportunities; there is a direct correlation between adequate water resources at the park and visitation/revenue levels.

This funding supports ongoing efforts by CPW to secure water for certain parks that experience water shortages or inadequate water levels related to recreational needs. Because of the wide array of water needs within CPW, CPW acquires water through a number of mechanisms, including conventional water purchases, less conventional water options and leases, innovative cooperative agreements with water users, and leasing or purchasing storage space in reservoirs to store the acquired water for later uses.



The water environment in which Colorado state parks operates changes continuously, both with regards to the specific water situation within the parks and the availability of water (for purchase or lease) in watersheds statewide. One very common use of this funding in recent years has been leases to supplement/augment water levels at St. Vrain State Park, Cherry Creek, Chatfield, John Martin, Arkansas Headwaters and other parks. In most cases these are ongoing multi-year leases.

Other potential uses of this funding include:

- Storage space (up to 50 acre-feet) at Lininger Lake owned and operated by Kenosha Trout Club. CPW will store the water associated with its interests in certain water rights in the North Fork of the South Platte River basin in Lininger Lake for later use in Cherry Creek Reservoir and/or in Staunton State Park.
- Lease of reusable water, in varied amounts from the City of Aurora and other entities to replenish water levels in Cherry Creek Reservoir.
- Lease of water (various amounts as it becomes available) from various entities, including the cities of Pueblo, Salida, Town of Ordway and Colorado Springs, to supplement water levels in Pueblo and John Martin Reservoirs.
- Lease of various amounts of water from various entities as well as lease of storage space, including the US Bureau of Reclamation to store water to supplement the Arkansas River streamflows through Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area.

**Primary Activities:**

- Maintain records of all transactions of real property in systematic, legally defensible and readily retrievable fashion
- Administer appraisals of water rights
- Research, defend, maintain, file for, change or acquire water rights
- Attend water court hearings, respond to user's actions, and draft water court applications
- Maintain records of water use on parks
- Monitor minimum or conservation pools in reservoirs where the state has an interest
- Participate in multi-agency water management dialogues to ensure water needs for parks and outdoor recreation are addressed
- Manage Water rights and engineering analysis of water
- Perform due diligence and other legal work to secure water
- Coordinate and negotiate appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures for federally permitted water projects with other cooperating agencies and ensure compliance with NEPA and other federal permitting guidelines and timetables as well as timeliness, adequacy, compliance of all mitigation obligations necessary to meet federal requirements.

(CPW activity 1351, Secure and Manage Water P/OR)

**Colorado Parks and Wildlife**  
**Fiscal Year 2020-21**  
**Great Outdoors Colorado Investment Plan**  
**Wildlife Funds**  
**Summary Table #1: Comparison of GOCO Funds**  
**FY 2019-20 to FY 2020-21**

	FY 2019-20			FY2020-21		
	Capital	Program Operating	Total	Capital	Program Operating	Total
<b>INVESTMENT REQUEST</b>						
<b>Habitat Management</b>						
Acquire High Priority Habitat	850,000	693,000	1,543,000	3,848,589	693,000	4,541,589
Enhance Habitat on Lands and Water	-	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
Wetlands Conservation	1,500,000	-	1,500,000	1,100,000	-	1,100,000
GIS Habitat Information	-	475,000	475,000	-	475,000	475,000
Protection and Restoration of Wildlife Habitat	2,670,000	-	2,670,000	3,600,000	-	3,600,000
Wildlife Small Capital	2,000,000	-	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	2,000,000
Fort Collins Service Center	2,500,000	-	2,500,000	-	-	-
Fuels Mitigation	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	-	-	-
Aquatic Habitat Improvement	2,000,000	-	2,000,000	-	-	-
Director's Innovation Fund	-	75,000	75,000	-	75,000	75,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>12,520,000</b>	<b>2,243,000</b>	<b>14,763,000</b>	<b>10,548,589</b>	<b>2,243,000</b>	<b>12,791,589</b>
<b>Wildlife Heritage</b>						
Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery	-	610,000	610,000	-	610,000	610,000
Native Species Protection	-	4,480,000	4,480,000	-	4,480,000	4,480,000
Propagation of Aquatic Species at Risk	-	575,000	575,000	-	575,000	575,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,665,000</b>	<b>5,665,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,665,000</b>	<b>5,665,000</b>
<b>Wildlife Education and Environment</b>						
Education and Volunteer Programs	-	400,183	400,183	-	400,183	400,183
Youth Programs	-	1,021,317	1,021,317	-	1,021,317	1,021,317
Angler Education	-	161,000	161,000	-	161,000	161,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,582,500</b>	<b>1,582,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,582,500</b>	<b>1,582,500</b>
<b>Wildlife Viewing</b>						
Wildlife Viewing	-	150,000	150,000	-	150,000	150,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>12,520,000</b>	<b>9,640,500</b>	<b>22,160,500</b>	<b>10,548,589</b>	<b>9,640,500</b>	<b>20,189,089</b>

*Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
Fiscal Year 2020-21  
Great Outdoors Colorado Investment Plan  
Table 2: Comparative Summary of Program Costs  
FY 2019-20 to FY 2020-21*

Wildlife Grant Name	FY 19-20 Request			FY 20-21 Request		
	GOCO	CPW	Total	GOCO	CPW	Total
<b>Habitat Management</b>						
Acquire High Priority Habitat	1,543,000	11,162,916	12,705,916	4,541,589	8,474,974	13,016,563
Enhance Habitat on Lands and Waters	1,000,000	835,945	1,835,945	1,000,000	1,371,575	2,371,575
Wetlands Conservation	1,500,000	489,525	1,989,525	1,100,000	1,177,643	2,277,643
GIS Habitat Information	475,000	533,093	1,008,093	475,000	481,002	956,002
Protection and Restoration of Wildlife Habitat	2,670,000	-	2,670,000	3,600,000	6,969,600	10,569,600
Wildlife Small Capital	2,000,000	3,000,000	5,000,000	2,000,000	3,000,000	5,000,000
Fort Collins Service Center	2,500,000	-	2,500,000	-	-	-
Fuels Mitigation	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	-	-	-
Habitat Improvement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aquatic Habitat Improvement	2,000,000	-	2,000,000	-	-	-
Wildlife Crossings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Director's Innovation Fund	75,000	-	75,000	75,000	-	75,000
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>14,763,000</b>	<b>16,021,479</b>	<b>30,784,479</b>	<b>12,791,589</b>	<b>21,474,794</b>	<b>34,266,383</b>
<b>Wildlife Heritage</b>						
Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery	610,000	348,147	958,147	610,000	243,098	853,098
Native Species Protection	4,480,000	611,276	5,091,276	4,480,000	573,758	5,053,758
Propagation of Aquatic Species at Risk	575,000	754,006	1,329,006	575,000	919,470	1,494,470
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>5,665,000</b>	<b>1,713,429</b>	<b>7,378,429</b>	<b>5,665,000</b>	<b>1,736,326</b>	<b>7,401,326</b>
<b>Wildlife Education and Environment</b>						
Education and Volunteer Programs	400,183	57,656	457,839	400,183	53,678	453,861
Youth Programs	1,021,317	385,136	1,406,453	1,021,317	422,985	1,444,302
Angler Education	161,000	196,907	357,907	161,000	191,746	352,746
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>1,582,500</b>	<b>639,699</b>	<b>2,222,199</b>	<b>1,582,500</b>	<b>668,409</b>	<b>2,250,909</b>
<b>Wildlife Viewing</b>						
Wildlife Viewing	150,000	2,589	152,589	150,000	-	150,000
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>2,589</b>	<b>152,589</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>150,000</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>22,160,500</b>	<b>18,377,196</b>	<b>40,537,696</b>	<b>20,189,089</b>	<b>23,879,529</b>	<b>44,068,618</b>

Budget figures in the "CPW" column represent the maximum CPW contribution, and are shown for informational purposes only.

