



# Colorado State Parks Board

Thursday, February 9th  
 Board Work Session: 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
 Division of Wildlife  
 Buckhorn Room  
 6060 Broadway Avenue  
 Denver, Colorado

Friday, February 10th  
 Board Meeting: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM  
 Eldorado Canyon State Park  
 Visitor's Center  
 Eldorado Springs, Colorado

## THURSDAY, February 9th

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

### BOARD WORK SESSION

- Colorado State Parks Leadership Team Update
- Budget Update
- Legislative Session Tracking Process
- Partnerships in Recreation and Tourism
- Personnel Update
- Field Operations - Water Update
- Review Draft Regulations
- Board Reports
- Upcoming Events
- Lyle Laverty
- Elling Myklebust
- Gary Thorson
- Gary Thorson
- Larry Kramer
- Larry Kramer
- Richard Storm

## Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>

### PARKS BOARD MEETING

9:00 AM

- (A) – Agenda Amendments, if necessary
- (A) – Approval of December, 2005 Parks Board Mtg Minutes

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

9:15 AM

### CONSENT AGENDA:

- (A) – Golden Gate State Park – Acceptance of Donation
- (A) – Pearl Lake State Park – Land Acquisition
- (A) – Navajo Lake State Park – Land Acquisition

- Larry Kramer

10:00 AM

### ADJOURN

10:00 AM

### TOUR ~ ELDORADO CANYON STATE PARK

- David Giger
- Kristi Quintana
- Joe Brand

(A) = Action Items (I) = Information Items

\*\* APPROVAL OF "ITEMS REFERRED FOR DIRECTOR'S ACTION" BY THE PARKS BOARD IS BASED ON WRITTEN MATERIAL. NO DISCUSSION WILL OCCUR UNLESS THERE ARE QUESTIONS FROM THE PARKS BOARD OR FROM THE PUBLIC.

\*\* PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEMS IS WELCOME. PLEASE SIGN UP ON SPEAKER SIGN-UP SHEET UPON ENTERING THE PARKS BOARD MEETING ROOM.

NOTE: ALL PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE COLORADO BOARD OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION ARE OPERATED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. IF YOU NEED A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION AS A RESULT OF A DISABILITY, PLEASE CALL LINDA FOSTER AT (303) 866-2884. TO ASSURE THAT WE CAN MEET YOUR NEEDS, PLEASE NOTIFY US OF YOUR REQUEST AT LEAST SEVEN BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED EVENT.

**COLORADO DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION**

Golden Gate SP - Donation  
TOPIC

Dan Weber  
PREPARED BY

December 27, 2005  
DATE

<u>X</u>	<b>ACTION</b>	<u>    </u>	<b>INFORMATION</b>	<u>    </u>	<b>DRAFT</b>	<u>    </u>	<b>FINAL</b>
	<b>ITEM</b>		<b>ITEM</b>		<b>COPY</b>	<u>X</u>	<b>COPY</b>

- (I.) **PURPOSE:** To seek Board approval for a \$10,000.00 cash donation from Mr. Bruce Clinton.
- (II.) **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The Mr. Bruce Clinton has been a neighbor, benefactor and friend of Golden Gate Canyon State Park since the early 1980's. He has long been interested in helping park management meet certain goals that could not be achieved without his financial help. For more than ten years Mr. Clinton has made donations to Golden Gate Canyon State Park. Examples include materials for four (4) backcountry Appalachian style shelters, an ATV and matching funds (\$5,000.00) for a State Historical Society grant.
- (III.) **DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY:** In 2003, Mr. Clinton offered a 2 for 1 matching donation, not to exceed \$30,000.00, in order for the park to purchase a new wildland fire truck. State Parks recently made this purchase and now has the truck at Golden Gate. When the fire truck arrived Mr. Clinton realized that additional equipment, such as hoses, nozzles and radios, was needed to make it fully operational. He challenged State Park Director Lyle Laverty to match him 1 for 1 to purchase the additional equipment. This \$10,000.00 donation represents his monetary challenge.
- (IV.) **DIVISION RECOMMENDATION:** The Director has found this donation to be necessary, suitable or proper for parks and outdoor recreation purposes. Staff recommends the Board give authorization to the Director to accept the \$10,000,00 donation from Mr. Clinton.
- (V.) **SUGGESTED MOTION:** I move that the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation authorize the State Parks Director to accept the \$10,000.00 donation from Mr. Clinton.

Lyle Laverty  
Approved for Submittal By

February 1, 2006  
Date

COLORADO DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

Pearl Lake SP Acquisition  
TOPIC

Greg Monroe  
PREPARED BY

January 16, 2006  
DATE

<u>X</u>	ACTION	___	INFORMATION	___	DRAFT	___	FINAL
	ITEM		ITEM		COPY	<u>X</u>	COPY

(I.) **PURPOSE:** To request Board approval for purchasing the Emery property at Pearl Lake State Park.

(II.) **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The Emery property consists of 37.53 acres of gently rolling forest land adjoining the west side of Pearl Lake SP. This parcel was subdivided from surrounding private lands for a residential homesite. The property is vacant land, without buildings. The main park entrance road (a county road) crosses the property at the north end of the parcel, and the park fee pay station is located on the shoulder of this road. Our well and pump house serving the campground is also located on the eastern edge of the Emery property. The dam access road (east side of lake) meanders onto the property in a couple of spots.

Our appraisal indicated a market value of \$465,000 for the property. The owner has agreed to sell us the property at appraised value.

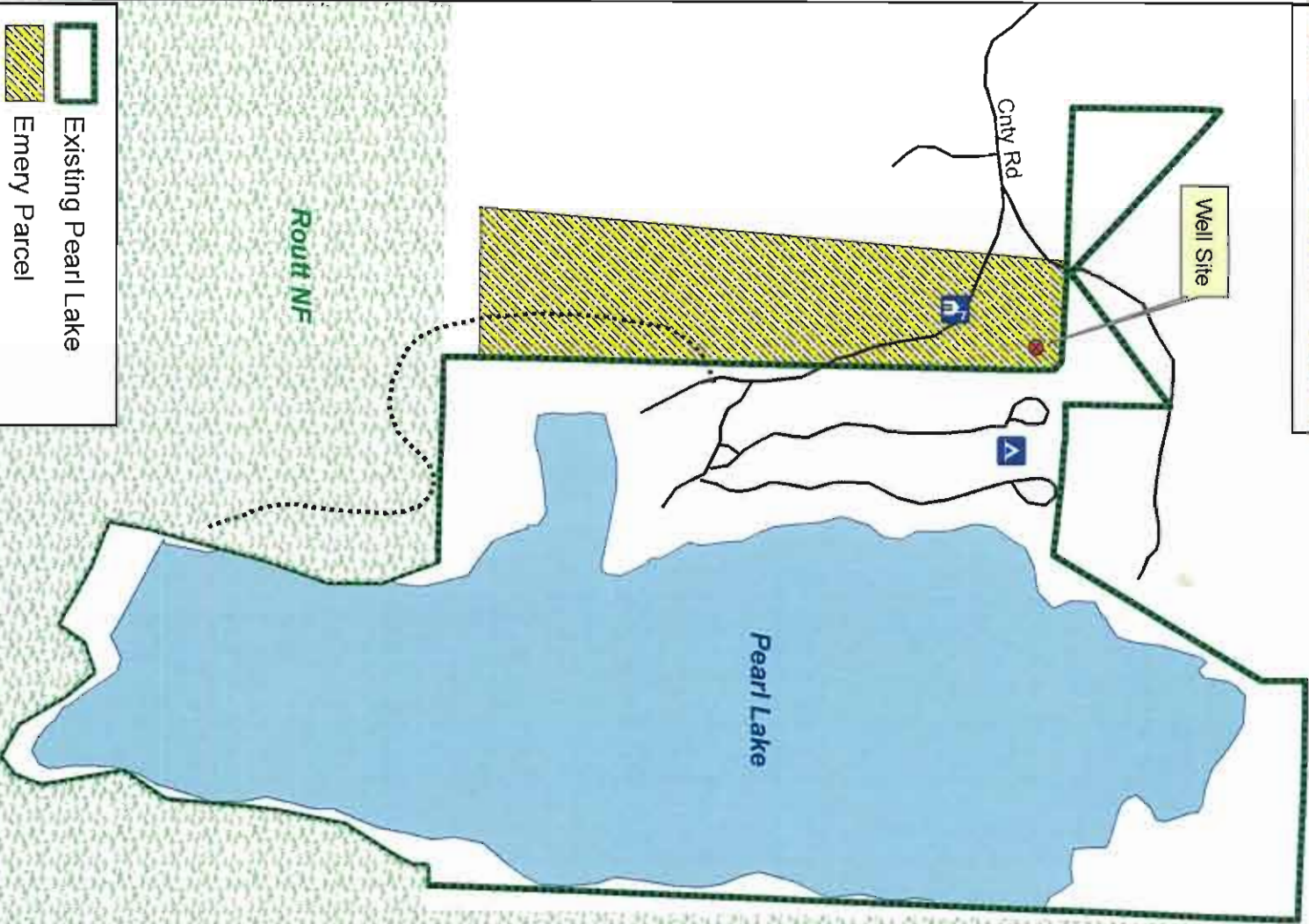
(III.) **DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY:** The Emery property is a valuable buffer parcel to the park, being only several hundred yards from the lake itself. The land would primarily be maintained as open space, as this would be a condition of the GOCO Open Space Grant Agreement we are applying for to help fund this purchase. If we are awarded the GOCO grant, this would reduce the net cost by 50-65%, requiring only about \$165,000-230,000 from our land acquisition budget (lottery funds).






(IV.) **DIVISION RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends the Board authorize the Director to negotiate and consummate the purchase of the Emery property at Pearl Lake SP. The Director has found this acquisition of land to be necessary, suitable or proper for parks and outdoor recreation purposes.

(V.) **SUGGESTED MOTION:** I move that the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation authorize the State Parks Director to negotiate and consummate the purchase of the Emery property at Pearl Lake SP, as described in this Action Item.

