

Larimer County Land Stewardship Advisory Board

The mission of Larimer County Department of Natural Resources is to establish, protect and manage significant regional parks and open lands providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities and stewardship of natural resource values. We are committed to fostering a sense of community and appreciation for the natural and agricultural heritage of Larimer County for present and future generations.

Date: May 17, 2018

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Larimer County Courthouse, 200 W. Oak St., Fort Collins, CO, 2nd Floor, Lake Loveland Room.

Contact: Please contact Emmy at ellisoea@co.larimer.co.us or 970-619-4462 if you are unable to attend.

AGENDA

Scheduled times are subject to change.

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - a. Larimer County wrapped up a renovation of the South Shore Campground at Carter Lake. The popular camping area was upgraded with additional electric campsites, new restrooms, resurfaced parking areas and improved boat ramp access. South Shore reopened to the public on Sunday, April 15 – Casey
 - b. Staff finished applying soil amendments, seed and hydromulch at the Soderberg & Devil's Backbone trailheads to improve post-trailhead expansion revegetation efforts – Casey
 - c. Through a State grant, noxious weed boot brush stations that match a state-wide standard have been installed at Horsetooth Mountain Open Space & Soderberg trailheads – Casey

- d. Plans for reconstruction of Forks Park and restoration of the Big Thompson River through Forks Park are finalized and construction is set for post high runoff/flows – Meegan
 - e. In partnership with the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition, and with grant funds from the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Larimer County Natural Resources will conduct vegetation management of restoration projects implemented following the 2013 flood. This two-year, grant funded effort will ensure adaptive management and ongoing success of the 47 million dollar investment in these stream and riparian restoration projects – Casey
6. UPDATES/DISCUSSION ITEMS
- a. LSAB binder updates – Casey
 - b. Natural Resources Capital Improvement Plan Overview – Meegan
 - c. 2018 Noxious Weed Compliance update – Casey
 - d. Summary of Emerald Ash Borer service proposal submission – Casey
 - e. County Weed Management Plan and enterprise rate increase progress report – Casey
 - f. Annual CSU/Colorado Weed Network Field Day scheduled for June 28th, 2018. Registration at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/csucolorado-weed-network-field-day-tickets-45499329720> – Casey
7. ACTION ITEMS
- a. Recommend extending the termination date of the Pest District another 5 years – Casey
 - b. Recognize Ken Mathias and Tim Koski for their volunteerism on the Board – Casey/Gary
8. OTHER BUSINESS
- a. Group photo – Emmy
9. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: 8/16/2018 at Larimer County Courthouse, 200 W. Oak St., Fort Collins, CO, 2nd Floor, Lake Loveland Room.
10. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a)) for discussion pertaining to purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of any real or person property interest.
11. ADJOURN

Included in PDF:

- Agenda
- District Reports

Attached Separately:

- Minutes of last meeting

This meeting will be recorded and archived according to law. Votes require a quorum.
 Public can view agenda and minutes at:
<http://legacy.larimer.org/boards/minutes/lsabminutes.htm>





Big Thompson District March 2018 Monthly Report



Camping

Camping Nights: 44

Camping Revenue: \$2,460

Annual Permits

Permits Sold: 12

Permit Revenue: \$855

Day Use Pass

Day Pass Sold: 273

Day Pass Revenue: \$1,638

Visitation:

Devil's Backbone

Vehicle Count: 16,296



Visitation Narrative:

Camping revenue is comprised primarily of cabin rentals. Vehicle counts for Devil's Backbone reflect the capacity issues on nice weekends. The vehicle counter at Hermit Park is not functioning properly and no good data were received. Staff is working on a remedy. Estimated visitation is 200.

Area Achievements:

- Chris has been busy on budgets and project management. Staffing up for the upcoming season. All positions have now been filled and training is either underway or will begin shortly.
- Ranger Neff has been Field Training (FTO) Ranger Feldman who just entered Phase II of his training program.
- Will and Shane have been working together on finalizing their seasonal budgets and summer schedules.
- Diana is back at the Hermit Park office, much to everyone's delight!
- Rangers attended the annual boat training at Horsetooth Reservoir. Maintenance staff attended Rock Solid program training.
- Shane and Chris attended a capital construction equipment meeting with the other district staff.
- Progress continues with an IGA with Loveland to manage Viestenz-Smith Park. Our County Attorney's office has reviewed it and it is now at the City for final review.

Big T Canyon:

- The vault restroom that has been sitting in the river for the past 4 ½ years at Forks Park has finally been removed. Engineers inspected the building and surprisingly it was in remarkably good condition. It will be reused once the park is rebuilt later this summer/fall.



