



NEWS RELEASE

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ROUTT COUNTY PROJECTS AWARDED MORE THAN \$695,150 IN GOCO/LOTTERY FUNDS

DENVER—The Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Board has awarded \$695,150 in Lottery funds to three projects in Routt County that will preserve more than 800 acres of open space in the Upper Elk River Valley and enhance outdoor recreation in Steamboat Springs and Hayden.

With its GOCO/Lottery grant of \$628,700, the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) will purchase a conservation easement protecting 820 acres on a ranch located 15 miles from Steamboat Springs in the Upper Elk River Valley. The parcel is part of a several thousand-acre working ranch that has been in the same family for three generations. Highly visible from Routt County Road 129 and Routt National Forest, the ranch is the largest unprotected property in the valley. In addition to providing big game winter habitat and summer grazing land for the landowners' cattle and sheep herds, the ranch is leased to an outfitter annually for big game hunting. The parcel is a significant addition to the more than 9,000 acres of protected private lands in the area, and helps secure the valley's agricultural heritage.

The City of Steamboat Springs will use a GOCO/Lottery grant for \$21,450 to build a family restroom in Little Toots Park, a popular community park located in downtown Steamboat Springs. The restroom will be located in a city-owned building within the park.

Finally, the Town of Hayden will use a GOCO/Lottery grant for \$45,000 to resurface two 30-year-old tennis courts in Hayden Town Park. Recent improvements to the park have increased use of the tennis courts despite deep cracks and potholes that make playing on the courts unsafe.

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Statewide 49 projects were awarded grants of \$9.3 million are for local park and outdoor recreation areas, to create plans for future projects, and to protect more than 13,000 acres of open space. GOCO received 89 applications requesting \$14.3 million.

GOCO is the result of a citizens' initiative that was passed by 58% of the voters in 1992. It receives approximately half of Colorado Lottery proceeds—\$54.3 million in Fiscal Year 2009. It awards grants to local governments and land trusts, and makes investments through the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Colorado State Parks. More than 3,000 projects have benefited from GOCO grants since 1994. Since 1994, projects in Routt County have been awarded approximately \$29.2 million in GOCO grants.

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