*Cyke Lowrey*  
Approved for Submittal By

February 1, 2006  
Date



-  Existing Pearl Lake
-  Emery Parcel
-  Existing Easement Road
-  Routt NF
-  Roads



**COLORADO DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION**

Navajo Lake SP Acquisition  
**TOPIC**

Greg Monroe  
**PREPARED BY**

January 16, 2006  
**DATE**

<u>X</u>	<b>ACTION</b>	___	<b>INFORMATION</b>	___	<b>DRAFT</b>	___	<b>FINAL</b>
	<b>ITEM</b>		<b>ITEM</b>		<b>COPY</b>	<u>X</u>	<b>COPY</b>

(I.) **PURPOSE:** To request Board approval for purchasing the Candelaria property at Navajo Lake State Park.

(II.) **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The Candelaria property consists of 41.73 acres of level to gently sloping hay meadow, together with a permanently affixed double wide mobile home and minor outbuildings. The land is irrigated with 41 shares of Pine River Irrigation District water, which will also be conveyed. The property is located north of the marina bordering the main park road.

Our appraisal indicated a market value of \$530,300 for the property, including the land, 41 shares of water, mobile home (with well and septic) and outbuildings. The owner has agreed to sell us the property at appraised value.

The property is under lease to an oil & gas company, Energen, (for natural gas reserves) and the property owner desires to retain the (oil & gas only) mineral rights. No exploration or well(s) have been drilled as yet, however Energen is investigating using directional drilling off-site to pump the natural gas. If directional drilling proves infeasible, Energen has the right to drill a well on the property. In that case, we would negotiate with Energen on well siting and facilities in an area for minimum visual, noise and other aesthetic considerations. The wellsite would be about 1½ acres in size.

(III.) **DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY:** The Candelaria property is a valuable buffer parcel to the park, with its proximity to the marina, campground, park road and other facilities. Historically, the ditch water shares have been used in flood irrigation of the meadow hay land, with the waste (tail) water flowing under the park road into ponds located on the park. Securing the water shares will enable the ponds to remain full. The property is ideally situated for expansion of dry boat storage/parking, and potentially could be developed with rental cabins. Leasing of the hay field to a local farmer/rancher is a possibility on a short term basis to generate revenue, alleviate the necessity of weed control measures/costs, and to provide continued agricultural use and management.

(IV.) **DIVISION RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends the Board authorize the Director to negotiate and consummate the purchase of the Candelaria property at Navajo Lake SP. The Director has found this acquisition of land to be necessary, suitable or proper for parks and outdoor recreation purposes.

(V.) **SUGGESTED MOTION:** I move that the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation authorize the State Parks Director to negotiate and consummate the purchase of the Candelaria property at Navajo Lake SP, as described in this Action Item.

Gabe Lovarty  
 Approved for Submittal By

February 1, 2006  
 Date



Cnty Rd 982

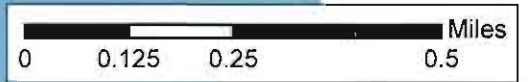


 Existing Park Boundary

 Candelaria Parcel

 Roads

 State Border



# Colorado State Parks

## **Financial Overview**

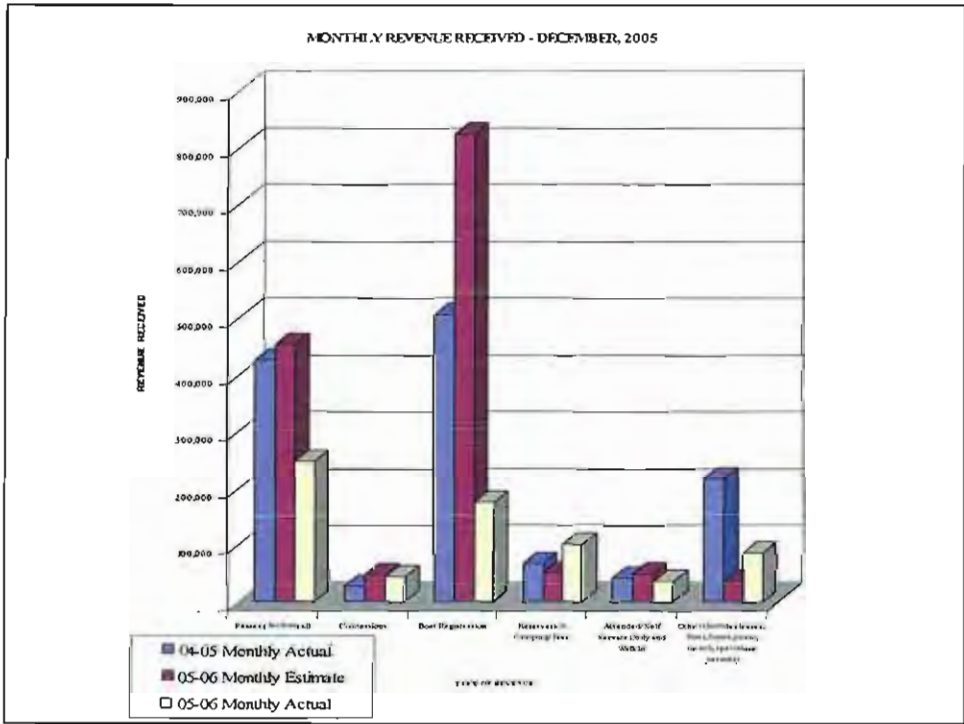
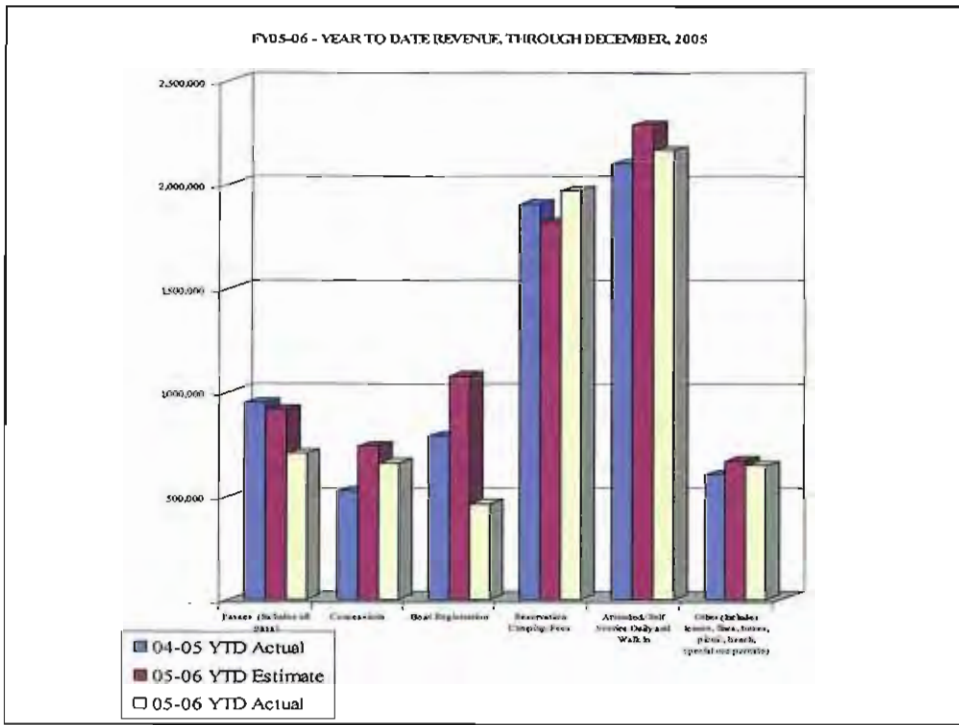
FY 05-06 - Through December 2005

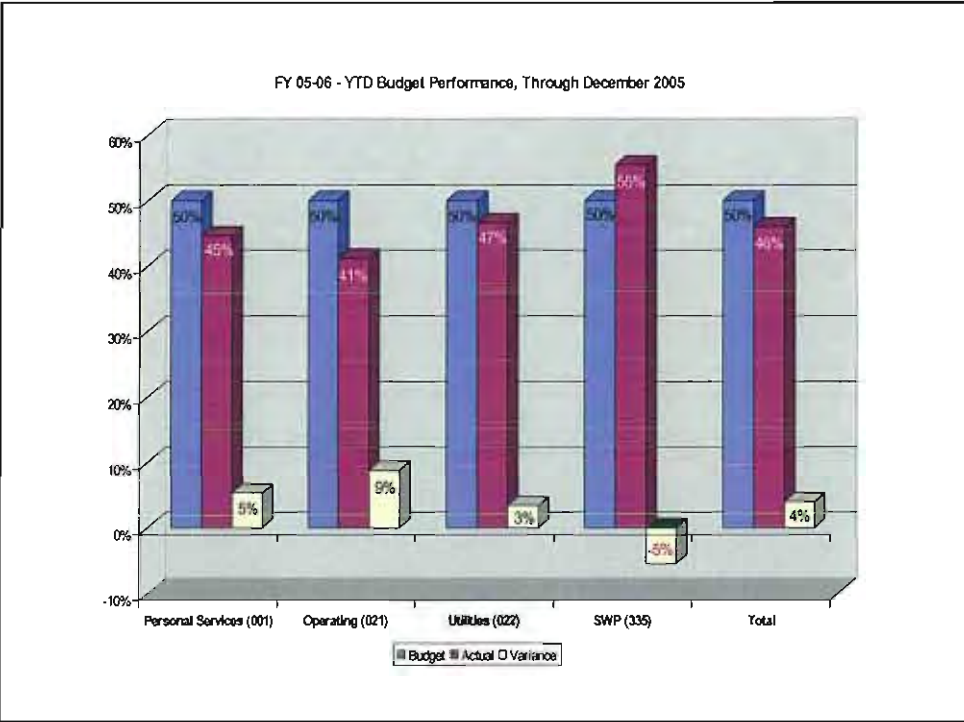
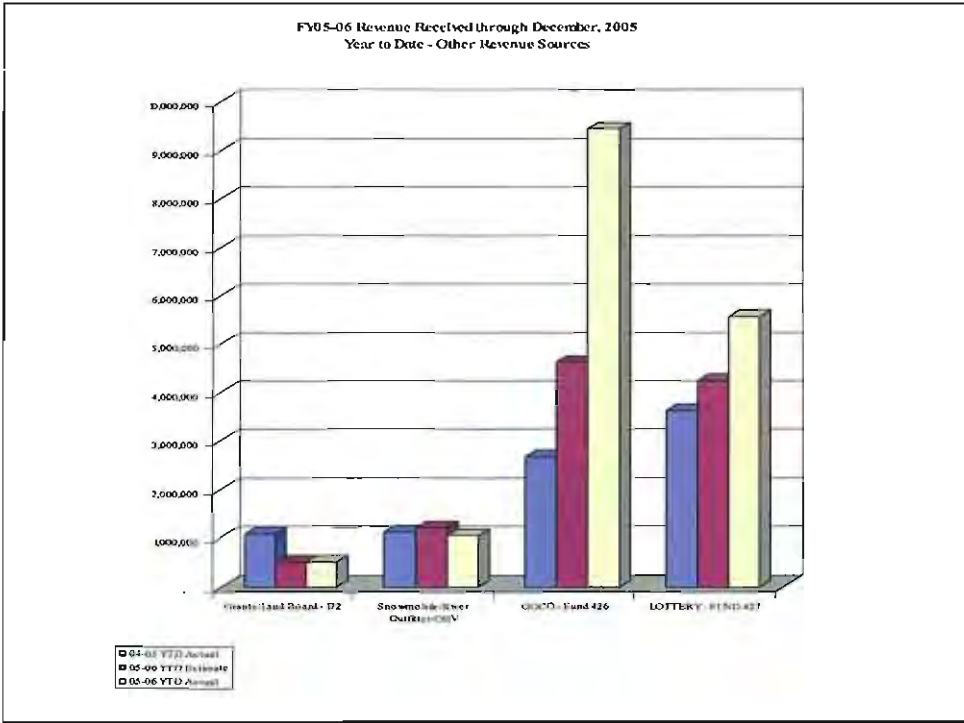


