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Summary of Hermit Park Open Space Education Plan

The Hermit Park Open Space Education plan defines the scope and breadth of educational offerings the Department of Natural Resources plans for Hermit Park Open Space. This plan is meant to be a working document that will inform budgeting and grant proposals, and will be in place to follow the further development of Hermit Park Open Space over the next three to five years. Options for products include both personal and non-personal approaches, and will encompass the entire visitor experience, from pre-visit information through to the on the ground experience. All products will be produced with the intent of providing a high quality visitor experience and encourage connections between the visitors and the resource.

A “big idea” or overarching theme to facilitate these connections has emerged from the planning process, and all media and programming developed for Hermit Park Open Space should begin with this idea.

Hermit Park Open Space is an ecologically marvelous *sanctuary* for wildlife and humans alike, where the history of the old west in the mountains can come to life. Wildlife and humans both can take refuge in near seclusion, thanks to highly diverse woodlands. The legend and lore of this spectacular area tell of an era marked with intrigue and old fashioned American gumption. The ecological resources of the site rival that of the neighboring national park, and are deserving of both visitor’s awe and respect. Hermit Park Open Space is truly a place where people may forge connections with the natural world and the past, all at the same time.

Significant Findings:

Based on a wide range of sources concerning visitor and recreation studies, trends informing education planning emerge. Estes Park provides a quality outdoor recreation experience while being in close proximity to Front Range communities, with roughly half a million people living within 40 miles of Estes Park. The average visitor to HPOS is 45 – 55 years old, upper middle class and lives in Colorado, Texas or the mid-west.

Based on feedback and recommendations from staff products at Hermit Park Open Space will focus on the significant natural and cultural resources the site has to offer, while also attempting to address management issues such as dogs off leash and off trail use. Due to the frequency of bears in the area and camping opportunities products to make campers more ‘bear aware’ will also be produced.

Final Recommendations:

Due to the sensitive nature of many resources on site, and the struggle to bring former private users into the new public management system specific respect and stewardship messages will be developed to address on-site recreation.

Although the ‘Legend of Dutch Louie’ has been significantly de-bunked it will still be presented as an allegory regarding oral history so as to show respect to former private users of the area.

Phasing of products will generally follow the future development of Hermit Park Open Space as funding becomes available

Estimated Cost of planned options:

A full budget is located in section 5 of this plan. The overall estimated cost of products outlined in this document will be \$31,313.

Section 1: Need and Context for Plan

1.1 Brief Description of Hermit Park Open Space

Hermit Park Open Space (HPOS) is a 1,362 acre property nestled in the Estes Valley, approximately two miles southeast of the town of Estes Park. HPOS borders several protected areas including the Roosevelt National Forest, and the Meadowdale Conservation easement with the entire corridor of various protected areas comprising over 41,000 acres.

HPOS comprises three distinct niches:

- The *natural resources* found at HPOS include rare plant communities and habitat for rare and endangered wildlife. Populations of the globally rare and imperiled Rocky Mountain cinquefoil exist on site along with several different forest structures, all of which are diverse, mixed aged stands. A high altitude wetland also exists on the property which has been given an XX rating by the XX.
- The *cultural and historic resources* at HPOS include remnants of the mountain homesteading era when land was divided up and taken up by a myriad of colorful characters. Campground legends at HPOS tell of a loner named Dutch Louie who squatted on the property courtesy of the Crocker family. True or not, the legend is supported by the existence of the Hermit's Cabin, and a Cowboy Line Shack still standing today.
- The *recreational resources* at HPOS include camper cabins, camp sites, group use pavilion area, trails and eventually the addition of a boardwalk through the wetland area, along with a trailhead for the Kruger Rock trail. Recreation is a key component to the experience at HPOS, and visitor management will include the use of interpretive materials to address key issues.

1.2 Vision and Values

Hermit Park Open Space was acquired with the intent of protecting the native vegetation and wildlife populations, preserving scenic views, and providing outdoor recreation opportunities. Originally a retreat for Hewlett Packard, and later Agilent employees, Hermit Park Open Space was acquired by Larimer County in February of 2007 through a tremendous fund raising and partnership effort. Contributors to the project included; the Estes Valley Land Trust, the Estes Valley Recreation and Park District, the Town of Estes Park, City of Loveland, City of Fort Collins, Town of Berthoud, Great Outdoors Colorado, and various private donors.

In 2007 a Resource Management and Implementation plan was completed for Hermit Park Open Space. That plan (a) examines the management objectives for Hermit Park Open Space given the current ecological, social, economic and political environments (b) provides the formal program and policy guidelines that will direct the management and use of Hermit Park, and (c) develops specific implementation strategies for carrying out the various components of the management plan and subsequent management efforts.

Much of the information regarding the property found in this plan comes directly from the Resource Management and Implementation Plan.

1.3 Purpose of Plan

For the four decades that Hermit Park has been in existence it has been a private enterprise, serving only as a retreat for Hewlett Packard and Agilent employees. The fall of 2007 was the first time the general public was able to access the area. This situation is somewhat unique, and given the significant historic and ecological resources that exist on site, well thought out plans for visitor experiences is extremely important.

Specifically this plan will identify:

- The potential audiences for personal and non-personal interpretive products at Hermit Park Open Space
- An overall theme for the open space and visitor education as well as themes for non-personal interpretive products
- Recommended options for non-personal and personal interpretive products for implementation at Hermit Park Open Space
- Logistics for the phased implementation of products

1.4 Planning Considerations

Several considerations need to be taken into account for education planning at Hermit Park Open Space.

Hermit Park is unique among other properties in the Department of Natural Resources' inventory because it is a park/open land hybrid. 75% of the property is held as an open land and the remaining 25% is held as a park. This allows for 24-hour use (camping, RV's) at the area which would normally not be appropriate for an open space. While this distinction is likely meaningless to the visitors, for planning purposes it needs to be taken into account.

Campground programs in the evenings during the summer can be marketed to the 'captive' audience of campers as well as at other venues in and around the town of Estes Park. The typical set of messages used for visitors at Open Spaces (stay on trail, dogs on leash etc) will need to be expanded to cover messages related to camping activity, especially in regards to feeding wildlife, and properly managing food in the campsite.

The majority of Hermit Park Open Space is encompassed by a conservation easement held by the Estes Valley Land Trust. The conservation easement dictates the type of development and management that is allowable on the site. This will affect into educational planning when considering the use of large scale interpretive products. The addition of a trailhead for the Kruger Rock trail, a wetlands boardwalk, and an outdoor seating area at the Hermit's Cabin are permissible under the conservation easement.

Hermit Park began as a retreat for Hewlett Packard and Agilent employees. In as much, local employees of these firms demonstrate a very strong sense of place and connection to the property. Helping these former private users of the area understand the new management objectives for the site along with new regulations will be important for the success of Hermit Park Open Space. For instance, prior to county management of the site, off-trail use and dogs off leash were common and acceptable uses. This is no longer the case. In addition to the regulatory shifts, respect must be shown to the previous owners of the site when it comes to the lore and legend of the area.

The "Legend of Dutch Louie" is no doubt well known to former users of the area, however upon further investigation by county staff, in conjunction with the Estes Park Museum, the legend seems to have very little

basis in fact. Simply disregarding this oral history of the area would likely be jarring to former employees, and so interpretation around this legend will be done respectfully, while still highlighting what is now known to be more accurate.