*Wildlife: Habitat Management*

Colorado Parks and Wildlife continues to demonstrate leadership in habitat protection and natural resource stewardship not only within our state parks and wildlife areas, but also in concert with our private landowner and public land management partners. These efforts will better protect and enhance Colorado’s natural values while also providing a wide range of sustainable recreational opportunities. CPW aligns these objectives with the GOCO strategic goals.

Great Outdoors Colorado 2015 Strategic Plan:

- Protect more land and wildlife habitat

Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2015 Strategic Plan:

- Goal I: Conserve wildlife and habitat to ensure healthy sustainable populations and ecosystems.
  - Objective B: Preserve and enhance diverse habitat.

Activities funded under the Habitat Management section allow CPW to identify and map important wildlife habitat areas across the state; delineate priority habitat protection areas; implement habitat protection and enhancement efforts built on partnerships with landowners, land trusts, and conservation organizations; support monitoring and management of new and existing properties and easements; and protect wetland resources across the state.

Successful habitat management efforts may prevent the listing of species under the federal Endangered Species Act through the protection of important habitats. Migration corridors and winter range are maintained, providing support that is crucial to the health of Colorado’s big game resources. Migratory birds and waterfowl benefit from protection and enhancement of wetland areas. Public angling access to mountain streams and rivers is provided. Wildlife viewers have expanded opportunities to enjoy Colorado’s abundant wildlife resources. Additionally, more accurate and detailed habitat and land mapping leads to better informed land use decisions, more effective species recovery plans, and easier public access to public lands.

Habitat Management	Great Outdoors Colorado Funding FY 2020-21
Acquire High Priority Habitat	\$4,541,589
Enhance Habitat on Lands and Water	1,000,000
Wetlands Conservation	1,100,000
GIS Habitat Information	475,000
Protection and Restoration of Wildlife Habitat	3,600,000
Wildlife Small Capital	2,000,000
Director’s Innovation Fund	75,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$12,791,589</b>

## Acquire High Priority Habitat

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget: \$ 13,016,563  
FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request: \$ 4,541,589 (\$3,848,589 capital)

### Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Land Acquisition	\$11,000,000
Contractual	0
Equipment	6,000
Other	675,600
Perm PS	353,492
Perm PS - Benefits	131,471
Supplies	0
Temp PS	0
Temp PS - Benefits	0
Travel	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,016,563</b>

### Description and Objectives:

The loss of important wildlife habitat is a primary cause for the decline of many wildlife species and outdoor recreational opportunities in Colorado. As ranches and natural areas are developed or converted to new uses, wildlife habitat can become degraded, destroyed, and fragmented. Habitat conversion and loss also reduces opportunities for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

Since 2002, joint initiatives between CPW and GOCO have protected more than 300,000 acres of wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities across the state. Priorities for this initiative will be guided by Colorado's Wildlife Action Plan, CPW's 2015 Strategic Plan, and the requirements of specific funding sources. This grant primarily funds properties under the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program (CWHP), however may fund properties outside of this program. The Parks and Wildlife Commission reviews and approves the list of potential projects through CWHP in November each year and the GOCO Board reviews and approves them in December. This grant may fund any projects approved through the CWHP or other acquisitions that meet the requirements of this section that have not yet closed, subject to GOCO review and approval of all due diligence documents.

As CPW is currently planning to develop a habitat improvement program, which it will likely fund with Habitat Stamp funds, fewer Habitat Stamp funds will be available for habitat acquisition. The combination of allocating Habitat Stamp Funds to O&M, Wildlife RFP, and the planned habitat improvement program will obligate current fund balance and future revenues. Therefore, CPW requests an increase to the Acquire High Priority Habitat grant to provide the greatest amount of flexibility to accomplish the division's goals.

Program priorities during FY 2020-21 include:

1. Acquisition of conservation easements, fee title, and permanent easements for habitat protection and public access to provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Per recent changes to GOCO policy, this funding may be used for public access easements.
2. Review and rank real estate proposals received in response to a Request for Proposals. Historically, CPW receives between 50-90 proposals in response to the RFP. Conservation easements will be the preferred option in acquisitions. However, CPW will consider fee title acquisitions for properties that are interior or adjacent to SWAs, to provide a more manageable boundary or improved public access, or to enhance management of habitat and wildlife-related recreation.
3. Closing on real estate acquisitions negotiated in response to previous years' RFPs, protecting wildlife habitat.

**Primary Activities:**

- Acquire and dispose of legal interests in real property (lands)
- Gather information on and evaluate potential acquisition candidates
- Contact and negotiate with prospective sellers
- Work with counties and local governments on proposed acquisitions
- Work with Capital Development Committee and members of the General Assembly on proposed acquisitions
- Administer appraisals and boundary surveys
- File real estate actions
- Develop guidelines and criteria for property management agreements (which are central to landowner incentive programs)
- Negotiate with and enroll landowners in landowner incentive programs
- Does not include actions relating to an acquisition made for the purposes of meeting very specific objectives associated with another activity

(CPW activity 1320, Acquire Land and Habitat H/F/W)

## Enhance Habitat on Lands and Water

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget: \$ 2,371,575  
FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request: \$ 1,000,000

Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	42,365
Other	741,177
Perm PS	1,091,193
Perm PS - Benefits	412,923
Supplies	15,800
Temp PS	29,640
Temp PS - Benefits	6,477
Travel	32,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,371,575</b>

### Description and Objectives:

This program includes habitat conservation on private and public lands. Wildlife habitats on private and public lands are vital to the maintenance and enhancement of wildlife species in Colorado. More than 60 percent of the land in Colorado is held in private ownership; in eastern Colorado more than 80 percent is privately owned. The conversion of wildlife habitat through urbanization and other uses continues to be a major threat to native wildlife species.

### Land Program

CPW's land program initiates, coordinates, negotiates, and implements conservation, research, and habitat projects for priority game and at-risk species, including prairie grassland species. The program draws on resources from private conservation, sportsman, and agricultural organizations, along with major support from Farm Bill conservation. This program delivered more than \$3.5 million for wildlife habitat projects and leveraged program funds nearly 12:1 to enhance wildlife on private lands through the conservation title of the Farm Bill by educating private landowners on funding availability and eligibility requirements.

### Primary Activities:

- Coordinate, initiate, plan, and implement cooperative habitat projects on public lands
- Consult with BLM, USFS, and other public land management agencies on habitat improvement projects
- Develop MOUs dealing with cooperative projects for habitat manipulation and improvement
- Contact and work with landowners, assist landowners in analyzing feasibility of projects on their property
- Advise landowners of cooperative programs and various federal cost-share programs

- Provide funding for projects
- Provide input on specifications of grassland restoration methods used in other government programs
- Research and develop management plans for such grassland-dependent species as black-tailed prairie dog, mountain plover, western burrowing owl, swift fox, and ferruginous hawk
- Implement management plans through individual management agreements and acquisitions as outlined in species specific activities

## Water Resources Program

The Water Resources Unit (WRU) is responsible for both water quality management and water quantity management (including managing, developing, and protecting the agency's water rights portfolio). The WRU coordinates efforts between CPW and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) regarding in-stream flow protection and has similar coordinating roles with the water quality protection divisions within the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE). WRU staff also work with a wide variety of state, federal, and private sector interests on the issues of drought response and climate change.