# Colorado State Parks

## **Financial Overview**

- Revenue
- Budget
- Budget Supplementals
- Forecasting
- Financial Services Reorganization
- Zero Base Budget Initiative





# Colorado State Parks

## Financial Overview

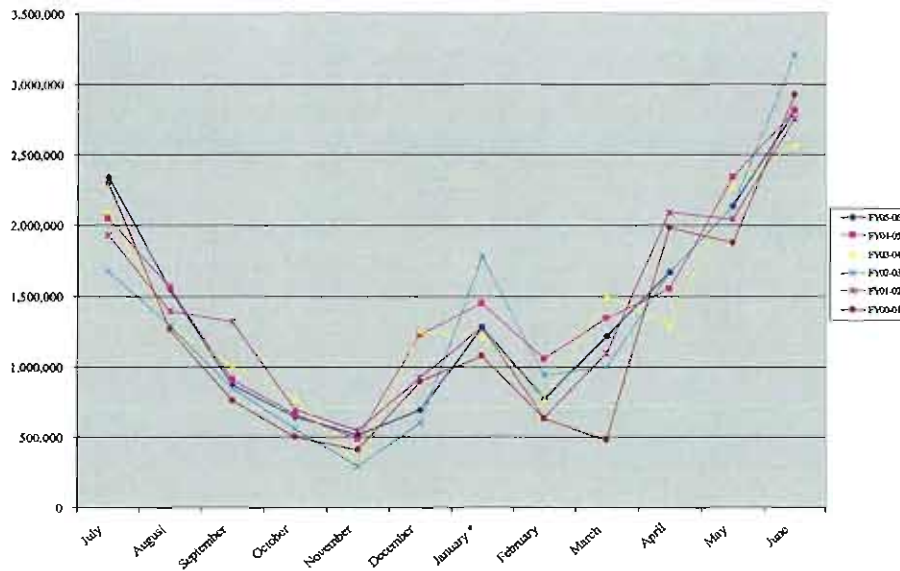
### Budget Supplementals

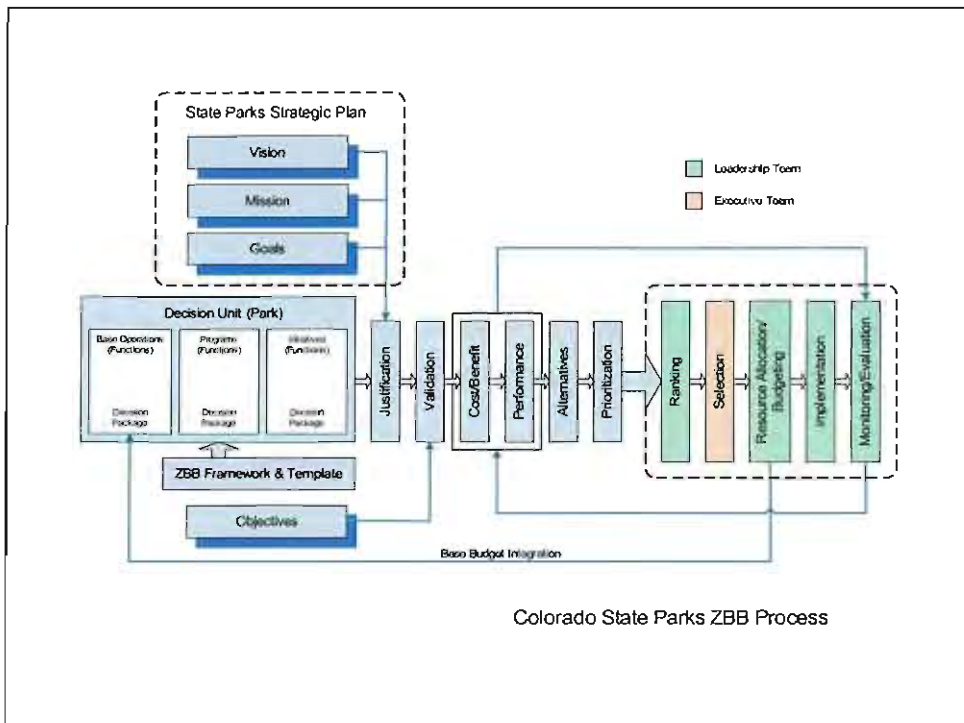
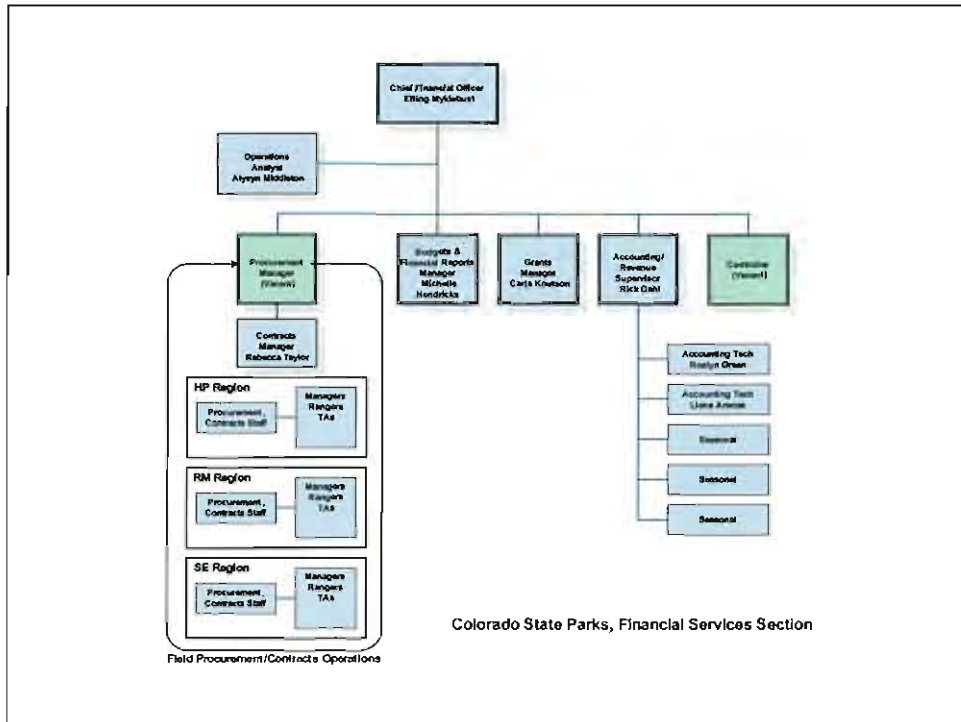
	GF	CF
Utility Request		\$204,748
Vehicle Fuel Supplemental**	\$2,217	\$16,167
River Outfitters		\$191

\*\* DNR charges fixed vehicle fleet expenses to its Vehicle Lease Payments line, however, variable vehicle costs are paid out of the various line items for each Division. The supplemental request was to help offset the higher fuel costs relating to the fleet vehicles.

Legal - Denied; will reconsider next session.

**Total Cash Revenue Received FY00 through FY06**  
(Median Analysis excluding March FY00-01)







STATE OF COLORADO  
**DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## **Progress Report on the Monte Vista Hatchery February 2006**

Accomplishments in 2005: The facility produced and distributed over 65,000 catchable size 10" trout, 119,500 sub-catchables and reared for transfer to our Spicer site 92,000 fingerlings, to be reared for catchable distribution in the surrounding area.

Over the last year, working with our Engineering Section we have developed a long term management plan designed to bring production up to optimum levels. Capital construction projects include replacement of **two shallow wells in 2006** that were identified as needing replacement at the time the facility was purchased. In **2007** we have plans to **re-build the water distribution and mixing pipelines** that will allow for better utilization of water from the deep and shallow well sources. Presently it is difficult to get all the water from the hatchery and nurse basins to the rearing ponds and to address this we plan to install a more effective and **permanent recirculation system**. Eventually we hope to construct a small office with visitor restroom facilities. The unit is open to the public.

We continue to coordinate the development of the annual fish distribution schedule for State Parks and have **copies of the 2006 schedule for you**.

