



## For Immediate Release

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### **Colorado Lottery Recognizes Colorado Fourteeners Initiative's Mount Columbia Trail Reconstruction Project near Buena Vista in the Use of Lottery Funds**

*Lottery proceeds pass \$3.6 billion*

Pueblo, Colo. – Colorado Lottery Starburst Awards recognize excellence in the use of Lottery funds for community and conservation projects. For fiscal year 2021, the Colorado Lottery recognizes Colorado Fourteeners Initiative's Mount Columbia Trail Reconstruction Project near Buena Vista with a Starburst Award. This year, Colorado Lottery proceeds have surpassed \$3.6 billion.

Two trail grants from the Colorado State Trails program provided \$450,000 to serve as the backbone of the \$998,361 total needed to build out the Mount Columbia trail. Of the initial funding, \$330,009 came from the Colorado Lottery via Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) parks funding stream. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) provided \$119,991 and the remainder from a variety of foundation, corporate, individual and local government sources. [Photo](#)

Starting in 2016, Colorado Fourteeners Initiative, which is headquartered in Golden, began the multi-year project to build 1.75 miles of new, sustainably located, durably constructed trail, perform 0.66 miles of existing trail reconstruction and begin the closure, stabilization and restoration of the existing scree field that is estimated to have 1.5 million cubic feet of erosion.

Located in congressionally designated wilderness, all work on the new Columbia Trail project was performed by hand using non-motorized equipment. Trail delineation and hardening was performed using native rocks and soil found on the mountain that had to be carried to the project site. Rocks up to 500 pounds had to be slowly transported in a carefully controlled manner using highline tram and grip hoist systems to avoid losing them down the slope.

More than \$10.5 million in Lottery funds are represented in 11 winning projects distributed statewide through grants via Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), and Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST).

"Conservation is a key pillar for the Lottery. It includes not only conserving open space, but also upgrading recreational spaces, creating new places for Coloradans to play, and supporting ecosystems and wildlife," said Tom Seaver, director of the Colorado Lottery. "This year's Starburst Award winners aptly reflect the wide ranging projects that our proceeds support. With now \$3.6 billion going to our proceeds beneficiaries, we continue to look for new ways to grow revenue responsibly to protect more of Colorado's great outdoors."





Submissions include programs and projects such as parks, playgrounds, outdoor recreation facilities, land conservation, trail enhancement, open space acquisition, wildlife natural resource preservation, and public school improvements.

**About Colorado Lottery:**

Since 1983, the Colorado Lottery has returned more than \$3.6 billion to outdoor projects and schools through Great Outdoors Colorado, the Conservation Trust Fund, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and Building Excellent Schools Today. Proceeds from sales of Colorado Lottery games – Scratch, Powerball, Mega Millions, Colorado Lotto+, Lucky for Life, Cash 5, and Pick 3 – enhance, protect, improve parks, trails, and open space in Colorado. For more information, visit [coloradolottery.com](http://coloradolottery.com).

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