Section 2: Inventory and Analysis

This section contains an inventory and analysis of significant natural and cultural resources found at Hermit Park Open Space that may hold interpretive value for the public. A full inventory of all ecological and historic amenities at Hermit Park Open Space can be found in the Hermit Park Open Space Resource Management and Implementation Plan. This section will also discuss specific management issues and audiences for interpretation at Hermit Park Open Space.

2.1 Natural, Cultural, and Historic Resources

Geologic:

Hermit Park Open Space features exposed granite rock outcroppings as well as many exposures of very old (2.5 billion years) Precambrian rocks. These rock outcroppings are typically a mixture of igneous and metamorphic intrusions indicative of the Rocky Mountains. Some of the outcroppings are smooth from years of weathering and erosion, while other formations remain jagged, indicating a difference in the time of their initial uplift.

The topography of Hermit Park Open Space is varied and indicative of the Southern Rocky Mountains. Features include open high meadow grasslands, wetland meadow draws, and moderately steep forest slopes. Hermit Park proper ranges in elevation from 7,880 feet to the highest point at 8,964 feet at the western extent with multiple peaks within the property. Just off of the property on USFS land lies Kruger Rock which tops out at 9,400 feet.

Vegetation:

Vegetation communities at Hermit Park Open Space include montane forests and high meadow grasslands bisected by extensive wetland complexes. 100 acres in the northernmost corner of the property has been given the rank of “high biodiversity significance” by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program due to the presence of Rocky Mountain cinquefoil, a very rare plant.

The forests of Hermit Park Open Space range from open stands of Ponderosa pine at lower elevations up to mixed Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir stands at middle elevations, and finally lodgepole pines at the highest elevations. Aspen groves and open meadows break up the forest habitat indicating areas of disturbance and demonstrate forest succession. Indications of lightning strikes appear throughout the forests and a high level of biodiversity exists among under story species.

Wetlands and Riparian Areas:

Two large high quality wetland¹ communities provide habitat, ecological benefits, and significant vegetative biodiversity at Hermit Park Open Space. Surveys of both wetlands took place in 1996 during Larimer County’s wetlands survey (Cooper & Merritt, 1996). The southern most wetland was given a ranking of “4-High” due to its pristine condition, little sign of human impact, high functional value, large extent, and known or high likelihood of sensitive species. The northern wetland received a ranking of “3-medium” due to pristine condition with little impact and probable habitat for sensitive species.

¹ Wetland communities are specifically defined by the Clean Water Act and United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Big Gulch Creek originates in Hermit Park Open Space, and flows eastward through the property before flowing into the Little Thompson River. Tributaries of the creek feed into the wetlands (see above) on the property, and provide for important habitat needs for wildlife (water, forage, cover). Big Gulch Creek is fed into by many smaller drainages throughout the property which supports a significant amount of riparian vegetation.

Rare and endangered plant species:

100 acres in the northernmost corner of the property has been given the rank of “high biodiversity significance” by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program due to the presence of Rocky Mountain cinquefoil, a very rare plant. This shrub, *Potentilla rupincola*, is imperiled both globally and in Colorado. There are only 23 known populations of this rare plant, 19 of which occur within Larimer County.

Wildlife:

Hermit Park Open Space provides abundant wildlife habitat for migratory big game, state threatened species, and globally rare species. The property provides a connection from the Roosevelt National Forest to the Meadowdale Conservation easement lands allowing ease of movement for migratory species and their predators. The size of this area is significant, allowing enough space for even the largest of animals that require intact ecosystems to sustain their habitat needs and home ranges.

Habitat types at Hermit Park Open Space are diverse allowing for a wide range of animal species. Hermit Park falls within the Colorado Division of Wildlife’s designated prime severe winter range for elk and part of a major elk migration corridor north to south and east to west.

Rare and endangered wildlife species:

Hermit Park Open Space has the potential to support the state imperiled boreal toad (*Bufo boreas boreas*), the statewide vulnerable wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*) and a state species of special concern, the northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*). These species have not been found on site, however the potential habitat does support these species.

So What?

The ecological resources of Hermit Park Open Space create a unique opportunity within the Department of Natural Resources system. Many other areas within the system fall into life zones below the montane, which Hermit Park occupies. This opportunity must be capitalized on in order to add diversity to the overall interpretive efforts of the department. Additionally, the high quality wetlands found on-site offer an unique to demonstrate the fragility and significance of wetland ecosystems in the west.

Cultural Resources:

Hermit Park Open Space was once a part of the Crocker Ranch (of the Crocker Biscuit Company), and served as a large livestock operation. Several historic buildings from this time period remain on site, including a cabin attributed to “Dutch Louie” and a Line Shack utilized by the Crocker ranch cowboys.

An archeological survey was conducted on-site in July of 2007, however no significant prehistoric artifacts or prehistoric materials were found and only two definite flakes and flake-like fragments were found. Dutch Louie has become a legend at Hermit Park Open Space, however much of the supposed legend is unsupported by the historic record.

Dutch Louie and Hermit Park Open Space²

Who is the mysterious character called “Dutch Louie”? According to local reports, the “hermit” of Hermit Park known as Dutch Louie supposedly squatted on the land of Mr. Frank W. Crocker and grew potatoes during his time in the area in the early 1900s, in addition to hunting and trapping game (Friends of Hermit Park 2007). He probably grazed a few head of cattle and hunted the place himself. While Crocker owned it he allowed a loner known as “Dutch Louie” to build a cabin and live there seven miles from Estes Park. Dutch Louie trapped a little bit, hunted some and grew some potatoes to use and trade in the town. Louie kept to himself and kids thought he was strange so his hangout became known as the “Hermit’s Park.” (Friends of Hermit Park 2007). Further, “The best known history of Hermit Park Open Space is that it was occupied by Dutch Louie, a hermit who squatted on the Crocker Ranch. He built a two-story log cabin around 1910. The structure still stands, although Dutch Louie was allegedly hung for livestock rustling” (Larimer County Department of Natural Resources 2008b).

However, land records cast some doubt on historical details about the mysterious character called “Dutch Louie” and a Mr. Frank W. Crocker on whose land Louie supposedly squatted. No information on Dutch Louie was found in any of the local history books cited previously. The only reference is a brief history segment on Larimer County web sites about Hermit Park state that “an Estes Park local named Crocker purchased the property. The only record of someone named Crocker around Hermit Park is the October 1905 cash entry for Frank W. Crocker, who purchased 120 ac in Sections 27 and 28 North of Park Hill (and 0.5 mi north of the Hermit Park property boundary) where the “Crocker Ranch” is depicted on the 1978 Panorama Peak 7½' topographic map. Instead, the lands around Dutch Louie’s house—“Hermit’s Cabin” site 5LR11798—are associated with records of other homesteaders dating to 1896, 1901, and 1910 (although it is possible that Crocker bought them out or paid them to make their claims for his benefit).