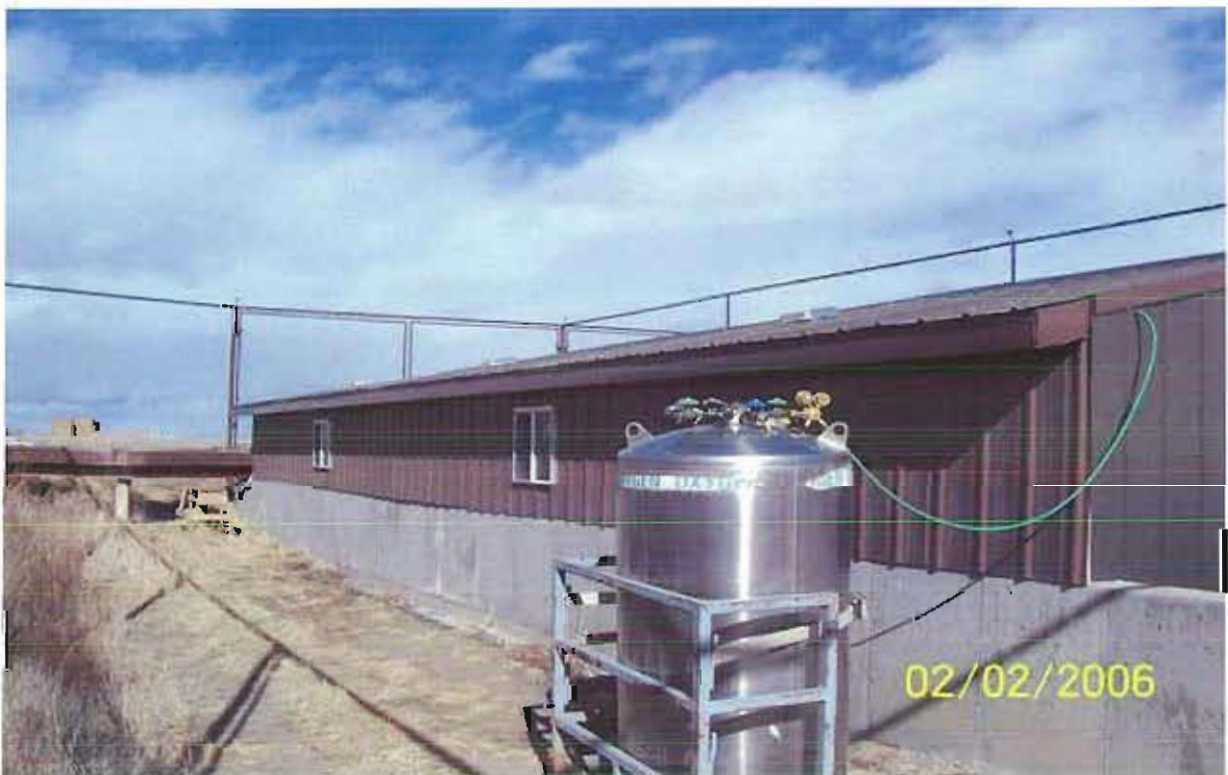
Included in this Progress report are new photo's and below is a comparison of production between the first and second year of operation.

	<b>Number of Fish</b>	<b>Pounds</b>	<b>Catchable 10"</b>	<b>Transfer</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>331,814</b>	<b>4,864</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>276,627</b>	<b>43,949</b>	<b>65,262</b>	<b>92,105</b>

**Small hatch house constructed in the winter 2004-05 to hatch eggs.**



**Improvements in 2005: siding, roof vents and liquid oxygen added to increase production.**







CDO - Aquatic Section  
Fish Stocking Schedule Summary  
CY 2006

2/2/2006

STATEWIDE:

COLDWATER - CATCHABLES	3,733,961
COLDWATER - SUB-CATCHABLES	15,178,991
WARMWATER FINGERLINGS	54,966,514
NON-GAME FISH & AMPHIBIAN	126,700
<u>TOTAL STATEWIDE 2006 STOCKING SCHEDULE</u>	<u>74,006,166</u>

STATE PARKS WATERS:

COLDWATER - CATCHABLES	834,200
COLDWATER - SUB-CATCHABLES	2,933,150
WARMWATER FINGERLINGS	32,974,000
NON-GAME FISH & AMPHIBIAN	1,500
<u>TOTAL 2006 STOCKING SCHEDULE FOR STATE PARKS WATERS</u>	<u>36,742,850</u>

22% (OH)  
19% (SC)  
60% (WW)



# Colorado Front Range Trail Project

Quarterly Newsletter  
January 2006



## In This Issue

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## Letter from the Director

Dear Friends of the Colorado Front Range Trail,

In 2003, Colorado State Parks embarked on an unprecedented project to develop a spine trail corridor from New Mexico to Wyoming along the Front Range of Colorado linking communities, points of interest, parks, and other recreation attractions. This ambitious effort resulted in the vision of The Colorado Front Range Trail, a unique legacy which will enrich Colorado's tourism and recreation resources, as well as our heritage and health.

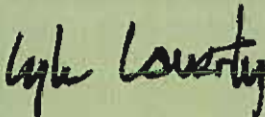
Colorado State Parks is thrilled to be working with over 500 stakeholders including local communities, state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, recreation retailers, and the tourism community to continue the collaborative efforts necessary to complete this exciting project. Building on the initial momentum which began in 2003, we have reconvened the stakeholders to form the Colorado Front Range Development Council to assist with the implementation phase.

After a productive first meeting in December 2005, we look forward to continued progress in 2006. With recommendations from the Development Council and insight from the Steering Committee, we will publish the *CFRT Implementation Plan* and continue ambitious planning and construction projects. Implementation will involve fostering symbiotic partnerships, as well as crafting creative marketing and financial strategies.

As we move forward, we should recognize we are not only building over 850 miles of trail, we are investing in the health, recreation opportunities, and quality of life of current and future Coloradans.

Thank you for your efforts and support!

Sincerely,



Lyle Laverty  
Director, State Parks



“...we should recognize we are not only building over 850 miles of trail, we are investing in the health, recreation opportunities, and quality of life of current and future Coloradans.”





## Kickoff Meeting Update

The Colorado State Parks' *Colorado Front Range Trail (CFRT) Implementation Plan* Project was kicked-off on December 12th, 2005 at the REI Denver Flagship store. The meeting was a great success, with an impressive 125 attendees participating. These attendees represented a wide variety of organizations and agencies, from nearly 70 local jurisdictions, state and federal agencies, heritage and tourism organizations, recreation user groups, nonprofits, and volunteer and service organizations. Attendees, as well as stakeholders invited to the meeting, will comprise the CFRT Development Council, which was formally established and presented to the group in the CFRT Charter Agreement.

Attendees were welcomed and introduced to the project by Colorado State Parks Director, Lyle Laverty, and State Parks Board Member, Tom Glass. Laverty called the project "vital to Colorado's recreation and tourism economy, as well as our heritage and health," and Glass emphasized the project as a high priority for the State Parks Board. The agenda then covered the progress of

the project to date, which includes 286.5 total miles of trail completed (34%), 256.4 total miles planned (30%), and 310.5 total miles envisioned (36%). In addition, this also includes participation by 70 local jurisdictions and the involvement of approximately 500 stakeholders. Attendees were also given a brief overview of the project tasks that will be undertaken to produce marketing, financial, and prioritized development strategies that will ultimately contribute to the final *Colorado Front Range Trail Implementation Plan*.

Participants of the meeting contributed to State Parks planning efforts by partaking in small breakout groups to identify missing stakeholders, nominate Steering Committee members, develop trail prioritization criteria, review the current trail alignment maps, and identify opportunities to complete trail segments. Attendees also worked to pinpoint targets for marketing, effective marketing strategies, current marketing partnerships, and potential collaborations.

*continued on page 4* 

## Kickoff Meeting Update *(continued from page 3)*

The meeting concluded with the announcement of the Steering Committee members, with members representing the North Section including; Mark Heidt (City of Brighton), Mark Pedrucci (Adams County Parks and Recreation), Karen Scopel (City of Greeley/Poudre River Trail), and Dan Wolford (City of Longmont). The Middle Section of the trail will be represented by Dick Gannon (Denver Parks and Recreation), Tom Hoby (Highlands Ranch Metro District), Laurie DiNatale (North American

Trail Ride Conference), and Steven Meier (City of Pueblo Dept. of Planning and Development). The South Section will be represented by Mary Holton (City of Trinidad), Dan Cleveland (Trails and Open Space Coalition), and Michele Hanley (Legends and Legacies Youth Corps). Lastly, attendees were thanked for their participation and asked to mark their calendars for the next meeting, which will be held on February 28th in Colorado Springs.



Volunteers helping to complete the Front Range Trail in Weld County and the Tri-city area.

*Photo courtesy of Weld County Youth Conservation Corps (WCYCC)*

## In the "Trail-Light"

### **Southern CFRT Master Plan Moves Forward**

Thomas & Thomas, Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture, Inc. (Colorado Springs, CO) is working with the South Central Council of Governments (SCCOG) and Colorado State Parks on the Master Plan for the southern section of the 850 mile long multi-use Colorado Front Range Trail.

The southern portion of the trail, from south of Pueblo to Trinidad, will provide a wide diversity of experiences as it passes through mountains, foothills and plains environments. Much of the area is rural with an expansive natural landscape and many culturally unique small towns. There are exceptional historic resources throughout the corridor. Trails will ultimately pass through many rural communities, the San Isabel National Forest, Lake Pueblo, Lathrop and Trinidad State Parks, scenic ranchlands, and unique mountain resorts.

Preliminary alignment alternatives are currently being reviewed by the SCCOG and Colorado State Parks in preparation for presentation to project partners, stakeholders, and other interested parties for comment. The final Master Plan should be completed by spring of 2006.

For more information on the southern section of the Colorado Front Range Trail, please e-mail Marty Novak-Haynes at [mnovak@ttplan.net](mailto:mnovak@ttplan.net) or visit the Thomas & Thomas website at [www.ttplan.net](http://www.ttplan.net).

### **52-85 Trails Project: Successful Collaboration**

The 52-85 Trail Project is a collaborative effort by a group of representatives from Firestone, Frederick, Dacono, Fort Lupton, and Brighton

to create a plan for the development and implementation of the Colorado Front Range Trail through their communities. The project is named for highways 52 and 85 which intersect in the area, and along which the trail will generally run.

The vision of 52-85 is to "offer a network of trails that is a vital and vibrant part of the Colorado Front Range Trail, providing opportunities for recreational, transportation, educational, and economic benefits for communities, residents and visitors alike." The group meets monthly and is working to gain the input of landowners, community members, trail users, and others to establish the exact alignment of the trail. In addition, the group is using input from these stakeholders to create a regional master plan for the trail that is supported by the public, local, state, and federal government. The plan will focus on creating a trail that is both feasible and sustainable, that also incorporates unique scenic, cultural, natural, and historical resources in a sensitive way.