- Shane and crew worked at Sleepy Hollow with grading work and general clean up. It will open in April.



Devil's Backbone:

- Trailhead has been at or over capacity on nice days. With minimal staffing, it is difficult for rangers to get boots on the trails, but they have still managed to log nearly 100 miles and 48 hours already!

Hermit Park:

- Shane and crew have been working hard to renovate 2 more cabins. This included completely



ripping the floor out of one and replacing it with beetle killed wood from Hermit. Turned out spectacularly!

- GOCO held its annual retreat up in Estes Park and Chris, Jenn and Heather provided a tour and Q & A on the property which was very well received.



- The Hermit Park bear cubs released earlier in the year have woken up and appear to be healthy and happy. Bear boxes are slated to arrive in April!
- The FEMA project that would fund a large portion of the Hermit Park trailhead and parking lot project that was put on hold last year was officially approved. The project will go out to bid in April and is expected to be completed late summer/early fall.



- Historicorps was issued their PO to begin work on the stabilization of the Hermit's Cabin later this summer. Meegan has officially handed this project off to Chris and Shane. We will likely be juggling the parking lot construction and this project at the same time. Exciting!



Carter Lake District March 2018 Monthly Report



Camping

Camping Nights: 705
Camping Revenue: \$10,885

Day Use Pass

Day Pass Sold: 1,610
Day Pass Revenue: \$11,270

Annual Permits

Permits Sold: 140
Permit Revenue: \$8,135

Visitor Use Studies

Vehicle Count: 8,135
Visitor Count: 9,283



Area Achievements

South Shore project is complete and will open on April 15th as scheduled, we added some concrete walk ways and new consolidated dumpster pads. The overall project is being submitted for a Starburst Award with the Colorado Lottery for the use of Conservation Trust Fund dollars on the project. Staff met with the Heather to game plan the educational programs for the summer months.

Visitor services staff met at the Big Landia site for initial visioning of what the additional camping opportunities may look like on that site. The reservoir districts hosted a tour with managing partners to look at how the boat ramps may be fortified to prevent unapproved boat launching to further protect against ANS. District staff facilitated a meeting with fleet management in regards to securing different equipment options for maintenance crews throughout the department. District staff also coordinated a leadership training series for the Senior Rangers. District staff also participated in a planning meeting for recreational access and development of Chimney Hollow.

Staff attend a snowy pre-season boat training day to make sure vessels and operators were prepared for the boating opening day. Brittan successfully completed his Wilderness First Responder Class as well as the Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (**ARIDE**) program. The majority of the seasonal hiring is completed, applicant pool seemed stronger than the past few years.

Spring is reluctantly coming, but there are signs... Like osprey on the nesting platform overlooking Pinewood Reservoir, boat trailers at the boat ramp!





Horsetooth District March 2018 Monthly Report



Camping

Camping Nights: 1624
Camping Revenue: \$ 29,481

Day Use Pass

Day Pass Sold: 2,495
Day Pass Revenue: \$17,465

Annual Permits

Permits Sold: 107
Permit Revenue: \$7,165

Visitation

Vehicle Count: 33,353
Visitor Count: 66,706



Interpretive Summary

Initial impressions are we saw below average precipitation in March. With that said, visitation numbers were good for the Horsetooth District in terms of camping and daily visitors. The vehicle counter at South Bay registered ZERO numbers since the counter was submerged in water and was damaged beyond repair. A new counter and above ground box have been purchased. The east side of Horsetooth Reservoir continues to see many visitors. The District as a whole continues to see an increase in visitor numbers and revenue.

Area Report

March was a busy month for maintenance projects. Crews worked on the South Bay day use area bank erosion maintenance, dead tree removal, gate replacements, snow removal, buoy maintenance, boat docks and other maintenance projects.

The rangers have been dealing with the relentless graffiti issues at Rotary Park, several warrant arrests, arson cases and high visitation when the weather is warm. They have also been busy with day use and campers on nice days. Seasonal rangers are hired and training has started for the boat rangers. The rangers are also busy planning for RES and the boat patrol academy. Ranger's patrols have been increased in the area and several summonses have been issued for criminal mischief.

Patty Ryan resigned from the front desk position. We are working on her replacement.

Lions Open Space and the Pleasant Valley Trail continue to be busy on nice days. Homeless camps and other issues have slowed somewhat. The river flow remains low and the fishing has been slow. Contractors were busy with snow plowing during the month of February.

Devin Nuemann is back working as a full-time ranger while we work to fill the Ranger II vacancy at Horsetooth Reservoir. A big thank goes out to Devin for his great attitude and willingness to help this summer. His selfless acts have made our department a better place to work. Max Feldman continues his field training. We hope to have Max in his position at the Horsetooth District by the first part of July.

