



**For Immediate Release**  
Sept. 28, 2021

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### **October 'Colorado Lottery Conservation Month' Drives Awareness with Month-Long Volunteer and Conservation Events**

Pueblo, CO -- Gov. Jared Polis has proclaimed October 2021 'Colorado Lottery Conservation Month' to celebrate the organization's commitment to conservation and protection of Colorado's great outdoors. To help drive awareness about the importance of conserving the open spaces of Colorado, the Lottery has partnered with organizations throughout the month to promote conservation volunteer events.

As of today, the Lottery has returned more than \$3.7 billion to parks, recreation, conservation projects and schools and this fiscal year alone, the Lottery gave nearly \$169.4 million to its partners.

To continue to drive awareness about the importance of conservation, on Oct. 2, the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council will host its 12th annual year of ReTree event from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Steamboat. Over the past 12 years, they have planted over 23,000 trees in the Yampa Valley. This year, volunteers will be planting approximately 500 trees (donated by the Colorado Lottery) along the Yampa River near the City of Steamboat Springs' Rotary Park. This project aims to increase shade along the river to reduce water temperatures, improve riparian habitat, and sequester carbon. Sign up [here](#).

Also in October, the Lottery is hosting its third annual "Runyon to the Res" Arkansas River Trail clean-up event Saturday, Oct. 9, with [Colorado Parks and Wildlife](#), the [City of Pueblo Parks and Recreation](#), and the [Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center](#) in Pueblo. Volunteers will help clean up debris from the banks of this important and popular river from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Interested volunteers can visit the Lottery's [website](#) and sign up [here](#).

The final volunteer opportunity in October is Oct. 16, at Cherry Creek State Park. From 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Volunteers will spend the day helping remove Russian Olive trees. Russian Olive is an extremely invasive species known to choke out native plants and prevent them from re-establishing. Volunteers of Colorado (VOC) is looking for two types of volunteers: chainsaw-certified volunteers to cut the Russian Olive trees to a manageable size, and volunteers to move the cut pieces to an area where the park will later collect it. Only certified sawyers will be allowed to operate the chainsaws. If you are certified, please register and send your certificate to Kelly Clouse at [kclouse@voc.org](mailto:kclouse@voc.org). Sign up [here](#).



“Conservation goes beyond open space. Every acre of local parks improvement, trail upkeep, new recreation spaces and school infrastructure help keep our spaces supported and expanding to accommodate all of the new people who enjoy Colorado’s great outdoors every year,” said Colorado Lottery director Tom Seaver.

For the first time in decades, new legislation in FY21 changed the Lottery’s funding distribution after the GOCO cap was met. The Colorado Legislature voted to approve the creation of the Outdoor Equity Fund. The fund, which is managed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, received \$750,000 for fiscal year 2021. In addition, the Wildlife Cash Fund received \$2.3 million and a Parks/Outdoor Recreation Cash Fund received \$2.3 million for the first time. Building Excellent Schools Today received \$7.6 million.

In addition to marking the financial contributions made to all of the Lottery beneficiaries last year and throughout its history, the governor’s proclamation highlighted the Lottery’s commitment to becoming one of the most responsible Lottery organizations in the country. This year the Lottery achieved Level 3 certification from the World Lottery Association and is in the process of submitting for Level 4, the highest level of responsible gaming.

### **About Colorado Lottery**

Since 1983, the Colorado Lottery has returned more than \$3.7 billion to outdoor projects through Great Outdoors Colorado, the Conservation Trust Fund, and Colorado Parks & Wildlife Association and to schools through 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](https://coloradolottery.com).

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