### Primary Activities:

- Maintain records of all transactions of real property in systematic, legally defensible, and readily retrievable fashion
- Administer appraisals of water rights
- Research, defend, maintain, file for, change, or acquire water rights
- Attend water court hearings, respond to user's actions, and draft water court applications
- Maintain records of water use on SWA's and hatcheries
- Monitor minimum or conservation pools in reservoirs where the state has an interest
- Develop, administer, and implement the In-stream Flow Program, including making recommendations to the CWCB, assisting CWCB staff with aquatic ecological expertise, and testifying before the CWCB
- Guide development of water storage and water recharge structures and mechanisms on the South Platte River as part of the Tri-State Agreement (Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska)
- Participate in multi-agency water management dialogues to ensure water needs for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife are addressed
- Coordinate and negotiate appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures for federally permitted water projects with other cooperating agencies and ensure compliance with NEPA and other federal permitting guidelines and timetables as well as timeliness, adequacy, compliance of all mitigation obligations necessary to meet federal requirements

## River Watch

The River Watch program started in 1989 with six schools collecting water samples along the Yampa River. It has grown to nearly 140 participating organizations (primarily middle and high



schools, but also citizen groups, nature centers, youth programs, and individuals) covering every watershed in the state. River Watch volunteers collect water samples monthly for analysis at CPW laboratories. Water quality data collected through the River Watch program is the most prevalent in the state when measured by stations maintained, samples analyzed, and number of stream segments with data. River Watch sampling also provides valuable input for water quality decisions by the CDPHE.

**Primary Activities:**

- Develop and recommend water quality standards
- Review and respond to standard changes proposed by other entities
- Provide data and technical input to CDPHE for the sound scientific development of standard setting methodologies
- Monitor hatchery and other point source discharges
- Collect and analyze water quality samples, including those collected through the Rivers of Colorado Water Watch (River Watch) programs in schools and by volunteer organizations
- Analyze and incorporate water quality data into aquatic ecosystem modeling
- Fulfill interagency requests for water quality information

(CPW activity 1350, Secure Water H/F/W; activity 1360, Monitor and Improve Water Quality; activity 1370, Enhance Public Land Habitat; activity 1380, Enhance Private Land Habitat; and activity 1438, Prairie Grassland Conservation)

**Wetlands Conservation**

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget:                 \$ 2,277,643  
 FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request:                 \$ 1,100,000 (capital)

**Categorized Budget:**

<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>Projected Budget</b>
Capital (Grant Program)	\$1,500,000
Contractual	10,000
Equipment	0
Other	16,000
Perm PS	426,459
Perm PS - Benefits	147,944
Supplies	41,000
Temp PS	108,117
Temp PS - Benefits	23,623
Travel	4,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,277,643</b>

## **Description and Objectives:**

The CPW Wetlands Program's main objective is to conserve wetland and riparian habitats and their ecological functions by planning and delivering conservation actions on a landscape scale. Through these coordinated efforts, CPW and its partners will ensure that Colorado's wetland and riparian habitat is sufficient to support self-sustaining populations of desired wildlife species. Wetlands and riparian areas make up less than two percent of Colorado's land but provide benefits to more than 75 percent of the species in the state.

Major goals of the program are to improve the status of declining or at-risk species and to improve the abundance and distribution of ducks and opportunities for waterfowl hunting. The program funds wetland enhancement and restoration projects, conducts strategic planning to prioritize habitat conservation investments, facilitates partnerships, supports local Focus Area Committees, conducts education and outreach on wetlands conservation, and monitors and evaluates wetland projects. In cooperation with partner organizations and landowners, the Wetlands Program has protected, restored, or enhanced approximately 300,000 acres of wetlands and adjacent habitats.

In FY 2020-21, CPW will emphasize larger-scale wetland and riparian restoration and enhancement projects on state wildlife areas and state parks to maximize project benefits to priority wildlife species. CPW will also work to increase partnerships with other land management agencies such as the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and others to expand the scale of wetland and riparian conservation projects on other public lands that are open to public access.

## **Primary Activities:**

- Provide project related expertise, which includes ecology, species biology, and water rights
- Conduct project monitoring and evaluation
- Funding of wetland creation, enhancement, and restoration projects

(CPW activity 1436, Wetlands Conservation)

## GIS Habitat Information

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget:           \$ 956,602  
FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request:         \$ 475,000

Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	17,000
Other	171,122
Perm PS	547,957
Perm PS - Benefits	210,523
Supplies	0
Temp PS	0
Temp PS - Benefits	0
Travel	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,008,093</b>

### Description and Objectives:

The Geographic Information System (GIS) unit compiles wildlife data into formats that are more useable by wildlife researchers and biologists and are more understandable by the public. GIS documents and analyses have been particularly important to CPW biologists assessing the impact of energy development across Colorado. Other GIS products have facilitated public access to state wildlife areas and supported CPW land use.

### Primary Activities:

- Provide data, data modeling, analysis, mapping, and other GIS services for the CPW
- Maintain the existing data sets due to changes that occur over time
- Add new data on wildlife habitats, populations, natural resources, trails, and facilities
- Support the CPW personnel in working with county land use planners to understand the impacts of proposed developments on wildlife and provide information for informed public participation in land use decisions as they relate to wildlife
- Generate interactive maps on demand to the public

(CPW activity 8240, GIS H/F/W)

## Protection and Restoration of Wildlife Habitat

FY 2019-20 Total Projected Budget: \$10,569,600  
FY 2019-20 GOCO Funding Request: \$3,600,000 (capital)

Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	0
Other	0
Perm PS	0
Perm PS - Benefits	0
Supplies	0
Temp PS	0
Temp PS - Benefits	0
Travel	0
To be determined	10,569,600,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,569,600,000</b>

(Please note that CPW will not know the categorization of these expenses until the capital projects and equipment purchases are complete.)

### **Description and Objectives:**

For fiscal year 2020-21, CPW proposes a different funding model for the wildlife component of CPW's Capital Development Program. Rather than separate grants for each capital project, as has been the practice to this point, GOCO will award a single large grant to support CPW's entire slate of capital projects for FY 2020-21, matched with CPW cash funding. This model offers several advantages, to both CPW and GOCO.

With this new model, CPW will be able to set up this single large capital grant in CORE (the statewide accounting system) in such a way that expenses from all active wildlife capital projects are charged to the grant as they are processed.

This model will allow GOCO dollars to be spent first on the most shovel-ready projects. CPW capital projects proceed at different speeds depending on a number of factors, including size, complexity, location, weather, and many other things. As a result, in the current GOCO capital funding model (i.e., individual grants for individual projects), some grants are expended rapidly while others experience a much slower rate of expenditure. With a single grant, all capital expenses from all projects will hit the grant as they are processed, eliminating the discrepancy between fast-moving projects and projects that are delayed. CPW can further configure CORE such that as capital project expenses are processed, they expend the GOCO grant first, with the ultimate goal of fully expending the GOCO grant before any expenditures hit the wildlife cash funding.

This configuration will have the effect of expending the GOCO grant much more rapidly than was previously possible. CPW is confident that this will essentially eliminate the extensions and deauthorizations that CPW has had to request for capital grants in the past.

This model will not result in any loss of reporting capability or transparency. By utilizing the agency's full chart of accounting elements in CORE, CPW will be able to tell GOCO exactly where and for what purposes GOCO funds were expended.