The group is looking for support from landowners, cities, counties, and philanthropic and volunteer organizations. Although the 52-85 Trail Project is well organized, they are facing challenges in working in unincorporated Weld County and finding funding for the trail. However, they are making strides by working with their communities, seeking out champions, and through creatively funding the trail through volunteer work and grant funding. The 52-85 Project is a wonderful example of the success that can result from collaborative efforts. Any questions regarding the project can be directed to A.J. Eukert, City of Dacono, 303.833.2317.



▲  
View of Spanish Peaks from Lathrop State Park

*Photograph courtesy of Thomas & Thomas*



▲  
Views along the trail in the town of Frederick

*Photographs courtesy of Civil Resources*





## Colorado Tourism Office Announces Heritage Tourism Pilot Project Initiative

In 2005, the Colorado Tourism Office launched the Heritage Tourism Program in partnership with the Colorado Historical Society. At the start of the program, the CTO commissioned a comprehensive market study of heritage travel in Colorado, began including heritage-based materials in the state's marketing efforts, and undertook a statewide heritage tourism strategic planning process. Now, a competitive grant program is underway to select up to four heritage tourism pilot projects with anticipated financial awards of \$55,000 per project (and maximum awards of \$75,000 possible.) The CTO is looking to catalyze heritage tourism efforts in Colorado through the pilot project initiative.

The projects will support broad regional undertakings, linking the regional efforts to state efforts, and building capacity for heritage tourism. The focus is on authentic heritage assets that are significant to local, state, national, or world history. Funding, which has been provided through a State Historical Fund grant from the Colorado Historical Society, will be used to support a

broad range of heritage tourism objectives—from planning to marketing. The request for proposal, including an application timeline, eligibility requirements, and additional resources, is posted on Colorado.com in the industry section: [www.colorado.com/static.php?file=industrypartners](http://www.colorado.com/static.php?file=industrypartners).

Colorado State Parks encourages the communities and managing agencies along the Front Range Trail to submit grant applications for planning and trail development projects. Those submitting applications should identify cultural, heritage, and historic sites along or near the trail (or proposed trail) and illustrate the improved access and increased tourism traffic that the trail would provide to these sites. For additional information about the Heritage Tourism Program and assistance with the development of grant proposals, please contact Karen Grannan at [kareng@greenplayllc.com](mailto:kareng@greenplayllc.com) or 303.439.8369.

## Mark Your Calendars

Next Colorado Front Range Trail Development Council Meeting:  
Topics- Prioritization Plan, Funding, Marketing, & Project Progress

Date - Feb. 28th, 2006

Time- 10am-2pm

Location- Colorado Springs

## Front Range Trail Signage

Colorado State Parks has allocated a one-time fund of \$10,000 for Front Range Trail signs, in order to promote the trail and assist managing agencies with costs. This funding will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis and priority for the signs will be given to completed trail segments and those in progress. Orders can be placed anytime, although State Parks will submit orders quarterly. Managing agencies are encouraged to submit their order forms as early as possible to take advantage of available funding.

Please contact:

Nancy Scalise

Metro Region Trail Coordinator, Colorado State Parks

Ph.: (303) 791-1957 ext. 128 Fax: (303) 470-0782

13787 S. Hwy 85, Littleton, CO 80125

nancy.scalise@state.co.us

## Project Staff Contact Information

Lori Malcolm, State Trails & LWCF Program Manager

303.791.1957 Ext. 131, lori.malcolm@state.co.us

Tom Easley, Project Manager

303.399.4686, tome@greenplayllc.com

Karen Grannan, Project Consultant

303.439.8369, kareng@greenplayllc.com

Wendy Newman, Project Consultant

303.284.3304, wendy.newman@yahoo.com





*Trails have multiple values and their benefits reach far beyond recreation. Trails can enrich the quality of life for individuals, make communities more livable, and protect, nurture, and showcase America's grandeur by traversing areas of natural beauty, distinctive geography, historic significance, and ecological diversity. Trails are important for the nation's health, economy, resource protection and education.*

-AMERICAN TRAILS, Trails for All Americans report, 1990

March 3, 2006

Honorable Wayne Allard  
United States Senator  
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Federal Appropriation Requests

Dear Senator Allard:

We would like to thank you for your leadership on issues important to the State of Colorado. Without your assistance, many of our efforts would not have come to fruition. It is our intention to continue to work toward similar goals for the state, which is why we are outlining for you in this letter our priority programs within the Department of Natural Resources, as well as federal partner funding requests for these programs. We appreciate your continued support of our endeavors.

**US Army Corps Cost Share for Cherry Creek, Chatfield and Trinidad Lake State Parks**  
As you are aware, the Army Corps of Engineers has provided funding over the past four fiscal years (including over \$2 million in FY 06) to continue cost sharing the badly needed renovation of recreation facilities at Cherry Creek, Chatfield and Trinidad Lake State Parks. In 2003, State Parks and the Corps signed long-term cooperative agreements for \$38 million in funding for construction at these three parks over a 10-year period. The State and the Corps will split the costs evenly.

This landmark agreement with the Corps is a tremendously effective use of state and federal resources. The agreements have enabled the State to quickly move forward on the initial planning and construction phase identified within the project's conceptual plan. To date, approximately \$13.8 million has been secured, half coming from Great Outdoors Colorado, Lottery, and Highway Users Trust Fund (HUTF) funds provided as the State's match.

To ensure that we can continue with a construction schedule to accomplish projects identified in the conceptual plan, regular, consistent, annual funding from the Corps must continue. To achieve the 10-year average cost share amount, the State requests assistance from our delegation to ensure that at least \$2 million (net) be provided to Colorado State Parks in the Corps' FY 2007 Operations and Management budget specifically for this cost share project.

The funding is requested to remain consistent with State of Colorado matching fund availability and to provide adequate funding to proceed with construction contracts and architecture and

engineering work that may be necessary. **\$2 million is the net amount required by Colorado State Parks** (the amount needed after potential Appropriations conference committee reductions, Corps of Engineers "savings and slippage" and other potential reductions to the federal appropriations level).

### **Landowner Incentive Program**

The Department of Natural Resources, the Division of Wildlife, and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) have combined resources in a major initiative to conserve and enhance habitat for threatened and endangered species on private land. The Colorado Species Conservation Partnership (CSCP) is a \$25 million, multi-year effort that provides landowners with technical and financial help for the protection and improvement of important wildlife habitat. The CSCP is a voluntary, non-regulatory approach to species recovery using conservation easements and management agreements to assure long-term habitat protection.

Colorado has successfully competed for nearly \$3.5 million in funding over the last three years provided through the Department of the Interior's Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). Using those funds, and matching funds provided by GOCO, the Division of Wildlife has selected 13 habitat protection projects covering nearly 40,000 acres of important wildlife habitat on private lands. A 4,600 acre easement acquired on the Ochs Ranch, for example, permanently protects critical habitat for the largest population of Gunnison sage grouse. Easements in southeast Colorado will assure long-term protection of 17,250 acres of shortgrass prairie habitat. The Division of Wildlife expects to close on six additional easements protecting nearly 8500 acres of Gunnison and Greater sage grouse habitat in the next few months.

In anticipation of a third round of CSCP funding, the Division of Wildlife will again compete for roughly \$900,000 of the \$24 million Congress appropriated for the Landowner Incentive Program in FY06. For efforts like CSCP to succeed, it is vital for Congress to continue funding for the Landowner Incentive Program. Colorado's program has been a leader in demonstrating both strong landowner interest in the program and the wildlife benefits it can produce.

***Congress should appropriate \$50 million to the Landowner Incentive Program for FY07.***

### **State Wildlife Grants**

Hunters and anglers have historically paid for the majority of Colorado's wildlife management through their license fees. In recent years, demands for a wide range of wildlife programs have placed increasing strain on the Division of Wildlife's revenues. New sources of financial support are needed to meet increased demands for wildlife programs, particularly non-game programs such as species recovery and wildlife education in schools.

For the last five years, Congress has provided important new financial support to state wildlife agencies through the State Wildlife Grant program, which distributes funds to the states on a formula basis. To date, Colorado has used the federal funds in more than 50 projects and programs, including improving habitat on open space and protected areas, expanding volunteer programs to protect important bird habitat, studying the distribution and populations of small mammals, and developing new techniques to monitor Gunnison sage grouse populations.

Projects supported through the State Wildlife Grant program help Colorado's efforts to stay ahead of potential listing of species under the Endangered Species Act.

In FY06, Congress approved approximately \$68 million for the State Wildlife Grant program, of which Colorado received \$1.25 million. *Reflecting even greater demands in the species conservation area, the national coalition of program supporters is asking Congress to increase State Wildlife Grant program funding to \$85 million.*

### **Beaver Brook Watershed**

The 1,430-acre Beaver Brook Watershed property in Clear Creek County, Colorado contains extensive wildlife habitat, a reservoir, and valuable open space. The property provides a final critical link in an important 20-mile long wildlife and open space corridor. Located just 30 minutes west of Denver and with easy access from I-70, this land will provide passive recreational opportunities for many Colorado citizens. Protection of the property is also important to maintain a critical water supply for approximately 500 families living in the area. Congressional appropriations so far have provided \$15.5 million of the \$21 million agreed-upon purchase price of the Beaver Brook Watershed. To date, approximately 4,300 acres have been acquired by the USFS, and approximately 1,400 acres remain to be purchased by the USFS. To prevent the remaining land from being sold to developers, the Mountain Area Land Trust has arranged for a loan from Great Outdoors Colorado to Clear Creek County to hold this land until appropriations are available to the USFS for the remaining 1,400 acres. This appropriation will complete the purchase by the USFS and provide funds to GOCO for other valuable projects.

*An appropriation of \$5,650,000 in fiscal 2007 is required for this purchase.*

### **USDA/ARS Water Management Research Initiative**

Colorado State University (CSU) Extension Service, the State of Colorado, and the Agricultural Research Division (ARD) have proposed conducting research near the Rocky Ford area, at the CSU Experiment Station. The local benefit would be the provision of data to support the proper determination of crop consumptive use in the Lower Arkansas. It is the belief of Colorado experts in crop consumptive use that the use of coefficients developed in Idaho and Texas overstate crop consumption of water. However, the U.S. Supreme Court had endorsed the Special Master 4<sup>th</sup> Report that directs Colorado to use the coefficients from Idaho and Texas until Colorado can show through approved research that local coefficients are more appropriate. This results in Colorado well owners having to provide for more water to offset well depletions to stateline flow than is really necessary. This amount of water is about 11,000 acre-feet per year. The cost to the owners to purchase this amount of water in the current market would be about \$55 million.

