

No. 40 -2012



RESOLUTION

To protect the current lottery distribution formula

WHEREAS, Colorado has a longstanding commitment to the conservation and enhancement of wildlife, parks, rivers, trails, working farms and ranches and open space.

WHEREAS, by wish of Colorado voters, Colorado Lottery proceeds have been one of the few sources of funding for parks, recreation, open space, and wildlife projects providing \$2.3 billion in the past 28 years

WHEREAS, lottery funds support a thriving outdoor recreation industry which contributes over \$10 billion annually to Colorado's economy, supports 107,000 jobs across Colorado, generates nearly \$500 million in annual state tax revenue, and produces \$7.6 billion annually in retail sales and services across Colorado.

WHEREAS, profits from sales of lottery products are allocated according to this formula: up to 50 percent to the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Trust Fund, 40 percent to the Conservation Trust Fund, and 10 percent to The Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife.

WHEREAS, Colorado Lottery is GOCO's single source of funding, capped at \$35 million a year adjusted for inflation; if GOCO's share exceeds that amount, the remainder goes to the State Public School Fund.

WHEREAS, GOCO gives money to projects across the state to help improve communities. Funds help trails, improve parks, open outdoor recreation facilities, preserve rangelands and view corridors, improve and expand river quality and access, and conserve wildlife habitat.

WHEREAS, since 1994, GOCO has invested more than \$757 million in Lottery funds back to the state; grants to more than 3,400 projects in all 64 counties; permanent conservation of more than 800,000 acres of open space; the creation and restoration of more than 765 miles of trails; the development or enhancement of more than 1,050 community parks and outdoor recreation centers.

WHEREAS, the Conservation Trust Fund helps local parks and recreation providers' towns, cities, counties and special districts use funds for open space and park lands acquisition, recreation equipment purchases, recreational facility development, park maintenance, and for the renovation and restoration of these local facilities.

WHEREAS, statewide, school-based and education related projects have garnered nearly \$20 million in GOCO/Lottery funds over the years, ranging from resources and facilities like playgrounds, outdoor classrooms, ball fields and tennis courts, to educational programming offered through Colorado State Parks and the Division of Wildlife.

WHEREAS, Colorado's 42 state parks use lottery money for trail construction and maintenance, land acquisition, equipment and facility purchases and maintenance of state parks facilities.

WHEREAS, current budget shortfalls have led the Legislature in many instances to raid trust funds and other dedicated revenue sources.

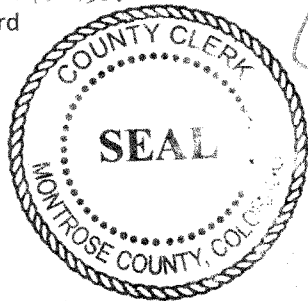
WHEREAS, a change to the current lottery distribution funding would be detrimental to Colorado's educational, recreational and outdoor grants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, Gary Ellis, Ron Henderson and David White, Commissioners of Montrose County, support the preservation of the current lottery distribution formula; and urge Colorado lawmakers to protect the historic distribution formula that allocates Lottery's outdoor dollars in collaboration with local governments and other local partners.

ADOPTED THIS 18th day of JUNE 2012

Attest:

Sandra Nelson
Marie Simons Sandra Nelson
Deputy Clerk to the Board



Board of County Commissioners
Montrose County, Colorado

David S. White
David S. White, Chairman

Gary J. Ellis
Gary J. Ellis, Vice Chairman

Ronald D. Henderson
Ronald D. Henderson, Commissioner