A single grant will reduce the administrative burden on both GOCO and CPW staff. Under the current model, the annual process of setting up multiple capital grants in GOCO's internal system and in CORE is more complicated than necessary and labor intensive. Setting up and managing a single grant will reduce workload for both agencies.

This model essentially makes GOCO a funding partner in the entirety of the wildlife capital program, rather than a subset of the program. GOCO funding will be a contributor to every wildlife capital project.

The wildlife capital program for FY 2020-21 consists of the following projects:

Alberta Park Dam Design, \$750,000: Alberta Park is a high hazard dam with an undersized spillway. CPW identified this dam as a high repair priority during the division's recent review of dams for safety issues. The dam's outlet pipe appears to be deteriorating and has seepage problems. This funding will complete the design work for repairs and renovation based on a previous study.

Area 14 Vault Toilets, \$293,000: This project will demolish four existing vault toilets that have exceeded their useful life and replace them with one double vault toilet and two single vault toilets. Work will take place at Flagler, Hugo, and Kinney Lake State Wildlife Areas.

CPW Internal Shooting Ranges, \$1,000,000: The CPW internal shooting range program provides funding for shooting ranges located within state parks and state wildlife areas. Eligible projects include rifle, pistol, and archery ranges, and trap shooting facilities; examples of typical projects include the construction of new ranges, the expansion of existing ranges, range planning projects, and maintenance and small capital projects at existing ranges. This program has existed for several years on a relatively small scale, but due to high visitor demand CPW is expanding the program. This funding will support projects that are selected by an internal process in spring 2020.

Crystal River State Fish Unit Water Collection System (phase 1 of 2), \$354,000: CPW utilized funding from the agency's new Small Capital program to investigate the feasibility of placing a well at the Crystal River Hatchery. Based on this work, CPW will cap the hatchery's existing spring-based collection system, establish a production well, and build a protective ditch to prevent surface irrigation water from reaching the spring collection system.

Grand Junction Modular Office Replacement, \$603,000: The Grand Junction state administrative area (SAA) currently has modular office space that is beyond its useful life and is not large enough to comfortably and safely house the area's nine employees. This project will remove the existing modular office and replace it with a new, energy efficient office space. The office will be approximately 1,900 square feet, with electric, water, and sewer utilities.

Gunnison Office Replacement (phase 2 of 2), \$2,670,000: The Gunnison area office is currently located in a 1950s era house with a large number of additions built at different

times over the years. Due to the age of the structure and the ad hoc manner in which it has been expanded, office security is poor. The public can enter the building through any of several different entry points; at the same time, ADA access needs to be improved. The facility's electrical infrastructure is not sufficient for the computer and other electronic needs of staff. Customer service and public meeting space is severely limited.

Las Animas State Fish Unit Pond Liner Replacement, \$344,000: This project will remove and replace more than 263,000 square feet of pond liner from five separate ponds. These pond liners are 25 years old and are nearing the end of their usable life. The outer layer of the liners have degraded due to the elements and age to the point that they are brittle, beginning to flake off and starting to leak. When holes develop during production fish are able to swim under the liner and are lost. Without these liners, the water levels in the ponds cannot be maintained.

Meadow Creek Dam Initial Study, \$450,000: This project will fund the initial investigative work that is necessary in advance of a major repair and rehabilitation project on the dam at meadow creek. Components include geotechnical investigations, a hydrology study, an investigation of the dam's hydraulics, and structural examination of the spillway.

Rito Hondo Dam (phase 3 of 5), \$500,000: The left abutment of the Rito Hondo dam has experienced seepage since the dam was constructed. This seepage is proceeding up the groin of the dam and is becoming an increasing safety hazard. In addition, the right groin is also experiencing some seepage, but not to the level as the left abutment. Previous phases of the project included the investigation of both abutments and design of seepage mitigation to keep the dam safe. This phase consists of geotechnical investigations and the design of a new seepage filter.

Roaring Judy State Fish Unit Well Relocation, \$212,000: The Roaring Judy Hatchery relies heavily on well water during months when flows from the area's West Spring collection system are not adequate to sustain fish production. This project will drill a new well on hatchery grounds, approximately 18 inches in diameter and 50 feet deep, projected to yield 300-600 gallons per minute. The project also includes the installation of utilities, a pump and motor, a pump controller, and flow measurement devices.

Southeast Region Skidsteer, \$105,000: State parks and wildlife areas are in constant need of heavy equipment to maintain habitat and facilities. The Skidsteer is one of the most versatile pieces of heavy equipment and can be used for a wide variety of habitat maintenance and improvement work, trail development, and moderate excavation work. This funding will support a Skidsteer that will be used at parks and wildlife areas throughout the region as needed. The funding will also be used to purchase attachments including a bucket, forks, auger, and grapple, and a trailer to haul the equipment.

Spinney Mountain State Wildlife Area Boundary Fence, \$250,000: This project will remove and replace about 2.75 miles of fence along the western boundary of Spinney Mountain State Wildlife Area. This fence line prevents livestock trespass and clearly delineates the wildlife area boundary.

Tarryall State Wildlife Area Dam Study and Design (phase 2 of 3), \$500,000: Tarryall is a thin arch concrete dam that is 90 years old. The dam's copper water stops are in the early stages of failure, resulting in a restriction from the State Engineer's Office. In addition, the dam is

overtopped by the inflow design flood (IDF), and the resulting stresses on the dam need to be analyzed to determine the impacts to the stability of dam. This project will develop a final design solution to repair the water stops and make other necessary structural repairs to the dam.

Wildlife Area Dams Hydrology Update, \$400,000: CPW owns and operates 110 dams around the state, including 35 dams rated as high hazard or significant hazard. With this funding CPW will hire a consultant to review and update hydrology information for all the high and significant hazard dams located on state wildlife areas. This information can then be used to prioritize repair and maintenance schedules.

Wildlife Capital Projects Programmatic Contingency, \$538,600: CPW calculates contingency on a per project basis, based on a number of factors including project scope, complexity, location, and potential for delays. Based on this review of the agency's slate of FY 2020-21 capital projects, CPW requests \$538,600 in contingency funding for the agency's wildlife-related projects.

Wildlife Dam Maintenance, \$600,000: CPW owns and operates 110 dams around the state. Dams are like any other manmade infrastructure in that conditions slowly deteriorate over time and regular maintenance and minor repairs are necessary for continued safe and efficient operation. High and significant hazard dams also present a hazard to the downstream public so timely maintenance is a critical risk reduction activity for the agency. Major dam repair and renovation projects are funded through the agency's regular project selection process. CPW maintains this budget for smaller, regular maintenance projects and for repair projects that emerge mid-fiscal year.

Equipment for Habitat Protection and Restoration, \$1,000,000: Maintaining lands under CPW management is challenging for several reasons, but a lack of sufficient equipment has become more and more problematic in recent years. Colorado is undergoing a construction boom; rental of equipment is increasingly expensive and the availability of equipment can be sporadic. This funding will support the purchase of equipment with a habitat management focus.

## Wildlife Small Capital

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget: \$5,000,000  
FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request: \$2,000,000 (capital)

Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	0
Other	0
Perm PS	0
Perm PS - Benefits	0
Supplies	0
Temp PS	0
Temp PS - Benefits	0
Travel	0
To be determined	5,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,000,000</b>

(Please note that CPW will not know the categorization of these expenses until the final list of small capital projects is selected.)

### **Description and Objectives:**

Maintaining existing facilities is one of the top priorities of the CPW Capital Development Program. To this end, for more than 15 years CPW's state parks have had a dedicated a portion of its overall capital budget to small capital projects, defined (via internal policy) as projects with a total cost between \$5,000 and \$100,000 and located within state parks. These projects are primarily maintenance in nature and address fire/safety/health issues or repair minor issues before they can become major problems.