This research unit is the only federal research unit directed at solving dry land and irrigated water management problems in Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, and Wyoming. This funding will provide for a senior scientist to lead the research, two technicians to support operation of two large 2-meter by 3-meter weighing lysimeters being constructed with State of Colorado funds, the operation and maintenance of eight highly instrumented weather stations, operations of the research facility, and lease of land next to the Rocky Ford Experiment Station to support the

operation of one of the two weighing lysimeters. This project will be a cooperative project between the CSU Extension Service, the State of Colorado, and the ARS with multiple benefits to all parties.

### **Animas La Plata Project**

The completion of ALP is a key element in the implementation of the Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement and also important to the overall stability of water supplies in the San Juan basin. Project construction was initiated in 2002 and is now approximately 30% completed. The original construction schedule anticipated a 2008 completion date. The current construction schedule, based on continued funding at the present level, estimates a completion date in 2011. While we are most appreciative of the funding received to date, in order to return the project to a schedule closer to that originally contemplated; *we are recommending an appropriation of \$69 million for the forthcoming fiscal year.* The sooner the project can be completed, the less inflation and rising fuel and material costs impact the total project cost, thus keeping the price of water as low as possible for all project participants.

### **Platte River Recovery Implementation Program**

Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, and the Department of the Interior have been involved in developing the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program since the mid-1990s. The Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service will be issuing a Final Environmental Impact Statement, Biological Opinion, and Record of Decision within the next few months. The three states and the federal government are expected to sign the Program Agreement later this year. The Program is a thirteen year program for the first increment and it involves the purchase of 10,000 acres of habitat, 130,000-150,000 acre-feet of water annually, on average, towards target flows, and an adaptive management program that will conduct research and monitor the species. The financial obligations of the program are split 50% for the federal government and 50% for the states. The federal obligation will be \$157 in 2006 dollars. *Colorado will be seeking authorization from legislation this year, as well as an appropriation of \$3,447,000 that is currently included in the Department of Interior's 2007 fiscal year budget.* This request is extraordinarily important to Colorado and its water providers, as it provides regulatory certainty, provides a cost-effective method to assure compliance with the Endangered Species Act, and will hopefully allow for recovery of the following endangered and threatened species: whooping cranes, least terns, pallid sturgeon, and piping plovers.

### **Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program**

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program [CRBSCP] is a 30 year cooperative program of the seven basin states and three principal federal agencies within the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture, as authorized by Salinity Control Act of 1974 (PL93-320, as amended PL98-569, PL104-20, PL106-459) and the 1996 Farm Bill (PL104-127). The CRBSCP is designed to reduce salt loading in the Upper Basin through a variety of practices thereby avoiding significant monetary damages for water users in the Lower Basin and the Republic of Mexico. The CRBSCP benefits Colorado in several important ways. First, it meets the regulatory requirements under the Clean Water Act to address the significant problem of salt loading in the Colorado River Basin without the imposition of stateline water quality standards.

Through this voluntary, incentive based program water users in Colorado receive financial assistance to improve their infrastructure, thereby enhancing their own water use efficiency and improving rural economies in Colorado, while providing downstream water quality benefits to the Lower Basin. The program works closely with local conservation districts in Colorado to assure that implementation is consistent with water user needs. Lastly, the program promotes interstate comity as the seven basin states work together to resolve this complex problem.

The Forum funding request is as follows:

- US Bureau of Reclamation [BOR]- \$17.5 million for implementation of basin wide program which is primarily improving irrigation delivery systems in Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado, plus additional funds as necessary for General Investigations and operation and maintenance of the Paradox, Dolores, and Grand Valley Units in western Colorado as identified in the President's Budget.
- US Bureau of Land Management [BLM] - Soil, Water and Air Management Program at \$33.343 million, of which \$5.2 million should be used to support Colorado River Basin salinity activities, with \$1.5 million designated for specific identified projects and on the ground implementation of best management practices to promote range health and reduce erosion and runoff from highly saline lands throughout the Upper Basin.
- US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] - Cost share and technical assistance to agricultural producers in the Upper Basin through the Environmental Quality Improvement Program [EQIP] for construction of improved irrigation systems which reduce saline runoff. Nationwide EQIP to be funded at \$1 billion, of which a minimum \$20 million should be used for Colorado River salinity control efforts by NRCS.
- Please note that the basin states provide 30% cost sharing from the Colorado River Basin funds to match all expenditure by the BOR and NRCS. In addition, local agricultural producers contribute an additional 25% for practices installed under EQIP.

### **Stateside LWCF**

State and local entities have been tremendously pleased with the increased amount of Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) Colorado has received from the stateside fund over the past five years. These federal dollars for local and state park and recreation needs are leveraged effectively and have already contributed to improved quality of life for Coloradans throughout the State.

In the past four years, for instance, stateside LWCF funds have been used to help build Cheyenne Mountain, the first state park in El Paso County. Other funds have enabled popular recreation trail projects to proceed in almost thirty communities throughout the State, including funds in 2004 for trail sections along the Colorado Front Range Trail. Additionally, these dollars have primarily helped fund recreation trails projects. Trails continue to rank as the highest priority recreation need in Colorado, is reflected in Colorado's statewide Outdoor Recreation plan, the 2003 SCORP.

*The State of Colorado respectfully urges our delegation to continue supporting increased funding of the Stateside LWCF, supporting at least \$30 million in fiscal year 2007.*

## **Transportation**

The State of Colorado asks our delegation to continue funding the Enhancements portion in the pending TEA-3 Act. Colorado has an outstanding record of leveraging these federal outdoor recreation funds with state, local, non-profit and private sector funding through three important programs:

1. *Transportation enhancements* that the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) grants to local government projects. At the current funding level of about \$1.1 million annually, these funds are often used to build regional trail connections that are so much in demand.
2. The *Recreational Trails Program*, which is cooperatively administered by CDOT and the Colorado State Parks Trails Program. The current funding level yields about \$1.2 million for critical motorized, multi-use, and non-motorized trails needs statewide.
3. *Scenic and Historic Byways Program*. The funding provided for this program delivers huge dividends for heritage tourism in Colorado.

Additionally, to the extent possible, the State of Colorado requests that efforts be made by our delegation to include the Colorado Front Range Trail as a High Priority Project to be considered and supported by the House Transportation Committee.

The ambitious Colorado Front Range Trail project, envisioned to eventually connect communities along Colorado's Front Range from New Mexico to Wyoming, will provide tremendous outdoor recreation opportunities as well as viable transportation alternatives for Colorado citizens and visitors. The trail system will connect existing trail sections with new trails through approved trail corridors; other sections may utilize low use roads, such as through national forest lands. Colorado State Parks and its many partners along the corridor see the opportunity to spotlight the Front Range Trail as a model transportation enhancement project.

## **National Fire Plan and Community Wildlife Protection Plans (CWPP)**

The Colorado Division of Forestry encourages continued funding of the National Fire Plan, including continuing levels for the state and private forestry component, and suggests consideration of dedicated funding for the development and implementation of Community Wildlife Protection Plans (CWPP) as described in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act.

More than one million Coloradoans live in the wildland-urban interface, a zone where people, homes and other structures mix with high-risk forest vegetation and other wildland fuels. The National Fire Plan, developed in 2000 following a devastating wildfire season, provides funding for both federal and non-federal entities to address this tremendous challenge through forest management and community protection.

The creation of CWPPs in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act provided land managers and communities with a valuable new tool for reducing the risks of wildfire to communities. By developing a CWPP, a community is able to identify its own priorities for hazardous fuel treatments on both federal and non-federal land, as well as improve local fire protection, homeowner preparedness, and forest and watershed health.

Funding for the "Suppression, Preparedness and Fuel Hazard Reduction" component of the National Fire Plan has continued at constant or increased levels since the plan's inception. The funding for the "Community Assistance" component has consistently decreased. Much of this funding is provided through the State Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance and Economic Action Programs of the USDA Forest Service and the Rural Fire Assistance Program in the Department of Interior.

### **National Fire Plan**

Colorado State Parks would like to encourage our delegation to support continued funding for the *National Fire Plan*, especially the component of the plan available for fuel management in areas off of federal land. Numerous jewels in Colorado's state park system lie within "red zone" areas, especially along Colorado's Front Range.

Through funding in FY 04 and 05, Colorado State Parks began implementing fuel treatment plans at Staunton, Golden Gate and some of the other key parks in the system. These resources, and the park experience of our many visitors, will directly benefit from the continued funding of these projects through this effective funding source.

### **Chronic Wasting Disease**

Colorado has been at the forefront of efforts to study and contain chronic wasting disease (CWD) in wild deer and elk. Despite an aggressive program, the disease has been found in new areas of the state, thus increasing the Colorado Division of Wildlife's need to expand testing and surveillance efforts. The Division of Wildlife has tested more than 75,000 animals since 2002, including about 15,000 over the last year. In addition to control and surveillance efforts, the Division of Wildlife has invested heavily in research on CWD that has led to significant advances in understanding of disease transmission, detection, and risk management – well over half of the scientific publications on CWD are the result of either direct or collaborative studies involving Division of Wildlife scientists. The efforts directed toward CWD in Colorado consume a substantial portion of the Division of Wildlife's budget – more than \$2.5 million in the current fiscal year – and require a significant labor commitment.

In FY06, Congress appropriated \$18.7 million to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to be used in part for state chronic wasting disease surveillance and testing efforts. Of this amount, the Colorado Division of Wildlife will receive approximately \$240,000, important support for the state's response to CWD. Continued assistance to state CWD programs through APHIS remains very important, and helps meet a priority issue as evidenced by the tremendous shift in resources that Colorado has undertaken to meet this challenge.

The Division of Wildlife continues to pioneer the use of new technology for data collection and test reporting, but those costs - including tags, tracking software and submission centers for hunters to drop off samples - will continue annually for the foreseeable future. Beyond surveillance and testing, Division of Wildlife biologists and researchers are also conducting a number of studies of the disease, including how it is transmitted, whether it can infect other animals such as bighorn sheep or cattle, and early detection methods.