Three of these records are of interest due to the names involved. A cash entry dated February 9, 1901 involved a purchase of just under 143 ac in the Big Gulch area to Christ Wilhelm Deuschle. Although not officially a “Louie,” Mr. Deuschle’s last name could be pronounced a bit like “Dutch” and it’s tempting to suggest that locals anglicized his name in that way. Two other land transactions in 1901 and 1910 mention the name Adolph Krueger, probably the namesake of Kruger Rock, albeit the 1901 record has his middle initial as N. and for 1910 it is given as H. It is unknown whether in fact there might actually have been two Adolph Kruegers living in the Hermit Park area at the turn of the century. The 1901 record is a cash entry on the central Hermit Park area around and north of the pavilion, and was made on the same day as Deuschle’s purchase. The homestead entry for 1910 is immediately north, overlaps with part of Deuschle’s parcel in the area of the Hermit’s Cabin site, and was granted to Christianne Krueger who was listed as Adolph’s widow on the land patent.

Even more remarkable is the land transaction dated February 3, 1898, in which 160 acres of land was purchased by a John L. Jacobi. This land is in the immediate vicinity of the “Hermit’s Cabin”. Further, an obituary dated

² The following report was compiled by Open Lands Intern Sandy Marks

December 1902, describes a Louis Jacoby, familiarly known as “Dutch Louie” who resided on his ranch near Estes Park. The obituary reads:

Louis Jacoby, familiarly known as “Dutch Louie,” aged 59, who resided on his ranch near Estes Park, died at his home Thursday morning. Mr. Jacoby, years ago, had been a soldier in Prussia and carried a bullet in his left side, which at intervals caused him much discomfort. An abscess recently formed in the side which caused his death. He has no relatives in this country, but has a sister in the old country. He was the owner of thousands of acres of land, considerable personal property, and money in the bank, which goes to his sister .

Table X in appendix XX summarizes historical land transactions in and around the Hermit Park area, all from the online database maintained by the Bureau of Land Management (2008).

Among local historical records, the following is quoted from the web page www.larimer.org/Parks/hermitfunds/history.htm: “The land undoubtedly saw transient Native American hunters pursuing the deer and elk that grazed the meadows. It was around that time that an Estes Park local named Crocker purchased the property. He probably grazed a few head of cattle and hunted the place himself. While Crocker owned it he allowed a loner known as “Dutch Louie” to build a cabin and live there seven miles from Estes Park. Dutch Louie trapped a little bit, hunted some and grew some potatoes to use and trade in the town. Louie kept to himself and kids thought he was strange so his hangout became known as the “Hermit’s Park.” Dutch Louie died of unknown causes, but his legend remained.”

On that same web page, a photo caption states that the cabin was built “around 1910.” A bit more came out in the recent open space park brochure, online at

http://www.larimer.org/naturalresources/brochure_hermitpark.pdf:

The best known history of Hermit Park Open Space is that it was occupied by Dutch Louie, a hermit who squatted on the Crocker Ranch. He built a two-story log cabin around 1910. The structure still stands, although Dutch Louie was allegedly hanged for livestock rustling.

Verifying these historical tidbits has not proved easy. For example, as mentioned in the historic context section of this report, the only record of someone named Crocker around Hermit Park is the 1905 cash entry for Frank W. Crocker, who purchased 120 ac in Sections 27 and 28 north of Park Hill (and 0.5 mi north of the Hermit Park property boundary) where the “Crocker Ranch” is depicted on the 7½' topographic map. Instead, the lands around Dutch Louie’s house are associated with records of other homesteaders dating to 1896, 1901, and 1910 (although it is possible that Crocker later bought them out or paid them to make their claims for his benefit). The most suggestive is the cash entry from February, 1901 involving a purchase of about 143 ac in the Big Gulch area to Christ Wilhelm Deuschle. Did Mr. Deuschle’s neighbors and acquaintances mispronounce his surname as “Dutch” and did they give him the nickname “Louie” in a playful or derisive gesture?

So it appears that either of two landowners, John L. Jacobi or Christ Wilhelm Deuschle, could have been “Dutch Louie”, and perhaps not a squatter after all.

So What?

Hermit Park Open Space is rich with the cultural history of the “Old West” in the high mountains. Historic structures remaining on the property add a great deal of depth to the space and allow for interpretation of ‘yesteryear’. Educational products and programs linking these tangible structures to the more intangible concepts of the pioneer spirit, hard work, and exploration are very appropriate at Hermit Park Open Space.

2.2 Recreational Resources

Hermit Park Open Space is unique within the Open Space Program because it offers both the day use that is typically associated with open spaces, and over-night use which is more typical of the system's parks.

Day Use Recreation: There will be ~5 miles of natural surface trails at Hermit Park Open Space. With the exception of the Kruger Rock Trail, and ¼ mi wetlands boardwalk all of these trails will be multi-use allowing for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. The Kruger Rock and Homestead Meadows trails also connect into the adjacent Roosevelt National Forest providing for additional hiking, biking, and horseback riding opportunities.

Winter Recreation: Due to its elevation Hermit Park Open Space may be the only area within the DNR system with the potential to provide high quality winter recreation. Given enough snow cross country skiing and snowshoeing may both be possibilities.

Overnight Recreation: Hermit Park Open Space offers overnight camping for most any style of camper. Campsites for tents and RVs as well as camper cabins are available throughout the property. A pavilion area offers space for up to 300 people, and is available for picnics, reunions, and weddings.

2.3 Management Concerns

Due to the high levels of ecological sensitivity and traditional uses of Hermit Park Open Space, several management issues have been identified. These issues are specifically issues where interpretation and outreach may have a significant mitigating impact. Other issues more appropriately addressed through regulations, zoning, trail location, and seasonal closures are not included here.

Off-trail Use:

The open forest stands and meadows at Hermit Park Open Space are tempting and susceptible to visitor's walking off trail. This issue is compounded by visitor use of the campgrounds, wherein trails are not readily available, thus giving the impression of an unregulated environment throughout the property. Further, former employees of Agilent and Hewlett Packard are much more familiar with the management during the former ownership, which did not stipulate that individuals stay on designated trails.

Education will address the concerns of off-trail use by illustrating the impacts of such use, as well as promoting the ecological integrity of the area. These messages should be apparent, and repeated often throughout the visitor's experience at Hermit Park Open Space.

Dogs off leash:

Visitors with dogs off leash pose a significant management issue at Hermit Park Open Space. Off-leash dogs can have negative interactions with other users and can create stressful situations for wildlife. Wildlife do not distinguish between domestic dogs and natural canine predators and will quickly shift into a fight or flight response when approached by domestic dogs similar to their response to natural predators. Personal contacts with visitors demonstrating poor behavior in regard to domestic dogs and more explicit regulatory style signs at kiosks may be the most effective ways to address the issue.

Negative Wildlife Interaction:

The abundance of wildlife at Hermit Park Open Space is a huge draw for the public, as wildlife viewing is possibly the most high impact activity for those in search of a connection to nature. However, having humans in close contact to wildlife is inevitably going to bring about negative impacts to both wildlife and humans; specifically, the feeding of wildlife by visitors in order to get a closer look, or interact more intimately.

These types of interactions are detrimental not only to the wildlife, but also very dangerous for humans. If wildlife becomes habituated and begins to expect handouts from visitors this danger will only increase. In order to address these issues interpretation regarding wildlife will cite the impacts of feeding, while highlighting the significant habitat and wildlife viewing opportunities available at Hermit Park Open Space.