This program has proved to be very successful. Each region is assigned an annual budget for its small capital program. Projects are selected and prioritized at the regional level and managed by regional staff and park managers. (CPW has four regions: Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest.) The program allows region staff to address its highest priorities without having to compete against other regions for capital construction resources. Projects are added to the central capital development project database for tracking and record-keeping purposes, and in some instances central Capital Development Program staff assist with project design. For the most part, projects are managed entirely at the region level. The total budget for the state parks small capital program is \$2.0 million dollars annually, averaging about 120 projects. The state parks small capital program is funded with Lottery.

Until FY 2018-19, CPW did not have a corresponding process or budget for assets located in wildlife areas or hatcheries. With 574 wildlife facilities statewide, the maintenance needs are significant. Many of the division's hatchery facilities are 70-100 years old. In the FY 2018-19 investment plan, GOCO awarded CPW \$2.0 million to initiate a wildlife small capital program. CPW has matched GOCO funding with federal funds and agency cash to create an FY 2018-19 Wildlife Small Capital Program with an overall budget of \$3,195,000. This program has been extremely successful in addressing the maintenance and rehabilitation needs of the agency's



wildlife areas. Region staff are extremely enthusiastic about the new wildlife component of the Small Capital Program. Projects selected by the regions for completion in FY 2019-20 include electrical system upgrades, asbestos abatement, HVAC system rehabilitation and replacement, shooting range improvements, fencing projects to protect sensitive habitat, minor parking lot and asphalt repairs, and many other projects.

To expand the Wildlife Small Capital Program in FY 2019-20, CPW submitted a legislative decision item requesting \$3.0 million in new cash spending authority. The General Assembly funded the request during the 2019 legislative session, and it is now included in CPW's base annual budget. CPW requests \$2.0 million in FY 2020-21 GOCO funding to supplement this cash, maintaining a Wildlife Small Capital Program with an overall budget of \$5.0 million.

### Primary Activities:

Activities will vary depending on the specific projects that are selected for the FY 2020-21 wildlife small capital cycle, but could include the following:

- Secure and manage consultant contractors
- Provide consulting and preliminary design and costs for proposed engineering projects
- Conduct site surveys and field investigations
- Perform engineering design and analysis
- Research products, methods, and materials
- Calculate quantities and prepare cost estimates
- Prepare engineering drawings
- Review projects
- Prepare permit applications
- Establish and implement design-related policies
- Continual condition assessment
- Identify maintenance projects
- Prioritize and filter maintenance projects and prepare justifications for projects
- Long-range planning
- Budget requests
- Track and monitor planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of controlled maintenance projects
- Pre-construction meetings
- Submittal and shop drawing review
- Materials testing
- Construction surveying
- Construction inspection
- Prepare appropriate construction and contract documents
- Project scheduling
- Review, negotiate, and mediate claims

(CPW activity 8320, Capital Planning and Design H/F/W and activity 8330, Construction Management H/F/W)

**Director’s Innovation Fund (Wildlife)**

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget: \$75,000  
FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request: \$75,000

Categorized Budget:

<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>Projected Budget</b>
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	0
Other	0
Perm PS	0
Perm PS - Benefits	0
Supplies	0
Temp PS	0
Temp PS - Benefits	0
Travel	0
To be determined	75,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>

(Please note that CPW will not know the categorization of these expenses until the final list of projects are selected.)

**Description and Objectives:**

The CPW Director’s Innovation Fund allows CPW staff to apply for funding for unique, one-time projects and programs, up to \$20,000, that would not otherwise be funded through the annual Investment Plan or other funding channels within the agency. This program was first funded in December 2016 with de-authorized funds from previous investment plans and has proved to be extremely popular. This request represents the wildlife purpose portion of the total requested grant.

**Primary Activities:**

Activities will vary depending on the projects selected for awards by the CPW Director and the selection committee.

### *Wildlife: Wildlife Heritage*

CPW uses GOCO funding to minimize the need for federal listings under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This requires CPW to utilize the best science, employ models for efficient and effective resource planning, and conduct sound research to adequately protect and conserve Colorado’s fish and wildlife populations.

#### Great Outdoors Colorado 2015 Strategic Plan:

- Protect more land and wildlife habitat.
- Inspire Coloradans to get outside and take care of our great outdoors.

#### Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2015 Strategic Plan:

- Goal I: Conserve wildlife and habitat to ensure healthy sustainable populations and ecosystems.
  - Objective C: Manage and monitor species of greatest conservation need while working with partners to maintain viable populations.
  - Objective E: Conduct research and monitoring to inform management decisions.
- Goal V: Increase awareness and trust for CPW.
  - Objective C: Increase public awareness about the importance of wildlife management.
- Goal VI: Connect people to the Colorado’s outdoors.
  - Objective D: Promote the value of CPW’s mission and services to expand awareness, grow CPW’s volunteer network, and inspire stewardship

Colorado is home to more than 900 wildlife species. The Colorado Wildlife Action Plan identified 210 of those species as being in “Greatest Conservation Need.” Activities funded under the three species protection grants allow CPW to monitor a wide range of wildlife populations in the state, assess population trends, determine distribution patterns, identify limiting factors, develop conservation or recovery plans, and work with other state, federal and local agencies, and private landowners on implementing recovery plans. Deliverables listed in these sections can be driven by decisions determined through federal sources and can include multi-year data collection, survey of species and habitats, and monitoring to validate findings over a multi-year period.

Programs and projects in support of species conservation are vital to Colorado’s efforts to avert threatened or endangered listings under the federal Endangered Species Act. Success in meeting recovery plan goals or in proactive actions on declining species are crucial to retain wildlife management authority at the state level, allowing water projects to move forward, and preventing costly and burdensome federal actions.

<b>Wildlife Heritage</b>	<b>Great Outdoors Colorado Funding FY 2020-21</b>
Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery	\$610,000
Native Species Protection	4,480,000
Propagation of Aquatic Species At Risk	575,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$5,665,000</b>

## Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget: \$853,098  
FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request: \$610,000

Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Management Activities TBD	\$0
Contractual	55,000
Equipment	5,620
Other	16,825
Perm PS	462,305
Perm PS - Benefits	187,218
Supplies	15,245
Temp PS	86,486
Temp PS - Benefits	18,899
Travel	5,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$853,098</b>

### Description and Objectives:

The main goal of the activities performed within this program is to re-establish and secure self-sustaining populations to prevent or remove the need to list as federally threatened or endangered and to support the de-listing of species within Colorado. Activities include species reintroductions/translocations, habitat enhancement and protection, research on factors affecting demographic parameters and habitat selection, mitigation of impacts to species and their habitats, and other activities as required to reach program goals. These activities are conducted by CPW and in partnership with federal land/wildlife management agencies, state/local governments, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners.

In this FY 2020-21 investment plan, CPW is requesting funding consistent with the prior year, which includes \$110,000 for black-footed ferret activities, including the continuation of a landowner incentive project.

