



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Meghan Dougherty
720-688-0037

Meghan.Dougherty@state.co.us

Colorado Lottery Recognizes Larimer County Department of Natural Resources in the Use of Lottery Funds to Benefit the Laramie Foothills Mountains to Plains 2020 Expansion Project

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 Lottery recognizes the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources and its Laramie Foothills Mountains to Plains 2020 Expansion Project with a Starburst Award. This year, Colorado Lottery proceeds have recently surpassed \$3.6 billion.

The Laramie Foothills Mountains to Plains 2020 Expansion Project was an opportunity for Larimer County and the City of Fort Collins to conserve several irreplaceable ranchlands in the Laramie Foothills, located about 25 miles north of Fort Collins. This \$2,287,468 project utilized \$668,000 in Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) funds this past year to continue to protect the public investment in this landscape. By connecting nearly 2,000-acres, in additional conserved lands, an unprecedented landscape is protected for generations to come. [Photo](#)

The Laramie Foothills is an important regional conservation site that includes vast ecological and cultural resources. The conservation efforts in this region were significantly increased in 2004 with the inception of the Laramie Foothills Mountains to Plains (LFMTP) partnership and generous GOCO funding, in which over 50,000-acres of land was successfully conserved. Then in 2020, under the current GOCO grant-funded acquisition project, Larimer County and the City of Fort Collins conserved two properties in the Laramie Foothills, totaling 1,975 acres.

These properties included the West Red Mountain Ranch and Hawk Canyon Ranch properties and were made possible thanks to being components of the GOCO 2020 Laramie Foothills Expansion Grant, which bolsters the efforts of Larimer County and the City of Fort Collins to conserve lands in this region.

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.

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