Preventing Human/Bear interactions:

Allowing camping in bear country always brings about challenges for management. In order to address proper storage of food while in camp, as well as general guidelines for camping in bear country should be provided to every camper that uses Hermit Park Open Space.

Hunting:

Limited hunting access will be available at Hermit Park Open Space beginning in the fall of 2010. There will be limited access for hunting deer and elk on-site as well as access to USFS property for hunting.

In order to ensure visitor safety and understanding specific interpretation regarding the hunting season would be beneficial for non-hunting visitors.

Forest Management/Mt. Pine Beetle:

Infestations of mountain pine beetles have become a significant concern within high altitude forests and the issue has captured a great deal of public attention. Until recently this issue has been largely taking place on the western side of the continental divide, however Hermit Park Open Space has also started to see significant affects from beetle kill along the Kruger Rock trail. This issue is further increased by Hermit Park Open Space's proximity to Rocky Mountain National Park which has had significant impacts from Mt. pine beetle, and will be closing campgrounds in 2009 in order to thin out dead trees.

Interpretation of the forests at Hermit Park Open Space will include information regarding Mt. pine beetle in order to address public concerns.

2.3 Volunteer Resources

The Department of Natural Resources has several volunteer groups that will support educational efforts at Hermit Park Open Space. Volunteer Naturalists will be available to plan and carry out monthly guided hikes and stationary presentations on-site. Volunteer Ranger Assistants will hike, bike, and ride the trails on horseback in order to encourage visitor compliance with regulations and assist visitors where needed.

Volunteer Naturalists will receive 30 hours of training in interpretation and program planning from the Education Coordinator and will develop and carry out programs with topics and themes drawn from this education plan. These programs will be marketed by the Education Coordinator. Naturalists and invited experts

may also provide campground programs between Memorial Day and Labor Day each summer. These programs are typically marketed only within the park, as a service provided to overnight visitors.

In addition to educational volunteer programs the department's volunteer program will work with Resource Specialists and area staff in order to plan and carry out volunteer projects covering a wide range of areas.

2.4 Audience Inventory and Analysis

The Audience Inventory and Analysis is key to the successful implementation of this education plan, as it helps to efficiently utilize limited time and resources to focus on the groups of people that will visit Hermit Park Open Space (HPOS). An audience inventory and analysis helps explain who the visitors are, where visitors come from and what they hope to experience at the open space. Educational programming and products can then be tailored to meet the desires of those groups.

The initial framework was created and data was compiled for this section by Marcella Wells of Wells Resources, Inc. in the Red Mountain Open Space Education Plan of 2008. Much of the data from that initial effort has been used for this plan where applicable, and some data has been updated. To address the unique features of HPOS, we have worked with Rocky Mountain National Park, the U.S. Forest Service, the town of Estes Park and other sources to gather the necessary information pertinent to this property.

Summary of findings

HPOS provides a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities in a high profile location in the Estes valley. This setting allows HPOS to draw visitors that are already familiar with the area and may be coming to other attractions in the Estes valley. Estes Park also provides a quality outdoor recreation experience while being in close proximity to Front Range communities, with roughly half a million people living within 40 miles of Estes Park. The average visitor to HPOS is 45 – 55 years old, upper middle class and lives in Colorado, Texas or the mid-west. The recreation opportunities that HPOS offers, including learning/viewing activities, tent & RV camping and hiking in somewhat developed, forested parks is significant for outdoor recreationalists'. In winters with heavy snow, HPOS can also offer popular winter sports like snowshoeing and hunting. Wildlife/bird watching, in addition to visitation to historic sites are important opportunities provided at HPOS.

There is a distinct seasonality to visitation in the Estes valley, where the large majority of visits occurring in the summer months and the most visits to RMNP occurring in July. There is a growing population in the Front Range area with a median income of around \$48,000, with disposable income to spend on leisure activities. In the short term, with economic worries and people reining in their leisure spending, people are visiting attractions closer to home. This will be a great advantage to HPOS, with over 500,000 people living in the 40 mile radius that people readily travel for open spaces and parks. In the longer term, the close proximity to the Front Range and the projected continued growth to the population in the Front Range area, HPOS will be able to attract visitors in strong economic times as well.

Finally, with the Hispanic population in Larimer County, and Colorado in general, becoming a larger and more interested group for outdoor recreation opportunities, it will become more important to tailor some programming and products towards this group. In particular, creating programming that caters to their needs of short time commitments, group-oriented events, Spanish language programming, and focusing on the types of

recreation they enjoy most like walking for leisure and group sports, will help ensure that they are included in the focus of our education planning.

Inventory

State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, (Colorado State Parks) – 2008

In 2008, Colorado State Parks released the most recent Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The purpose of this plan is to engage Colorado’s diverse outdoor recreation stakeholders in identifying strategic partnerships and initiatives that will sustain Colorado’s outdoor heritage into the future. Part of the SCORP process is to identify recreation issues and trends. To accomplish this, SCORP planners reviewed numerous data and information sources, national and statewide, that have relevance to statewide outdoor recreation. Below are select key findings relevant to the HPOS planning effort from this SCORP.

From: National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) – 2000 (referenced in SCORP)

- Walking, hiking and birding are among the fastest growing activities in national outdoor recreation
- Participation in outdoor recreation activities continues to increase (and growth in number of people participating is likely to continue)
- People are living longer and staying active longer
- Participation in outdoor recreation activities continues to increase, with high percentage increases in backpacking and day hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, and wildlife viewing
- Increasingly minorities, older and people from urban centers are participating in outdoor recreation
- Most participants are trying a greater number of activities

From: Colorado Outdoor Recreation Participation (NSRE 2000-2003)

Table 1. Colorado Outdoor Recreation Participation in 1995 and 2003			
Activity Type	1995	2003	% Change
Outdoor Recreation Participants	2.7 million (95% of population)	3.1 million (94% of population)	16%
Viewing/Learning Activities	2.2 million (80% of population)	2.9 million (88% of population)	31%
Outdoor Adventure Activities	1.6 million (54% of population)	2.0 million (62% of population)	31%

***Bold categories are applicable to HPOS**

It is important to note the increased participation in viewing and learning activities between 1995 and 2003 increased over 30%, not quite double the change in overall outdoor recreation participation for the same time period. Adventure activities also increased significantly over the time period .

- “USFWS estimates that 1.6 million Colorado residents participated in wildlife watching recreation in 2001.”
- “Colorado State Park visitation has increased steadily from about 9.2 million in 1998 to nearly 10.6 in 2002.”
- “Colorado’s pro-active open space protection efforts are significant component in providing sites for both active and passive forms of outdoor recreation for local communities. In 2000, Governor Owens’ Commission on saving open spaces, farms, and ranches published findings affirming the strong open space protection efforts that characterize Colorado.”

Colorado State Parks Market Assessment Study (Price Waterhouse Cooper) – 2002

In 2002, Price Waterhouse Cooper completed a market assessment for Colorado State Parks to “assess Colorado State Parks’ position in the marketplace and to help determine the preferred future direction for Colorado State Parks” (p. 1) A survey of 1,613 Colorado residents was part of this market assessment, and although the audience for this study was Colorado State Parks, the study contains data pertinent to HPOS– particularly data specific to the northern Front Range area, which includes Larimer and Weld Counties and Longmont. In addition, because amenities at HPOS are similar to many State Parks, inferences can be drawn from components of the State Park data to project visitor behavior at HPOS. It is also important to remember that there are differences between a typical State Park and HPOS, including the fact that State Parks are typically more developed than HPOS in it’s current state.