*Because of the on-going need to test and monitor for chronic wasting disease, Congress should continue to support APHIS' funding for state CWD programs at least at the current funding level.*

### **Youth Conservation Corps - Public Land Corps Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2005**

Youth corps programs nationwide, and particularly the programs in Colorado, have worked for years to protect and enhance public lands while improving the lives of young people. Since 1997, 4,500 young people in Colorado have completed significant amounts of work on public lands and achieved high levels of personal development because of their participation in a youth corps.

The Colorado Youth Corps Association's primary 2006 legislative priority is to garner support for appropriations for the Public Land Corps Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2005, which the President signed on December 30, 2005. The Act, which passed both houses of Congress with unanimous consent, authorizes \$12 million annually for youth corps nationwide to complete priority conservation projects on public lands, especially projects that reduce weed infestation, mitigate fire danger, and maintain the health of our nation's forests.

If this project is funded, corps in Colorado are poised to complete even more critical conservation projects for the Forest Service, Park Service and other land management agencies. Colorado has one of the most comprehensive networks of youth corps in the nation. The State's eleven programs essentially "blanket" the State, offering a quality labor force for land managers, and valuable employment opportunities for any young resident, no matter where they live.

*To complete even more critical conservation projects and reach more youth through this proven youth development model, we are asking for your support during the appropriation process to ensure that \$12 million is dedicated to the Public Land Corps Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2005 .*

### **Wildlife Habitat Programs in the Farm Bill**

Several Farm Bill programs provide important benefits to Colorado's wildlife and habitat. Continued congressional support for funding levels that will allow the potential benefits they offer to be fully realized is critical.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a large-scale land retirement program that establishes permanent vegetative cover for wildlife habitat on cropland or marginal pasture. Acres are enrolled periodically through traditional national sign-ups, or continuously for important habitats and certain conservation practices.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), part of the Conservation Reserve Program, protects environmentally sensitive land, improves wildlife habitat, and safeguards ground and surface water. This program expands CRP's effectiveness by facilitating USDA partnerships with state and local interests to meet specific resource objectives. Project development originates with state and local governments, which also contribute funding, specialized local knowledge, and technical support.

Colorado has prepared and is awaiting final approval of two CREP programs, aiming to enroll a combined 60,000 acres in an effort to improve wildlife habitat and water conservation on the eastern plains. In addition, one of the new programs will seek to implement improved habitat management practices for the benefit of pheasants and grassland birds on another 65,000 acres. The CDOW has dedicated a full time staff position to the task of coordinating CREP projects in the state.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides incentive or cost-share payments to farmers and ranchers to implement conservation practices. EQIP projects are developed among the landowner and a working group of local government agencies that has identified the top resource needs in that area. Agreements with the landowners identify conservation practices that will address the targeted wildlife and natural resource concerns. Funding limitations have only allowed financial support for a small percentage of the applications the EQIP program receives. Colorado received \$39.2 million in EQIP funding in FY05, the latest year figures are available. There is much more EQIP could help bring about in the state that would further wildlife management programs. The President's budget for FY07 calls for \$1 billion in EQIP funding nationally.

The Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) provides cost-share payments to landowner to encourage the creation of high quality wildlife habitats. Landowners voluntarily limit the use of a portion of their land for a period of time in exchange for cost-share payments. Program efforts are focused on the preservation and enhancement of habitats that support imperiled wildlife species.

WHIP has assisted wildlife projects across the state, including ones in Moffat, Baca, Montezuma and Logan Counties. As with EQIP, many proposed projects do not move forward because of a lack of funding. Colorado received \$705,000 in funding through WHIP in FY06. The President's budget for FY07 calls for steady funding for this program, at \$55 million nationally.

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) provides technical and financial help to landowners to implement wetland protection and restoration actions on their property. Farmers and ranchers may also gain from increased recreational activities on their lands as a result of improved wetland areas there. The WRP is a voluntary program, and uses three major tools: cost-share agreements, 30 year easements, and perpetual easements.

While thousands of acres of wetlands have received protections through the WRP, interest in the program remains strong. *Reflecting this, the President's budget for FY07 calls for a significant increase in WRP funding, to \$403 million.*

#### **Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit**

The Division of Wildlife works very closely with the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (Coop Unit) based at Colorado State University. Coop Units are a long-term and vibrant partnership among the federal government, state agencies, state universities and private organizations. The CSU Coop Unit conducts important research for the Division of Wildlife, helps coordinate research priorities, funding and research personnel, speeds response time of

needed fish and wildlife research, and develops top-notch graduate students for wildlife research and management careers.

Among the 30+ wildlife research projects underway at the Coop Unit are joint efforts with the Division of Wildlife to assess potential strategies to control and reduce whirling disease, develop DNA-based lynx tracking methods, improve population monitoring of birds on the shortgrass prairie, and study pike movement in the Yampa River. Research findings will improve wildlife management and conservation efforts in Colorado, and help focus actions such as habitat protection where they can have the biggest impact.

Critical base funding for the CSU Coop Unit comes from the Biological Resources Division of the US Geological Survey (USGS). The CSU Coop Unit will receive approximately \$250,000 in USGS funding in the current fiscal year. For each dollar of USGS funding, the Coop Unit will pull in, on average, an additional \$7 of funding and support from other state, federal and private sources.

*Congress should provide \$17 million to the USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit program for FY07, allowing the Coop Units to continue their valuable contributions to wildlife management efforts in Colorado and across the nation.*

#### **Bureau of Reclamation Cost Share – Lake Pueblo State Park**

Facilities at Lake Pueblo State Park included in this major rehabilitation project are over 30 years old and in need of extensive rehabilitation or replacement.

*Beginning in FY 2007, initial funding of \$375,000 will be essential for the planning and design of the recreation facilities and to begin addressing the facility rehabilitation or replacement effort.* Matching funds in the amount of \$500,000 for each subsequent year will be used to complete the construction phases based on the type of projects, construction sequencing and time frames and weather conditions.

#### **McPhee Reservoir - Recreation Facility Funding**

Through a partnership among the USFS, Bureau of Reclamation and Colorado State Parks, a new master recreation plan for McPhee Reservoir must be developed. The plan will address the future development and management of the recreation facilities and will include an evaluation of options for upgrading the current marina or constructing a new marina.

Furthermore, the construction of a small breakwater structure adjacent to the existing boat launches will drastically improve access and safety during high wind and wave conditions for boaters and fishermen launching and loading their boats.

*Beginning in FY 2007, initial funding of \$500,000 will be essential for the planning and design of the recreation facilities and for the immediate construction of a breakwater for the boat launch ramp area.*

### **Upper Colorado and San Juan River Endangered Fish Recovery Programs**

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program promote the recovery of four endangered fish in the Upper Colorado River Basin while providing the Endangered Species Act compliance for continued water diversion and development for over 800 water projects on the two rivers. These programs were instituted in 1988 and 1992 respectively. The State of Colorado has partnered with its sister states of Utah, Wyoming, and New Mexico, Indian tribes, federal agencies, water and power suppliers and environmental interests to make this program work. The requests are as follows:

- 1) Bureau of Reclamation: Support for an appropriation in the President's recommended budget for FY 2007 of \$4,594,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation within the budget line entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" for the Upper Colorado Region. The funding designation we seek is as follows: \$3,104,000 for construction activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; \$1,090,000 for the San Juan River Basin Recover Implementation Program and \$400,000 for activities to avoid jeopardy.
- 2) Fish and Wildlife Service: Support for an appropriation of \$697,000 in recovery funds (Ecological Service Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element; this is \$697,000 within the \$5,631,000 item entitled "General Program Activities" to the Fish and Wildlife Service to continue participation in the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery program).
- 3) Fish and Wildlife Service: Support an appropriation of \$437,000 in operation and maintenance funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Fisheries Activity; Hatchery Operations & Maintenance Subactivity, Hatchery Operations Project) to support ongoing operation of FWS' Ouray Fish Hatchery in Utah during fiscal year 2007.

*The state requests \$5,728,000 to allow the Colorado River fish recovery project to continue funding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's participation in managing the Upper Colorado Program, to support the ongoing work at the Ouray National Hatchery in Utah, which is operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and for "recovery" funds for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program.*

### **Coal Regulatory Program**

The Colorado Coal Program regulates all coal mining in the state through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining. The federal funds are requested to continue the regulatory functions, which include review and approval of coal mining and reclamation permits and ongoing monitoring, inspection and enforcement duties. The Colorado regulatory primacy ensures state-specific regulation and provides a regulatory environment that is most responsive to local citizen and industry issues. Existence of the Colorado Coal Program is required to allow the existence of the Colorado Inactive Mines Program.

### **Inactive Mine Reclamation Program**

The Inactive Mine Reclamation Program addresses the hazards and environmental problems arising from abandoned mines in Colorado. The program also carries out the Colorado Mine Subsidence Protection Program and Colorado mining non-point source pollution project. The federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) funds are requested to continue these activities as demonstrated by the annual elimination of approximately 400 hazardous mine openings out of the 16,000 inventoried sites that remain and the resulting generation of approximately 118 jobs to perform the construction and reclamation work. The future of the program depends on the reauthorization of the federal law due to expire in June 2006. The 2007 Office of Surface Mining budget includes a proposal for an interim extension of OSM's abandoned mine land fee collection authority through September 30, 2007. This extension will allow the continuation of reclamation activities under current law, while allowing the Administration to continue working with Congress on finding an appropriate, fiscally responsible and fair, long term resolution to the reauthorization discussion.

### **Mine Safety and Training Program**

The Mine Safety & Training Program is charged with protecting the health and safety of the public and the mining community from mining-related hazards. The federal Mine Safety and Health Administration funds, in conjunction with state funds, are requested to continue current staffing levels to provide training services for nearly 6,000 miners per year. This combined funding allows the program to conduct safety audits to assist mines in maintaining high health and safety standards, to conduct tourist mine inspections, and to produce new, innovative training videos, CDs or DVDs that are distributed in Colorado and across the nation. A continued increase in the number of new coal and metal/non-metal miners is expected as mines are expanded and new permit applications are expected. New federal health and safety regulations and requirements, along with a large turn-over in mine employees, will significantly increase the workload for the Mine Safety and Training Program over the next few years.

### **National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program**

The National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program supports detailed geologic mapping by the Colorado Geological Survey. Over the past 14 years this program has brought in \$1.8 million to the state and increased the number of geological maps by 16 percent in critical areas of rapid development such as La Plata, Garfield, El Paso, Douglas, Costilla, and Summit counties. Approximately 20 state employees, contractors, and students are annually supported by this program.