ANS staff are hired for the most part and training has commenced. Boat opened on our reservoirs April 1. No joke. We continue to work through the funding issues related to the ANS program. Changes to hours and operations are coming this year.

Snowpack in our basin is currently below average. Horsetooth is currently scheduled to be filled to near capacity by the end of June. Hopefully, we will see precipitation increase in April.





Red Mountain District March 2018 Monthly Report



Annual Permits

Permits Sold: 73

Day Use Pass

Gatehouse/Iron Ranger: 5,087

Revenue Total

Annuals and Day Pass: \$35,777

Visitation

Vehicle Count: 19,007

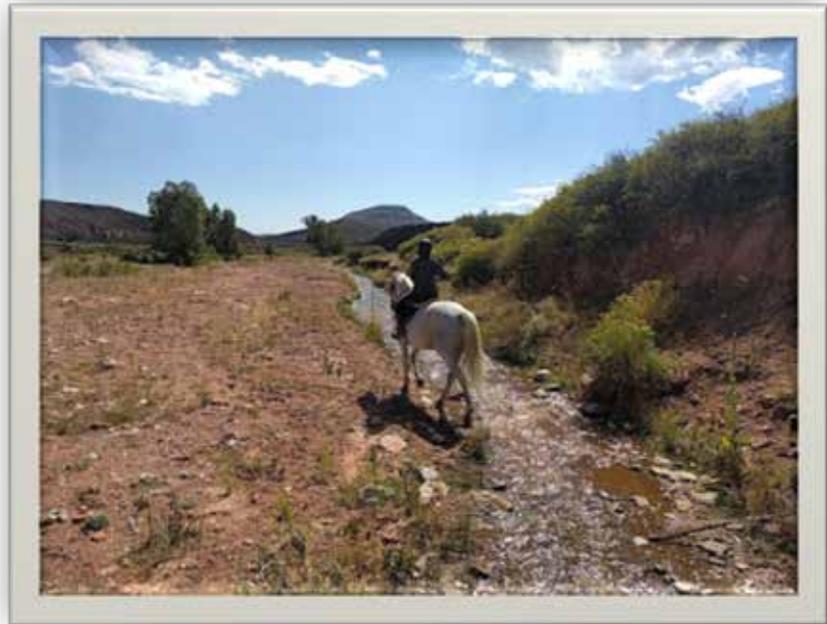
Visitor Count: 38,014

Acreage Managed

22,971 acres

Miles of Trail Patrolled

69.5 miles



Interpretive Summary:

With the nice weather we reached capacity many times on weekends and weekdays. Annual passes sold doubled from the previous month. Day use passes sold tripled since last month and we almost tripled the amount of revenue earned for the month of March.

We had some “ghost counts” with some of our vehicle counters this month, which skewed some of the data. Luckily we have some redundancies by having trail counters counting trail users, that we were able to calculate visitor usage from. We doubled the amount of visitation from February to March in Horsetooth Mountain area alone.

Area Achievements:

Closure of trails for nesting raptors, including golden and bald eagles, at Horsetooth Mountain, Eagle’s Nest and River Bluffs.



This is a busy time of year in all districts as we interview, hire, and train seasonal staff for gatehouse attendants, maintenance technicians, and rangers. Rangers worked on a variety of projects and public safety. Rangers fixed fencing on social trails mitigation. Rangers also attended the annual boat patrol training at Horsetooth Reservoir on a wet and cold day.



Rangers assisted on several motor vehicle accidents around our parks. Rangers also patrolled trails and roads issuing citations for safety violations. We are also still experiencing vandalism at Horsetooth Mountain bathroom facilities and seem to be the same suspect that is vandalizing bathrooms on the east side of Horsetooth Reservoir. Rangers will continue to investigate.

Agriculture/Maintenance:

Calving season at Red Mountain Open Space. Cows and calves placed into the Sand Creek corralls prior to going in the pastures.



Staff attended the Dry Creek Ditch and Handy Ditch company meetings. The Maintenance Staff continue to install wildlife friendly fencing in Red Mountain and have installed an “elk jump”. This helps us save fence maintenance in the future. They also continue to repair fencing at Eagle’s Nest and Red Mountain in preparation for cattle moving in.

They also worked on installing above ground vehicle counter boxes on all properties. The staff also worked on a water leak at the newly opened bathrooms at River Bluffs Open Space. In the picture below we have installed several boot brush stations to help with the transfer of noxious weeds in our open spaces. This was a group project with the help of the Weeds District.