- 43% of Coloradoans over 18 have visited a State Park in the past 24 months, many of which are similar in amenities to HPOS
- Visitors to State Parks tend to be in their thirties or forties, highly educated, Caucasian, married and have an average household income of \$46,000
- Coloradoans drive an average of 38 miles to get to a State Park
- The average visit to a State Park is about 6-8 hours
- More trails and remote/backcountry access is the largest draw for the 18-24 and the 35-54 age group, while the creation of more developed campgrounds are the strongest draw for the 55+ age group
- Average amount spent on a trip to a State Park is \$86 per vehicle, with about \$20 spent inside the park and \$66 spent within 50 miles of the Park

Table 2. First Choice for Outdoor Recreation Destinations		
Destination	% of respondents – North Front Range Region (n=91)	% of respondents – Colorado (n=1613)
Wilderness areas with little or no development	32%	29%
Large parks with a wide range of camping, trails, boating and fishing	31%	27%
Forests and lakes with limited trails, camping, boating and fishing	17%	21%
Rivers with boating and fishing	15%	16%
Community trails and community parks with ball fields and recreation centers	6%	8%

***Bold categories are applicable to HPOS**

As highlighted above, the top three categories of Outdoor Recreation Destinations are captured by some component of HPOS. Nearly one third of Front Range region respondents (32%) prefer wilderness (or wild land) areas with little or no development, while a combined 48% prefer a more developed camping and hiking experience. Hermit Park offers a moderately developed area, while trails that originate in Hermit Park go into the Roosevelt National Forest, which satisfies desires for a more ‘wild’ experiences.

Table 3. Cities and Towns Within 40 Miles of HPOS

Name of City or Town	Miles from HPOS	Population
Fort Collins	27	133,899
Boulder	28	93,552
Longmont	26	84,995
Loveland	22	64,429
Broomfield	37	53,691
Lafayette	34	24,888
Louisville	34	18,819
Windsor	32	17,310
Erie	33	15,712
Superior	36	10,483

Google Earth & U.S. Census data via city-data.com

There are ten cities with a population over 10,000 and a total of 23 cities and towns with populations over 1,000 within 40 miles of HPOS. Roughly 500,000 people live in this radius, and these are the communities that most local visitors will visit from.

Table 4. Participation in Outdoor Recreation Activities in the Aast 12 Months (2002-2003)

Activity	% of respondents – North Front Range Region (n=91)	% of respondents – Colorado (n=1613)
Picnicking	79	82
Trail Recreation (hiking, biking)	77	74
Water Recreation (swimming, sailing)	66	61
Tent Camping	58	59
Fishing	45	53
Visiting Historical Sites	68	62
Motorized Water Recreation	25	29
RV/Car Camping	33	37

Bird/Wildlife Watching	33	37
Hunting	15	20
Winter Sports (skiing, snowshoeing)	39	36
Ball Sports (golf, baseball, tennis)	47	44
Motorized Trail Recreation	15	31
Motorized Winter Recreation	5	16

*Bold categories are applicable to HPOS

Many of the most popular outdoor recreation activities such as picnicking, trail recreation, tent camping, visiting historical sites, RV/Car camping, bird/wildlife watching, hunting and winter sports, are all available (or planned in the future) for Hermit Park Open Space.

Table 5. Speculated Increase in Visitation Based on Proposed Feature (bold = possible Hermit Park feature)

Feature	% of respondents – North Front Range Region (n=91)	% of respondents – Colorado (n=1613)
Smaller crowds	87	83
More backcountry parks with minimal development	69	70
Better quality facilities	67	70
More trail opportunities	70	67
Greater range of recreation opportunities	54	60
More educational programs	58	57
More advertising	58	55
Theme parks	28	35
Lodges/conference center	30	34
Golf courses	21	19

*Bold categories are applicable to HPOS

A vast majority of respondents voiced preference for more backcountry parks with minimal development (69%), better quality facilities (67%), more trail opportunities (70%), greater range of recreation opportunities (54%) and more educational programs (58%). These are all features that might be accommodated at Hermit Park.

- In the northern Front Range region (as well as in the state overall), word of mouth (friends and family) is still the number one source of planning information for leisure pursuits (87%), although newspapers (64%), internet (45%), TV (44%), and radio (36%) also play a role.
- Statewide, major motivations for out-of-home leisure activities include: desire to unwind/escape (82%), self-fulfillment (70%), socialization—being with others, time with family (68%), and thrill-seeking (51%).

Table 6. 25 Year Population Trends for Larimer County, Region and State

	1990	2000	2001	2002	2005	2010	2015	% Change 1990-2015
Larimer County	186,136	253,137	259,707	263,113	267,369	299,040	333,381	79%
Regional (Larimer, Weld)	317,953	436,698	454,025	465,540	488,441	574,114	649,778	104%

and Longmont)								
Colorado	3,294,473	4,321,023	4,426,825	4,487,055	4,696,441	5,218,144	5,737,305	74%

Colorado Division of Local Government

The populations of Larimer County and the region have grown significantly over the past five years and are projected to continue along a similar growth curve in the near future.

Table 7. Comparative Demographics by County, Region and State						
	Median Age	Median Household Income	% Below Poverty Level	% Hispanic	% White	% Other Race
Larimer County	33	\$48,655	9%	8%	88%	4%
Regional (Larimer, Weld and Longmont)	32	\$45,488	11%	27%	70%	3%
Colorado	34	\$47,203	9%	18%	79%	3%

Wells Resources, Inc. - Red Mountain Open Space Ed Plan

Table 8. 10-Year Visitation Data at Regional Parks and National Forests					
	Lory State Park	St. Vrain State Park	Boyd Lake State Park	Rocky Mountain National Park	Arapaho National Forest
1997-98	80,957	140,990	407,919	3,258,921	
1998-99	89,037	132,109	528,467	3,366,253	
1999-00	55,679	124,379	451,610	3,379,644	
2000-01	60,083	139,262	399,256	3,318,066	
2001-02	64,477	108,579	272,776	3,138,066	
2002-03	50,624	106,942	341,366	3,249,444	7,824,097
2004-05				2,981,039	
2006-07				2,927,921	
2007-08	100,127	114,056	317,202	2,929,750	6,400,000

Wells Resources, Colorado State Parks and National Park Service

Table 9. Visitors to Rocky Mountain National Park by Month for 2008 Season	
January	70,456
February	71,150
March	83,739
April	69,743
May	178,069
June	442,913
July	634,701
August	562,814
September	443,018
October	224,273
November	83,667

December	65,206
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National Park Service - Rocky Mountain National Park

The close proximity to Rocky Mountain National Park lends pertinence to the attendance data from the Park to effects on HPOS. There is clearly a strong seasonal influence for visitors to the National Park, with peak attendance during May-October, and July being the peak month for visitors to attend the Park. Additionally, with various campgrounds in RMNP closed due to beetle-killed trees, HPOS will most likely enjoy spillover from these closures for the next three to five years.

