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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2009

CONTACT: Lise Aangeenbrug
303-226-4520
Chris Leding
303-226-4530

AANGEENBRUG NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND

DENVER – The Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Board has chosen its current Deputy Director, Lise Aangeenbrug, to be its new Executive Director. GOCO awards grants with a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds for open space, wildlife and outdoor recreation projects.

Aangeenbrug was one of the first employees hired at GOCO in 1994. She played a significant role in developing the programs that GOCO has offered since awarding its first grants 15 years ago. In formulating and running these grant programs, she has worked closely with local governments, land trusts, Colorado State Parks and the Colorado Division of Wildlife--the entities eligible to receive GOCO funds. In 2001, Aangeenbrug left GOCO to serve as Director of Programs for the Colorado Conservation Trust, a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to advancing land conservation. There she ran grant and loan programs, and developed the state's first comprehensive report on land conservation, *Colorado Conservation at a Crossroads*. Aangeenbrug returned to GOCO in 2006 as its Deputy Director.

“Lise was the Board’s first and only choice because of the knowledge she possesses about every aspect of GOCO’s grant-making, finance and management, and because of her deep respect for the trust the people of Colorado have placed in GOCO to invest these public dollars wisely,” said Norma Anderson, Chair of the 17-member GOCO Board. “Lise’s entire professional career has been dedicated to the betterment of this country’s outdoors assets.”

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Prior to her work in Colorado, Aangeenbrug served as Special Assistant to the Director of the California Department of Fish and Game, and Presidential Management Fellow at the U.S. Department of the Interior. She earned a Master's Degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and a Bachelor's Degree from St. Lawrence University. She has lived in Colorado since 1993, and is an avid cyclist and hiker.

"I am honored to be able to serve the citizens of Colorado by continuing to ensure that these public funds are wisely invested in projects across the state that help to protect our unique natural resources while also providing opportunities for recreation," said Aangeenbrug.

Department of Natural Resources Executive Director and GOCO Board Member Harris Sherman also praised the appointment. "Lise's experience, judgment, and knowledge of conservation and recreation issues make her the ideal person to lead GOCO in the coming years. Lise has distinguished herself as Deputy Director of GOCO and the Colorado Conservation Trust as a leader who works very effectively with a wide range of people and organizations, including the state's divisions of wildlife and parks. Her efforts have helped create an outstanding legacy of parks, trails, and protected lands for the benefit of the people of Colorado. I look forward to working with her to expanding this legacy."

GOCO's Executive Director position was vacated when John Swartout resigned to join a trade association in December. As Executive Director, Aangeenbrug is responsible for GOCO's external relations including working with local governments, state and federal agencies, land trusts, statewide associations, businesses, and the agricultural community. She will continue to oversee the development and implementation of all grant programs, and the administration of GOCO's operations and finances. Additionally, she now serves as GOCO's primary spokesperson.

Great Outdoors Colorado is the result of a citizens' initiative passed by Colorado voters in 1992. GOCO receives approximately \$53 million annually from Lottery proceeds, and directs those funds to projects that protect and enhance Colorado's parks, wildlife, trails, rivers and open space.