Listed below are potential species that will benefit from these activities throughout the year. However, any species may be added or deleted from the research and evaluation activities, contingent upon federal listing or delisting throughout the year:

- Black-footed Ferret
- Canada Lynx
- Piping Plover
- Least Tern
- Greenback Cutthroat Trout
- Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse
- Colorado River Threatened and Endangered Fish
- South Western Willow Flycatcher
- Mexican Spotted Owl

- Peregrine Falcon
- Bald Eagle

#### Primary Activities:

- Provide survey results and other data to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in response to requests for data as part of the ESA species assessment and listing process
- Identify, secure, and enhance habitat that meets the species' requirements
- Develop and implement recovery plans for species that are listed or candidates for listing under the ESA
- Reclaim streams, monitor and research stream flows
- Stock, transplant, establish, and monitor the health, breeding, and migration patterns of populations to provide early detection of potential problems within a species
- Initiate cooperative agreements with private landowners regarding prevention of non-native species introductions
- Provide nesting alternatives as required by species
- Conduct research and monitor populations and productivity among reintroduced species
- Review and conduct statewide habitat assessments
- Construct fish passage structures
- Conduct multi-year surveys and monitor populations and habitats of species that are listed or candidates for listing under the ESA
- Update and analyze data and findings for incorporation into reports and studies that detail activities performed and how the results impact the species. This research information will be vital for decisions made by federal and state agencies in the determination to list or de-list a species
- Conduct extensive baseline surveys to determine occurrence, distribution, and relative abundance of species
- Protect and manage habitats of species that are listed or candidates for listing under the ESA and conduct research to improve knowledge of their species-habitat relationships
- Other activities as listed in the CPW Activity Dictionary for the activity codes listed below

(CPW activity 1662, Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse; activity 1670, Lynx Conservation; activity 1810, Greenback Cutthroat Trout Recovery; activity 1820, Upper Colorado River Fish; activity 1830, SW Willow Flycatcher Recovery; activity 1841, Least Tern; activity 1842, Piping Plover; activity 1850, Peregrine Falcon Recovery; activity 1860, Bald Eagle Recovery; activity 1870, Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery; activity 1880, Black-Footed Ferret Recovery)

## Native Species Protection

FY 2019-20 Total Projected Budget: \$5,053,758  
FY 2019-20 GOCO Funding Request: \$4,480,000

Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Management Activities TBD	\$0
Contractual	200,000
Equipment	2,511
Other	368,770
Perm PS	2,003,757
Perm PS - Benefits	784,354
Supplies	964,495
Temp PS	470,427
Temp PS - Benefits	102,791
Travel	156,653
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,053,758</b>

### Description and Objectives:

The activities performed within the program support the protection, restoration, and enhancement of self-sustaining native species populations in Colorado. Activities conducted to benefit species may include, but are not limited to, conducting surveys and monitoring to determine status of species, developing conservation or recovery plans, monitoring populations for potential diseases, and investigating reproductive success and survival of individuals. These activities are conducted by CPW and in partnership with federal land/wildlife management agencies, state/local governments, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners.

In this FY 2020-21 investment plan, CPW is requesting funding consistent with the prior year. This funding will support a number of different projects and species. CPW will expand the management of Cutthroat trout populations; improve habitat for the Lesser Prairie Chicken; and implement additional bat monitoring activities. CPW will also initiate an ongoing program to help prevent prairie dog colonies from "plaguing out" - essentially being wiped out by disease. Supporting prairie dog populations also supports species that rely heavily or entirely on prairie dogs for food, including the black-footed ferret.

Listed below are potential species that will benefit from these activities throughout the year. However, other native species may be added to the research and evaluation activities throughout the year:

- River Otter
- Gunnison's Prairie Dog
- Boreal Toad
- Mountain Plover
- Black-tailed Prairie Dog
- White-tailed Prairie Dog

- Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse
- Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse
- Bats
- White-tailed Ptarmigan
- Colorado River Cutthroat Trout
- Native Fish within Colorado's tributaries
- Lesser Prairie Chicken

Primary activities include:

- Develop and implement recovery and conservation management plans and goals within CPW and external conservation stakeholders
- Implement and update the Colorado Wildlife Action Plan to address declining wildlife species recovery and conservation objectives
- Develop and implement basin management plans
- Propagate and augment depleted species stock
- Develop and implement inventory protocols to be used throughout the state
- Conduct extensive baseline surveys to determine occurrence, distribution, and relative abundance of species
- Facilitate design and implementation of a long-term monitoring and evaluation system that measures population trends
- Survey historic and potential suitable habitats for new population introduction
- Monitor breeding populations annually
- Identify and evaluate limiting factors to species survival
- Research to better define suitable habitat and overall biology and ecology of species
- Develop and test techniques and protocols for captive breeding and rearing of species
- Experimental reintroduction of species to vacant historic habitat
- Increase public awareness of the efforts utilized to sustain native species populations
- Translocation of species
- Protect species and their habitat via coordination with land management agencies
- Work with local land use planners and developers to avoid or minimize potential impacts of private land development on species and their habitat
- Develop and finalize recovery goals and criteria
- Resolve genetic questions for broodstock development and stocking
- Conduct research into population dynamics and population genetics
- Protect and reclaim suitable river and stream habitats
- Evaluate stocking into new habitats
- Habitat restoration through riparian, stream channel, water quality, and hydrological considerations
- Monitor health of wild populations
- Other activities as listed in the CPW Activity Dictionary for the activity codes listed below

(CPW activity 1560, Inventory Native Terrestrial Species; activity 1638, Species Conservation Planning and Coordination; activity 1641, Reptile and Amphibian Conservation; activity 1642, Mollusks and Crustaceans Conservation; activity 1643, Boreal Toad Conservation; activity 1644, Eastern Plains Fish Recovery; activity 1645, Colorado River Native Species Conservation;

activity 1646, Arkansas River Native Species Conservation; activity 1647, South Platte River Species Conservation; Activity 1648, Rio Grande River Species Conservation; activity 1649, Republican River Species Conservation; activity 1650, Black-tailed Prairie Dog; activity 1651, Gunnison Prairie Dog; activity 1652, White-tailed Prairie Dog; activity 1656, Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse; activity 1657, Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse; activity 1658, Lesser Prairie Chicken; activity 1663, Terrestrial SSC/SAR Conservation; activity 1664, Wolverine Conservation; activity 1665, Mountain Plover Conservation; activity 1666, River Otter Conservation; activity 1680, Bird Conservation; activity 1686, Small Mammal Conservation)

**Propagation of Aquatic Species at Risk**

FY 2019-20 Total Projected Budget: \$1,494,470  
 FY 2019-20 GOCO Funding Request: \$ 575,000

Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	26,671
Other	155,266
Perm PS	713,110
Perm PS - Benefits	292,496
Supplies	171,530
Temp PS	111,115
Temp PS - Benefits	24,282
Travel	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,494,470</b>

**Description and Objectives:**

The prime purpose of the Native Aquatic Species Propagation Program is to collect eggs, produce and rear progeny, and stock a wide array of native aquatic species every year. These efforts are crucial to allow CPW to maintain and enhance existing species populations, reintroduce them in new areas where suitable habitat exists, prevent listings under the ESA, and meet recovery goal objectives.

**Primary Activities:**

- Obtain genetically appropriate brood stocks
- Captive rearing to obtain viable numbers for population re-establishment
- Stock species into suitable habitats to re-establish viable, sustainable wild populations
- Operation and maintenance of Native Aquatic Species Rearing Facility

(CPW activity 1570, Produce and Distribute Native Aquatic Species of Special Concern)



### *Wildlife: Wildlife Education and Environment*

The wildlife education and environment grants support outreach to Colorado citizens to educate, expand volunteer members, and promote natural resource stewardship. These programs are supported through these strategic goals and objectives:

#### Great Outdoors Colorado 2015 Strategic Plan:

- Connect people to the outdoors, and connect trails, parks, and open space.
- Inspire Coloradans to get outside and take care of our great outdoors.

#### Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2015 Strategic Plan:

- Goal I: Conserve wildlife and habitat to ensure healthy sustainable populations and ecosystems.
  - Objective A: Manage sustainable populations of game and nongame species to support fishing, hunting, trapping, and wildlife viewing opportunities.
- Goal VI: Connect people to Colorado's outdoors.
  - Objective A: Broaden the access and variety of recreation opportunities available to Coloradans and visitors.
  - Objective B: Provide facilities, infrastructure, and access to support opportunities for premier outdoor recreation opportunities.
  - Objective D: Promote the value of CPW's mission services to expand awareness, grow CPW's volunteer network, and inspire stewardship.
  - Objective E: Become familiar with the needs, interests, and expectations of residents and visitors who are new to outdoor recreation.

Activities funded under the wildlife education and environment grants allow CPW to introduce children, youth, adults, and families to wildlife through fishing clinics, training educators in wildlife management concepts that can be used in classroom and field instruction, and providing opportunities for partners to connect their audiences to wildlife using CPW materials, equipment, and expertise. These activities build awareness and understanding of wildlife and wildlife management, helping to meet the long-term vision of creating future stewards of the land and wildlife.

<b>Wildlife Education and Environment</b>	<b>Great Outdoors Colorado Funding FY 2020-21</b>
Education and Volunteer Programs	\$400,183
Youth Programs	\$1,021,317
Angler Education	\$161,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,582,500</b>

## Education and Volunteer Programs

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget: \$ 453,861  
FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request: \$ 400,183

Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	0
Other	34,100
Perm PS	245,277
Perm PS - Benefits	97,910
Supplies	28,988
Temp PS	35,360
Temp PS - Benefits	7,726
Travel	4,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$453,861</b>

### Description and Objectives:

The statewide Volunteer Program supports the achievement of quality outdoor recreation experiences and resource stewardship for present and future generations. The program provides an organized, efficient, well-guided, and cost-effective approach to managing a wide range of volunteer efforts in CPW. Cooperation and partnership between the public and private sector are enhanced and promoted through volunteer engagement. The promotion and cultivation of volunteerism plays a major role in helping CPW meet its financial needs now and in the future. Engaging volunteers and providing them with the tools to volunteer effectively with CPW leadership support, ensures success.

The Volunteer Program now has a central repository for all volunteers that includes distinct parks and wildlife activities as well as statewide management by CPW staff.

In addition to volunteer activities, CPW operates a variety of services that provide the best available resources, training, and support to pre-K through college educators. With training from CPW, educators can reach many more students than CPW employees alone. Outcomes include a Colorado citizenry knowledgeable about wildlife, wildlife management, and outdoor recreation. This program invests in efforts that provide educators the knowledge and training so that in their classrooms they can create future stewards who will make informed decisions about wildlife and their environment. Funding supports efforts to work with partners to create wildlife education and professional development opportunities across the state.

## Primary Activities:

- Recruit and retain skilled volunteers for state park activities
- Analyze and coordinate volunteers to projects, based on location, skills of volunteers and complexity of the project
- Recognize volunteers for their participation and achievement, which may include awards (plaques and certificates) and recognition items (pins, hats, mugs, gift cards)
- Provide adequate equipment and materials needed to complete projects and perform camp host duties as required
- Train and orient volunteers for specific state park and outdoor recreational projects and needs
- Manage volunteers and volunteer crews
- Provide miscellaneous reimbursement for costs related to volunteer activities required to complete projects (e.g., parking and mileage reimbursement, postage and printing, office supplies, uniforms, etc.)
- Maintain databases of volunteers and projects and utilize this information to address regional and statewide needs
- Train CPW staff on volunteer program guidelines and policies
- Provide annual and group insurance coverage for volunteer events across the state
- Advise and educate CPW staff and volunteer leaders regarding overall volunteer management: recruiting, orientating, training, supervising, evaluating, and rewarding/recognizing the performance of volunteers, for the purposes of gaining and retaining a diversity of volunteers to meet the needs for state park projects
- Represent the Volunteer Program in communities and promote the program and its benefits to the general public, service groups, clubs, partnerships, and other agencies
- Identifying, creating, and modifying processes to quantify and tabulate the impact of volunteer contributions to state parks, and consistently apply these processes for reporting purposes
- Plan, design, implement, and evaluate trainings for CPW staff in areas of Volunteer Program planning and implementation
- Communicate and work with other nonprofit and governmental volunteer programs
- Develop, evaluate, and implement education standards and incorporate those standards into the education program
- Provide wildlife curriculum and training to educators to promote wildlife conservation messages in schools (Project WILD)
- Other activities as listed in the CPW Activity Dictionary for the activity codes listed below

(CPW activity 6130, Wildlife Education Evaluation; activity 6140, Educator Training and Support; activity 6260, Manage Volunteers H/F/W; and activity 6262, Manage Volunteers Combined)

## Youth Programs

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget: \$1,444,302

FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request: \$1,021,317

Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	1,000
Other	474,620
Perm PS	239,704
Perm PS - Benefits	85,328
Supplies	18,650
Temp PS	510,656
Temp PS - Benefits	112,344
Travel	2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,444,302</b>

### Description and Objectives:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is a strong proponent of providing outdoor education programs and opportunities for all ages. This proposal expands CPW's youth outreach programs by expanding and creating new opportunities that capture the attention of Colorado's youth. In addition to these components, CPW will continue supporting opportunities for Boy and Girl Scout groups, 4-H clubs, and school community service organizations. CPW is uniquely positioned to introduce Colorado's youth to the outdoors, expose them to potential natural resource careers, encourage more physical activity, and educate them about outdoor issues to foster environmental and natural resource stewardship.

Primary activities include:

- Make classroom and field trip presentations to students
- Maintain and provide library materials and resource education kits to teachers
- Respond to requests for specific wildlife education information
- Create and maintain an Internet home page about wildlife education
- Administer pre- and post-program surveys for reporting and program evaluation
- Develop cooperative agreements with schools and other entities
- Develop formal educational materials and activities for use at CPW's wildlife viewing sites
- Booths at community or organization events or trade shows
- Develop and organize outdoor skills days that focus on wildlife-related recreation
- Develop, implement, and manage survival clinics and general orienteering
- Provide experiential education to youth
- Other wildlife related activities for youth
- Contract and program management for youth corps
- Solicit, review, and select wildlife related work sites for youth corps

- Establish youth corps work standards
- Enhance/approve wildlife education curriculum for use by youth corps
- Evaluate program and recommend improvements for youth corps
- Coordinate work projects with cost center managers for youth corps
- Other activities as listed in the CPW Activity Dictionary for the activity codes listed below

#### **Colorado Youth Corps Association: \$203,817**

The Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) is a statewide coalition of ten accredited youth conservation corps. For more than a decade, CYCA crews across Colorado have worked with CPW on angler education clinics, fence removal or repair at state wildlife areas, non-native invasive weed control, riparian habitat improvement projects, and hatchery maintenance projects among others. CYCA work crews learn first-hand about wildlife and habitat stewardship while developing job skills and experience that help them in future employment. For the FY 2019-20 grant cycle, CPW intends to invest approximately \$200,000 towards CYCA. CYCA uses a percentage of this allocation to help defray administrative and overhead costs, including project management and reporting, technical training, evaluation and data tracking, site visits, and accounting and support services; in previous years this percentage has averaged approximately 12 percent.