Table 10. Estes Park Visitor Demographics	
Avg. Visitor Age	45 – 54
Family Status	Married, no children at home or left children at home
Income	\$50,000 - \$100,000
Education	College Graduate
Residence	Colorado, Texas and Mid-West (IL, MO, NE, KS)
What They Enjoy	Outdoors and non-amusement activity in a mountain setting (wildlife, hiking, walking, relaxation)

2006 Town of Estes Park Intercept Survey

The town of Estes Park is also an important draw to the area, with attractions like the Stanley Hotel, the activities surrounding elk migration and acts as a regional mountain getaway for visitors along the Front Range. The average visitor to Estes Park is similar to those typically associated as users of Open Space, 45 years old, upper middle class and well-educated. This survey also demonstrated that non-local visitors tended to come from Texas and the Mid-West.

Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Visitor Survey

During the summer of 2005, Larimer County conducted a series of self-administered surveys (on-site and mail) to explore visitor satisfaction of facilities and services at select County Park and Open Lands areas. Self-administered survey data was collected at Devil’s Backbone Open Space, Horsetooth Mountain Open Space, Eagle’s Nest Open Space, Fossil Creek Open Space, and Ramsay-Shockey Open Space. A total of 372 visitors completed surveys at these areas. The following summarize relevant highlights from these 372 surveys:

- Spending time with friends and family (41%), picnicking (18%), viewing wildlife and scenery (55%), hiking (70%), and biking (20%) were among the popular activities for these visitors
- 22% of respondents stated that they had participated in an education program activity (guided hikes 16%, campground programs 6%)
- When asked to suggest ideas for educational programming visitors chose wildlife programs (8%), kids’ programs (3.2%), guided hikes (2.7%) and plant identification (2.4%)
- Nearly one third of respondents (32%) felt that more environmental education programming was desirable
- A full three quarters (78%) were satisfied with the quality of services in Park and Open Space areas.

Fort Collins Natural Areas Survey, 2006

In 2006, Corona Research, Inc. conducted a visitor studies project to determine the annual visitation for City of Fort Collins Natural Area and to explore visitor perceptions, preferences, and satisfaction with the natural areas. Both observational surveys and intercept surveys were employed in this research. Highlights from this research include the following:

- Natural Areas receive an estimated 3.7 million visitors/year
- Hikers/walkers make up an estimated 1.4 million visits annually; bikers make up an estimated 1.5 million visits/year
- Hiking was the most frequent recreational activity reported by respondents (70%), followed by biking (50%), wildlife viewing (43%)
- An estimated 65% of all visits occur on weekdays, and estimated 35% occur during the weekends
- Over half of respondents reported that they visited Fort Collins Natural Areas more than 50 times per year (approximately once/week)

Respondents mostly enjoy the solitude, peacefulness, and relaxing elements of the natural areas (25%), nature and wildlife (18%), and well-maintained aspects of the trails and natural areas (14%).

Analysis

The following analysis of these key findings is offered for enhancing specific educational planning initiatives at HPOS:

Growth and Fluctuation in Outdoor Recreation

The NSRE data and the Tourism/Outdoor Recreation Profile both suggest that participation in outdoor recreation will most likely continue to increase. This suggests more and more people (and a greater percentage of the overall population) will be visiting natural areas and open spaces. It is therefore important that this interest is anticipated and planned for accordingly.

Second, visitation to specific areas in Colorado has fluctuated over the past several years (Table 7). For example, two state parks show steady visitation over time and yet one state park and RMNP show more volatile visitation. Visitation depends on many variables including distance traveled, season, gas prices, national/state economy, recreation habits, life stage and opportunity awareness. Some of the more recent considerations that may influence visitation in the short term include:

- Fluctuating gas prices – people are staying closer to home and will look for convenient opportunities
- The economy – the more stress people feel in their everyday lives, the more they may seek opportunities to get away, escape, or relax
- Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) Effects – Because of closed campgrounds in RMNP due to beetle-kill, there may be an overflow effect of campers to HPOS. Depending on plans to restore or relocate camping in RMNP may mean an increase for visitors at HPOS for the next three to five years.
- Awareness of nature – books such as Richard Louv's Last Child in the Woods are increasing the awareness of families, teachers, and citizens to enjoy the out of doors. It is important that natural areas and open spaces anticipate new audiences to these areas.

Recommendations:

- Expect fluctuations in visitation, especially in the early months/years of HPOS operations as Campground 2 is opened in the 2009 season.
- Carefully monitor visitation by day of week, month, season, and year until use patterns begin to emerge.
- Conduct periodic visitor studies with on-site visitors to understand why people come and what factors influence their visits.
- Market the benefits of outdoor recreation in orientation and educational materials, but be clear about the market niche for HPOS experiences (see more below). This is especially relevant for possible new or visiting outdoor recreation audiences.
- Provide high-quality customer service at all times, remembering that the top source for planning information for leisure pursuits is word of mouth. Word of mouth referrals are essential in the success of HPOS.
- In addition to word of mouth referrals, newspapers and internet are the best media to market in.
- Solicit quotes from visitors about their experiences at HPOS to use in future marketing.
- Consider implementing referral discount program that offers discounts to visitors who recommend the park to others to capitalize on word of mouth advertising.

Characteristics of Outdoor Recreationists

NSRE and general demographic data indicate that people are living longer, staying active longer, and that older citizens are increasingly more affluent and educated. This has implications for the type and number of learning/educational and experiential activities we plan for our open spaces.

Furthermore, the Hispanic population in northern Colorado is growing (Table 6) and these individuals may become visitors to HPOS as their awareness is raised and recreation/educational opportunities become available to the general public. It is important to note that the Hispanic population typically spends their money and leisure time in somewhat different ways than the Caucasian population typically does. Key characteristics include:

- The most significant barrier for outdoor recreation for Hispanic population is lack of leisure time (3.9 hours per day), so programs with short time commitments are important.
- Most active segment of population is 18-34, with 40% spending more than 4 hours per week on physical activities
- Hispanic teens have a significantly higher incidence of obesity, at a rate of 25% of children 12-18, compared with that of 12.9% of Caucasians and 21.8% of African Americans.
- The Hispanic population's income has risen by 20% since 1996, but still trails Caucasians by 51.9%. Hispanics also spend 96% of their pre-tax income, higher than most other ethnic groups.
- Language is a primary barrier, with 59% of population preferring to speak Spanish in every situation, and 70% speaking Spanish in their homes. Providing programming and products in Spanish may become a more essential element in educational planning.
- The types of outdoor activities the Hispanic population enjoys varies from non-Hispanic populations, with group-orientated recreation favored that includes extended family, many times exceeding 100 people.
- Most activities are land or shore-based, including outdoor cooking and picnicking. Playing sports like soccer or baseball is also popular.
- Few Hispanics own boats and a majority are not confident swimmers, so water-based recreation isn't a high use, except for wading and splashing.
- Walking for pleasure, followed by fishing and soccer were the most favored outdoor recreation pursuits

Recommendations:

- The typical visitor to the Estes Valley is 45 – 55 years old, is college educated, married and upper middle class. (See Table 9) Carefully consider both the very active and senior populations in educational programming. Increasingly, visitors to local open spaces are already aware of and educated about fundamentals of natural history and processes (e.g., plant and animal identification, basic ecology, need for conservation/stewardship). HPOS provides an ideal opportunity for more intermediate and advanced educational initiatives, and experiences that are active and offer first-hand experiences with nature (eg., geology, unique cultural history).
- Consider active seniors as possible volunteers, educators, and stewards of the open space. The Estes valley has an active and involved senior population to tap into for volunteer opportunities.
- Some attention should be paid to Hispanic audiences in advertising and educational programming due to demographic shifts in Larimer County.
- In conducting periodic visitor studies (recommended above), consider the notion of capturing reasons for visiting as well as desired opportunities for local residents (i.e., repeat visitors).
- Leverage regional attraction of RMNP (coming largely from Texas and the mid-west), by implementing programming and products that emphasize the similar components of HPOS and RMNP.
- Find ways to promote HPOS at various Estes area attractions such as the RMNP Visitor’s Center, the Stanley Hotel, local retailers in town, etc. It might also be efficient to ride the coattails of any existing marketing campaigns that the Estes Chamber may do focused on out of state visitors.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities and Experiences

Both the NSRE data and the PWC Market Assessment suggest that outdoor recreationists are seeking more diverse opportunities (i.e., a wider range of activities), and in some cases, opportunities with less or minimal development (Table 2 and Table 4). This assumes that our open spaces offer visitors a full spectrum of possibilities. From a management perspective, HPOS offers a variety of opportunities, some toward the semi-primitive end of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum, and some more developed opportunities. Visitor experiences should be educationally commensurate with this management, for example:

- Pre-visit information that clarifies the specific visitor experiences available (e.g. appropriate outdoor gear; talk about developed facilities; personal responsibility for safety) is essential
- On-site information and education is robust and thorough, consistent with the site aesthetic, and assumes that not all visitors are well-versed in the “do’s and dont’s” of an outdoor recreation experience. Specifically, it will be important to create programming around bear issues in campgrounds.
- On-site information and education inspires stewardship behaviors and provides unique site-specific messages as opposed to broad, general environmental education.

Recommendations:

Select current popular outdoor recreation activities such as picnicking, trail recreation, visiting historical sites, RV and tent camping and nature/wildlife viewing (NSRE, Corona Research) are very consistent with proposed HPOS management. Furthermore, certain visitor preferences for smaller crowds, parks with more facilities, more trail opportunities, more educational programs (Table 4) are also consistent with HPOS. Finally, select motivations for

visiting such as escape, self-fulfillment, and being with others (Corona Research, PWC Market Assessment) are consistent with planned opportunities for HPOS. These niche markets and opportunities should be marketed and education programs developed accordingly.

Environmental Education Opportunities for K-12 and University Aged Students:

Due to the remoteness of HPOS to all but Estes Park schools, and the fluctuating costs of transportation for school field trips emphasis will be placed on having K-12 school field trips at HPOS for Estes area schools only.

More potential to make HPOS a study area for university students may exist, as long as the research being conducted benefits the Department of Natural Resources in some manner.

Recommendations:

- The Education Coordinator will work with schools in the Park School district to identify and potentially address barriers to having field trips at HPOS. This may include securing grant funding to provide coverage for transportation costs for the school.
- The Education Coordinator will develop K-12 educational programs for use as opportunities arise.

Section 3: Opportunities and Options

This section of the plan contains the overall site theme for Hermit Park Open Space’s visitor’s experience, statements of significance regarding the natural and cultural resources of Hermit Park Open Space, and recommendations for personal and non-personal interpretive products. The phasing and evaluation of products is also described in this section.

3.1 Broad Themes and Vision for the Visitor Experience

Overall Site Themes:

Theme statements capture the unique characteristics, intrinsic qualities, and compelling stories of the site. Themes answer common questions such as: What’s special about this place? Why should I personally care about this place? Why should I visit this place? In this plan the overall site theme has been derived with regard to the management vision for the site, and is supported by more detailed statements of significance (compelling stories) which should be addressed as messages within non-personal and personal interpretive media.

The ***Overall Site Theme*** is the overarching educational theme statement for Hermit Park Open Space. All other themes used at Hermit Park Open Space should be derived from this theme. This statement serves as the ‘mission statement’ for the Education Program and its volunteers to use at Hermit Park. The overall site theme should be broad enough to encompass all other themes for the site, but specific enough to guide educational efforts on site. The overall site theme for Hermit Park Open Space is:

Hermit Park Open Space is an ecologically marvelous *sanctuary* for wildlife and humans alike, where the history of the old west in the mountains can come to life. Wildlife and humans both can take refuge in near seclusion, thanks to highly diverse woodlands. The legend and lore of this spectacular area tell of an era marked with intrigue and old fashioned American gumption. The ecological resources of the site rival that of the neighboring national park, and are deserving of both visitor’s awe and respect. Hermit Park Open Space is truly a place where people may forge connections with the natural world and the past, all at the same time.

Statements of Significance are broad themes or compelling stories that further elaborate the overall site theme for the property. These statements continue to tell the story of what is significant at Hermit Park Open Space.

Ecological Resources- From diverse forest stands, to lush green riparian areas, to the open wetlands, Hermit Park Open Space contains some of the most significant ecological resources in the Estes Valley including rare plants found few other places in the world.

Wildlife Resources – With intact and unspoiled habitat Hermit Park Open Space is a sanctuary and home to a diverse population of wildlife, providing homes for everything from the tiniest chipmunk to the majestic moose.

Cultural History – A walk through Hermit Park Open Space can reveal so much about those who came before us, and luckily remnants of these people remain almost such that you can hear their stories in the wisps of campfire smoke each evening during the summer.

Scenic – A rich tapestry of natural beauty comprised of intimate forests and drainages, wide open wetlands, granite outcroppings and grand views of the continental divide await visitors at Hermit Park Open Space.

A Vision for the Visitor Experience:

The visitor experience begins long before someone steps foot on the property. It includes everything from the initial website inquiry to the actual on-site visit to post-visit reflection. Satisfied visitors are likely to return, bringing others along with them, and eventually may become good stewards of the place. Therefore the vision for the visitor experience is as follows:

Visitors to Hermit Park Open Space have a fantastic opportunity to discover and enjoy all the natural, cultural, wildlife and aesthetic values that have brought people to the Estes Valley for thousands of years. First-hand engagements with the significant features of the site and the opportunity to explore the landscape should be revealing and stimulating. Visitors will leave with their desires to ‘get away’ satiated and demonstrate a strong desire for the continued stewardship of the area.

3.2 Tagline and Banner for Hermit Park Open Space

In keeping with the efforts of the Department of Natural Resources to create a specific identity for each property, a tagline and banner are recommended for Hermit Park Open Space. These tactics can help create a structure for visitors to interact with the educational products and programs offered on-site, and help establish a cohesive message for the site.

The ‘banner’ refers to a narrow band with a specific topographic feature from the property as well as the name and tagline of the property and county logo. This banner can easily be adapted for a variety of media including but not limited to; fliers, power point presentations, and interpretive panels.