### **Advanced National Seismic System**

The Advanced National Seismic System added a seismograph in the San Luis Valley in 2003. One was donated by the University of Colorado and installed in Aspen in 2005, but several more are needed to provide minimally adequate coverage. Colorado has experienced more than 500 earthquakes since 1867, including a magnitude 6.6 in 1882. During a recent six-month period, four earthquakes of magnitude 4.0 or greater were recorded in the state, one of which caused property damage. The number of seismographs within the state is woefully inadequate for accurately locating earthquakes and detecting smaller earthquakes. Small earthquakes are

important in evaluating the hazard for larger earthquakes. The inability to detect small earthquakes causes the earthquake hazard in Colorado to be underestimated in the National Earthquake Hazard Map. In order to assure adequate coverage, we recommend an earmark to fill out the minimal network.

**Upper Arkansas Valley Natural Resources Center -- Salida, CO**

Natural Resource agency partners in the Upper Arkansas River Valley have undertaken a collaborative effort to develop a central, unified Natural Resource Center. As envisioned, the Center will function as a multi-agency office and public contact location -- providing a "one-stop-shopping" approach for the public. It will inherently improve interagency coordination and communication and will serve as a model for other facilities not only in Colorado but also across the nation. Agency partners include, but are not limited to, the US Forest Service, Colorado State Parks, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management, the Chaffee County Commissioners and the City of Salida. The non-federal partners have pledged matching funds or in-kind contributions.

*Colorado State Parks would like our delegation to support funding in the amount of \$500,000 for the architectural and engineering design of this facility in the FY 2007 budget.*

Specifically, we encourage our delegation to support funding to the USDA Forest Service for this expressed purpose in fiscal year 2007.

Thank you for your continued assistance on these and many other projects important to the State of Colorado.

Sincerely,

Russell George  
Executive Director

Cc: Colorado Congressional Delegation

Colorado State Parks  
Statewide Support Programs  
Parks Board Report

Gary Thorson, Deputy Director  
April 2006

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Legislative Coordination and  
Weekly Reporting

- Bill Tracking Matrix
- Committee Hearings
- Long Bill – Footnote
- Staffing Study – KPMG
- Federal Funding Support

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Marketing and Public Information

- Spring Wildflower Campaign
- CO Lottery Cash Spectacular Treasure Hunt
- CO Explorer TV Program on WB2  
Featuring Navajo
- State Tourism Welcome Centers - State Park  
Brochure Racks
- Marketing 5-Year Plan – Draft In Progress
- Foundation - State Park License Plates

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### Strategic Planning Program

- New Planning Program Manager Hired - Scott Babcock
- Program Plan Template – developed and in use
- New Fact Sheets - completed for all parks
- GOCO Planning and Coordination - ongoing

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### Reservations Program

- Reserve America – New Software (ORMS) - Training Staff
- DOW Duck Blinds
- Larimer County Parks – reservations

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### Information Technology Program

- DNR NatureNet Migration
- Satellite Migration to DSL
- Asset Management

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**Business Development Program**

Retail Program 5-Year plan – completed and approved

Business Planning Process:

- Field Reviews – draft review
- Business Feasibility Assessments
- Business Plans

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**Business Development Program**

Business Systems Automation Projects:

- PARKS Program
- Entrance Automation Feasibility
- Website Redesign - underway
- Internet Sales – YTD = \$72,753

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**Statewide Volunteer Program**

- Program 5-Year Plan – completed and approved
- Performance reporting – will provide hours contributed to work force at each park

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## Other Important Projects

- State Park Retirees Association - being formed
- 50 Year Anniversary in 2009 - planning underway

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**COLORADO**

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**XXX**

**VISIT YOUR STATE PARKS**



# THE FOUNDATION FOR COLORADO STATE PARKS, INC.

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Denver, Colorado 80209

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\$25,000 Grant December 1987

EDMUND T. AND ELEANOR QUICK FOUNDATION  
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ESTATE OF FRANCES STAUNTON  
\$25,000 Grant June 1989

JOE & PENNY SHOEMAKER  
\$25,000 Grant January 2000

ESTATE OF JAMES M. AND RUTH S. SHAW  
\$2,400,000 Grant March 2005

## FOUNDING MEMBERS\*/LIFETIME MEMBERS

- David & Joanne Abbott
- Bonnie & Ron Allison
- Gordon & Welda Allott
- Davis Ammons
- George & Joan Anderman
- Bill Anderson
- Bob & Kathy Anderson
- P.J. Anderson
- Bill & Ellen Armstrong
- \*Carolyn & Todd Armstrong
- \*Carolyn Ashbaugh
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Monday, June 5, 2006

Dear Colorado State Parks Advocate:

The Foundation for Colorado State Parks (FCSP), in partnership with Colorado State Parks is considering pursuing a "specialized" automobile License Plate that will promote and benefit our remarkable system of State Parks and Recreation Areas throughout the State.

Colorado's Dept. of Revenue (and state law) requires that a minimum of 3,000 automobile owners state their "indication of support" for such a Plate prior to their pursuing approval for the production of the Plate from the Colorado Legislature. If sufficient interest exists, a legislative sponsor would be obtained over the next several months with the legislation being carried during the 2007 session. Upon successful passage, the Plate would be made available soon thereafter.

As a longtime user and advocate of our State Parks, I am asking you to consider returning the enclosed "indication of interest" postcard by NO LATER than July 1, 2006. DOING SO DOES NOT OBLIGATE YOU TO THE ACTUAL PURCHASE OF A PLATE.

The cost(s) associated with the purchase of the plate are as follows:

. A one-time donation of \$50 to the FCSP, all of which will be placed into the Foundation's endowment. A copy of our brochure is enclosed, which will provide you with a better understanding of the FCSP.

. There will also be an additional annual \$25 fee to the Colo. Dept. of Revenue for each year you wish to purchase/retain the specialized plate.

I have enclosed a potential concept of the Plate for your benefit as well as the postcard to return to the FCSP to show your "indication of interest". It is my hope that you will consider this request and help support your State Parks in this manner.

Please contact me any time to visit about this matter.

Sincerely;

Jeff Shoemaker  
Executive Director

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Jeff Shoemaker  
*Executive Director*



# THE FOUNDATION FOR COLORADO STATE PARKS, INC.

1040 S. Gaylord Street, Suite 201  
Denver, Colorado 80209

(303) 455-7109 Fax (303) 455-7234

GATES FOUNDATION  
\$25,000 Grant December 1967

EDMUND T. AND ELEANOR QUICK FOUNDATION  
\$25,000 Grant June 1989

ESTATE OF FRANCES STAUNTON  
\$25,000 Grant June 1989

JOE & PENNY SHOEMAKER  
\$25,000 Grant January 2000

ESTATE OF JAMES M. AND RUTH S. SHAW  
\$2,400,000 Grant March 2005

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**YES! I SUPPORT A SPECIALIZED COLORADO LICENSE PLATE THAT WILL BENEFIT COLORADO'S STATE PARK SYSTEM!!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER(S) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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*Emeritus*

Jeff Shoemaker  
*Executive Director*

LIST OF 2007 OHV GRANT APPLICATIONS  
WITH SELECTIVE SRCA RECOMMENDATIONS  
Grants with no comments are those where we are neutral or undecided  
\*RD refers to Forest Service Ranger District

- 1 Gunnison Pitkin/White Pine Trail Reconstruction
- 2 Gunnison Star Trail and Timberline Trail
- 3 San Juan/Dolores RD Dutch Creek Project, 4.5 miles trail reconstruction
- 4 State Forest – 80 miles of trail work
- 5 State Forest – Youth Corps, 80 miles of trail work
- 6 San Juan/Dolores Reroute Bear Creek trail around private property/Rough Canyon Trail reconstruction
- 7 Montrose BLM Construction of training site for young ORV riders
- 8 Montrose BLM/Forest Service trail crew, trail maintenance, visitor contact
- 9 Dillon RD 4WD road reconstruction, restoration and completing a 15 mile loop
- 10 Pikes Peak RD North Divide Trail Improvements SUPPORT
- 11 Western Slope ATV Association – SWECO trail dozer for GMUG trails, CONCERNS ABOUT UNDESIGNATED TRAILS IN THE GUNNISON FOREST
- 12 Ouray RD Signs, maintenance of Uncompahgre travel plan SUPPORT
- 13 Montrose Motorcycle Trail Riders Association – trail maintenance on Forest Service and BLM lands
- 14 Gunnison BLM Hartman Rocks OHV Terrain Park
- 15 Thunder Mt. Wheelers ATV Club – Trail maintenance on GMUG Forest  
SUPPORT FOR GRAND MESA AND UNCOMPAHGRE PORTION DUE TO COMPLETED TRAVEL PLANS
- 16 Upper Arkansas Valley trail crew – trail maintenance, promotion of OHV culture in the valley  
WE DO NOT SUPPORT SOME GRANT COMPONENTS
- 17 Pikes Peak RD – Maintenance of single track motorcycle trail
- 18 Four Mile, Salida RD, Implementation of completed travel plan SUPPORT
- 19 Kremmling BLM North Sand Hills rest room and trail maintenance SUPPORT
- 20 Glenwood Springs BLM trail maintenance, construction, signs, inventory, maps rehabilitation
- 21 Grand Valley RD Barriers to prevent ATV routes from being widened by jeeps
- 22 Grand Valley RD Expand Divide Forks and Scotland trailheads
- 23 San Carlos RD, Canon City By-pass “choke point” to facilitate ATV access  
DO NOT SUPPORT
- 24 Blanca Peak 4 x 4 Club BLM Stone Quarry near Del Norte, develop a new OHV area  
REGRETTABLE THAT THE BLM DID NOT HAVE RESOURCES TO PREVENT ORV TAKEOVER OF THIS CULTURALLY RICH AREA AND CANNOT NOW MANAGE THE AREA ITSELF
- 25 Parks RD, North Park Bridges and general maintenance
- 26 COHVCO Responsible Recreation Campaign
- 27 COHVCO State-wide uniform signing SUPPORT
- 28 S. Platte RD Rampart Range system maintenance SUPPORT
- 29 S. Park RD Hayman OHV Trail Maintenance
- 30 OHV Outreach coordinator
- 31 Clear Creek County Open Space Yankee Hill Trail Management
- 32 COHVCO 2007 OHV Workshop