#### **Youth Internship Program: \$550,000**

The purpose of the CPW Youth Internship Program is to prepare the next generation of natural resource professionals. This program is providing training and hands-on experience for youth interested in pursuing natural resource careers. CPW has assigned a Youth Internship Program Coordinator that is responsible to provide statewide coordination for extensive training for the interns and CPW staff, monitor and recommend placement of interns equitably throughout CPW, document activities and identify needs of the interns and CPW throughout the years. This program has the capacity to support approximately 55-80 interns throughout both purposes and solicit youth between the ages of 16-24.

Activities supported under this grant are specific to wildlife activities and include intern selection, direct supervision, training, intern wages, and oversight of interns. There may be instances when an intern assigned to wildlife activities has the opportunity to work with a parks program. These activities will still be funded within the wildlife purpose, as long as the activity is primarily for the benefit of the wildlife purpose.

#### **Primary Activities:**

- Day to day oversight of interns assigned to wildlife-related activities
- Provide and initiate training to enhance the knowledge and skills towards conserving, protecting, and promoting future stewardship of natural resources in wildlife-related activities
- Develop and coordinate projects for interns regarding wildlife-related activities

- Provide reimbursement for costs related to interns assigned to wildlife projects (e.g., parking and mileage reimbursement, postage and printing, office supplies, uniforms, etc.)
- Provide adequate equipment and materials needed to complete projects and duties as required
- Provide statewide training to enhance the knowledge and skills towards conserving, protecting, and promoting future stewardship of natural resources
- Provide reimbursement for costs related to the overall management of the CPW Internship Program (e.g., parking and mileage reimbursement, postage and printing, office supplies, etc.)
- Solicit and evaluate intern qualifications to build and retain interns for the CPW Youth Internship Program
- Identify, create, and modify processes to quantify and tabulate the impact of the internship program and apply these processes throughout the program
- Prepare reports that evaluate the progress of the internship program
- Plan, design, implement, and evaluate trainings for CPW staff regarding the process and execution of the internship program
- Other activities as listed in the CPW Activity Dictionary for the activity codes listed below

#### **Schools and Outdoor Learning Environments (SOLE): \$267,500**

The Schools and Outdoor Learning Environments (SOLE) is designed to increase youth interest and participation in the outdoors by supporting and enhancing existing environmental education programs in Colorado schools and creating a network of sites and facilities to use as outdoor classrooms. The program has grown exponentially since its inception in 2013. There are now approximately 50 schools across the state participating in SOLE.

#### **Primary Activities:**

- Coordinate and recruit schools for participation in the Schools in Outdoor Learning Environments program
- Establish and coordinate field trips options, in-class programs, and family nature night programs with SOLE participating schools and partners
- Coordinate and provide funding for transportation to field trip locations
- Provide funding to SOLE participating schools to promote and enhance outdoor learning classrooms
- Administer pre- and post-program surveys for reporting and program evaluation of the SOLE program

(CPW activity 6120, Schools Outdoor Learning Environments; activity 6131, Support Education Programs in Schools H/F/W; activity 6134, Youth Education and Outreach H/F/W; activity 6220, Encourage Natural Resource Careers H/F/W; and activity 6222, Encourage Natural Resource Careers Combined)

## Angler Education

FY 2020-21 Total Projected Budget:           \$ 352,746  
FY 2020-21 GOCO Funding Request:         \$ 161,000

Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	0
Other	0
Perm PS	152,037
Perm PS - Benefits	62,472
Supplies	120,496
Temp PS	14,560
Temp PS - Benefits	3,181
Travel	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$352,746</b>

### Description and Objectives:

CPW's Angler Education Program reaches 35,000 participants in 250 fishing clinics statewide. This program continues to promote fishery resource conservation and resource stewardship by providing volunteer and educational opportunities. A secondary goal is to have participants leave the clinic with a positive image of CPW and its mission. In addition, this program works to develop and enhance partnerships with local angling groups, park and recreation departments, and other community organizations.

### Primary Activities:

- Assess demand for clinics
- Recruit and train instructors (paid and volunteer)
- Develop and maintain partnerships with government, business, and community groups
- Evaluate and obtain appropriate instructional materials
- Develop and print new angler education materials
- Work with manufacturers to obtain fishing equipment for distribution to clinic participants
- Conduct clinics for both youth and adults

(CPW activity 6420, Angler Education)

### *Wildlife: Wildlife Viewing*

A 2008 study by BBC Research and Consulting for CPW estimated that wildlife viewing activities in Colorado generate more than \$1.2 billion in direct and secondary economic benefits, supporting more than 12,500 jobs. This program continues to identify, develop, and help establish wildlife viewing opportunities on public lands, including CPW properties and state parks; develop and establish wildlife viewing opportunities in cooperation with landowners on private lands; and prepare and distribute informational materials on wildlife viewing techniques and opportunities.

#### Great Outdoors Colorado 2015 Strategic Plan:

- Connect people to the outdoors, and connect trails, parks, and open space.
- Inspire Coloradans to get outside and take care of our great outdoors.

#### Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2015 Strategic Plan:

- Goal I: Conserve wildlife and habitat to ensure healthy sustainable populations and ecosystems.
  - Objective A: Manage sustainable populations of game and nongame species to support fishing, hunting, trapping, and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Activities funded under the wildlife viewing grant allow CPW to produce and provide information to the general public on how to safely and non-intrusively view wildlife in their natural setting. The grant also supports wildlife viewing and educational activities.

Wildlife Viewing	Great Outdoors Colorado Funding FY 2020-21
Wildlife Viewing Program	\$150,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>



## Wildlife Viewing

FY 2019-20 Total Projected Budget: \$150,000  
FY 2019-20 GOCO Funding Request: \$150,000

Categorized Budget:

Expense Category	Projected Budget
Contractual	\$0
Equipment	0
Other	53,400
Perm PS	60,983
Perm PS - Benefits	20,717
Supplies	12,900
Temp PS	0
Temp PS - Benefits	0
Travel	2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>

### Description and Objectives:

The Wildlife Viewing grant supports activities to establish new wildlife viewing and education opportunities – such as the increasingly popular wildlife festivals – and work with partners to develop and improve existing viewing resources. Currently, these documents are available on the CPW website, at CPW Park Offices, and at Welcome Centers.

### Primary Activities:

- Review and update database of statewide wildlife viewing opportunities
- Prioritize these opportunities for future development
- Develop cooperative projects with local, state, and federal agencies
- Identify opportunities to develop wildlife viewing sites
- Design and construct wildlife viewing sites
- Publicize wildlife viewing opportunities on CPW properties
- Plan future projects
- Partner with federal, state, and private organizations to support activities that promote wildlife viewing opportunities throughout the state
- Develop information and interpretive materials to support wildlife viewing festivals around the state
- Develop brochures, guides, lists, newsletters/website articles, interpretive signs, highway signs, boardwalks, wildlife viewing stations, and other information that enhance wildlife viewing experience
- Promote and manage the Colorado Birding Trail
- Research to gain better understanding of viewer recreation typologies

- Research to gain an understanding of the impacts of wildlife feeding activities on both wildlife and people, and the success of various approaches to influencing behavior
- Research viewer impacts on resources including evaluation of resources before and after the development of recreation facilities
- Provide training by CPW personnel at professional organization meetings and specially designed workshops
- Initiate studies to determine how well specific projects and products meet CPW goals
- Develop annual and 5-year statewide watchable wildlife recreation plans
- Implement pilot projects to incorporate and evaluate results of research and assessments
- Pursue alternative funding for watchable projects
- Evaluate the efficacy of CPW efforts

(CPW activity 5110, Watchable Wildlife with Partners; activity 5210, Watchable Wildlife on CPW Lands; activity 5260, Watchable Wildlife Interpretive Programs; and activity 5310, Watchable Wildlife Evaluation and Research)