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For release: February 3, 2006

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Arapahoe County accepting applications for Open Space grants

Arapahoe County is accepting applications for funds from its Open Space program. All cities, towns, recreation districts and special districts that provide recreational services or amenities in Arapahoe County are eligible to apply. Each entity is allowed to apply for two grants, with a maximum request of \$250,000 each. Approximately \$2.6 million in grants is available this year.

In Nov. 2003, Arapahoe County voters approved a countywide .25 percent sales and use tax for the preservation of open space in Arapahoe County. Collection of the tax began Jan. 1, 2004 and expires Dec. 31, 2013. As part of this program, participating incorporated cities and towns within Arapahoe County receive 50 percent of the total tax collected, divided by the population within the incorporated portion of the County. In 2004 and 2005, Shareback distributions totaled approximately \$9.2 million.

Application requests may be for open space, park and trail land acquisitions; park development; trail development; management and maintenance projects. Applications must be submitted on or before Feb. 24 at noon.

Applicants can download an application form off the County's web site at www.co.arapahoe.co.us. For more information or to request an application by e-mail, contact Lynn Wodell, Open Space Manager, at 720-874-6725.

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