Tagline for Hermit Park Open Space:

In keeping with the overall site theme and vision for the visitor experience, the proposed tagline for Hermit Park Open Space is:

“A Backcountry Experience in a Frontcountry Location”

This statement encapsulates the sentiment of visitors who have already experienced the site, as well as setting new visitors up with an idea of what they are likely to encounter through the various media they will come in contact with. Upon adoption of this plan, and acceptance of this tagline, it will begin to appear with the banner on new and updated interpretive media developed for Hermit Park Open Space.

3.3 Recommendations for Personal and Non-personal Interpretive Products

The following recommendations emerged from the inventory and analysis (Section 2), and the broad themes and visitor experiences (above). This section of the plan focuses on specific media recommendations for pre-visit and on-site education and interpretation.

Due to the nature of the site this list may seem to be incomplete, however the reader must consider that the site has been in use since the 1960s, and many features which may be called for are already in place. Additionally this plan is being completed well after the County has taken ownership of the property, therefore some recommendations are already in developed and in place, however placing them in this plan allows for the themes and inventories to be considered when updating (website, brochure).

Interpretation and educational products will follow the design laid out in the Resource Management and Implementation Plan. Among other recommendations this plan calls for the development of a visitor’s services building (currently in place), a rustic group seating area at the Hermit’s Cabin, a ¼ mile boardwalk for access to the Line Shack, and trailheads for the Kruger Rock and Homestead Meadow’s Connector trails. Interpretive features for these development areas are outlined in the table below, and more detailed descriptions of products in phases 1-3 follow.

Development plans also call for the construction of a full scale visitor center at Hermit Park Open Space. The creation of such a facility will require extensive interpretive planning, and upon securing funding for such a project an addendum to this education plan will be created for the visitor center itself, complete with overall themes, recommendations for displays and exhibits, and recommendations for including interpretive features in the construction of the facility itself. These details will not be discussed further within this plan.

Development of educational media will be phased based on availability of resources (time/money) and need. Products are divided into 4 distinct phases.

- **Phase 1:** Products with in-house design and minimal fabrication cost. Development of these products would occur in the spring of 2010 for placement in the summer of 2010.
- **Phase 2:** Products that will follow the continuation of the development of the site. Generally these products will require contracting with a graphic designer, and in some cases will have significant fabrication costs (High pressure laminate panels)
- **Phase 3:** Products that will require significant content development and acquisition of artifacts, as well as possible structural features. Also includes products not detailed within the development planning.
- **Phase 4:** Technological and personal interpretive products which can occur at any point throughout the phasing process. These products may have a lower priority for the near future, but as technology changes these products will keep Hermit Park Open Space’s educational offerings on the forefront of the industry.

Table X: Summary of Proposed Educational Media Recommendations		
<i>Deliverable</i>	<i>Brief Description</i>	<i>Phase</i>
Recommendation Set #1: Pre-Visit Information and Education		
HPOS Webpage	Section on DNR webpage specific to Hermit Park – orientation, rules and regulations, overarching management philosophies, recreation and educational opportunities.	Complete
Site Brochure	Site brochure consistent with other Open Space brochures to include orientation and map, rules and regulations, and overview of Hermit Park Open Space.	Complete

Camping with Bears	Brochure or pamphlet describing the issue of bears in campsites and what campers need to do to avoid human/wildlife encounters. Include LNT principles.	1
Recommendation Set #2: Hermit Park Open Space Visitor Services Building		
Conservation Education	Poster or simple wall mounted panel complete with map of HPOS in context with the larger conservation area. Describe partnerships involved in protection of HPOS along with explanation of importance of protecting large tracts of land for wildlife/biodiversity. Discuss relationship between Hermit Park Open Space and Estes Valley Land Trust.	1
Wildlife Interpretation	Utilizing donated mounts from DOW highlight wildlife found at HPOS and describe how they fit into the larger landscape. Could be done with single wall mounted panel or with a smaller panel along with exhibit displays at each mount. Ensure visitors understand how mounts came to be in LCDNR hands (DOW etc).	1
Recommendation Set #3: The Hermit's Cabin		
Legend of Dutch Louie	Single HPL interpretive panel detailing the Legend of Dutch Louie using new information in order to highlight the organic nature of history.	2
Homesteading Life (Hermit's Cabin)	Create exhibits within the Hermit's Cabin demonstrating tools of everyday life on homesteads in the inter-mountain west. Cover windows with plexiglass in order to allow viewing of the exhibits without public access to the cabin itself.	4
Recommendation Set #4: Bear Education in Campgrounds		
Camping in Bear Country	Simple interpretive panels, done on .80 aluminum prominently located in each camping area to address wildlife/human interaction.	1
Recommendation Set #5: Wetland Area Boardwalk and Line Shack		
Wetland Ecology	1-2 Interpretive Panels along ¼ mi wetlands boardwalk focusing on wetland ecology and food webs.	2
Ranching Life	Single stand alone HPL panel or smaller panel mounted on Line Shack describing ranching in the mountain west around turn of century and into 20 th century.	2
Recommendation Set #6: Kruger Rock Trail and Trailhead Area		
Trailhead kiosk	At least 2 panel kiosk with a site map and on-site orientation information. Some interpretation of the Kruger Rock trail. Offer regulations, emergency information, and flier holders for upcoming events.	2
Forest Ecology Panel	Single interpretive panel (HPL or other) located near in to the TH area describing forest ecology and touching on fire ecology. Address Mt. Pine Beetle in an inset to this panel.	2
Peak Locator	A bronze plaque embossed with the peaks visible from a point along the Kruger Rock trail complete with a sundial style implement which can turn in order to correspond to the peak on the landscape along with the peak embossed in the bronze.	2
Recommendation Set #7: Homestead Meadow's Connector Trail Trailhead		
Trailhead Kiosk	Single panel kiosk offering a site map and on-site orientation information and interpretation of the Homestead Meadows trail. Potentially stock with USFS brochures regarding homesteads. Panel could also contain information regarding the conservation area HPOS is a piece of and multi-use trail etiquette.	3
Recommendations Set #8: Personal Interpretation		
Forest Ecology Program	2-3 hour hiking program along Kruger Rock trail detailing the forests ecological structure utilizing recent fire damage to highlight the importance of fire for forests.	4
Wildlife Programs	Program featuring significant wildlife resources of the property. Could be done with skins/skulls table or as a guided hike around a trail. In winter focus on wildlife adaptations to changing seasons.	4
Homestead Life Program	Descriptions of life during the homesteading era – possibly done in character at Line Shack or Hermit's Cabin.	4
Hermit Park Cosmopolitan Program	Description of all significant features found on the site utilizing the Kruger Rock trail.	4
Campground Programs	Programs offered throughout the summer (Memorial Day – Labor Day) on a wide range of topics. Programs are typically held Saturday evenings, are 45-60 minutes long, and take place at the Hermit's Cabin (with some exceptions)	4
Full Moon Programs		4
Wildflower Hikes		4
Recommendations Set #9: Non-personal technology based interpretation		

HPOS Web Video	An updated and more specific version of the “Legend of Dutch Louie” video produced by the Friends of Larimer County. Would outline recreational opportunities and offer answers to the most frequently asked questions about the space. Would be offered on the web.	4
Trail Podcasts	Audio podcasts developed to interpret the trail system on Hermit Park Open Space. Technological adaptation of the post/brochure based interp system on the Wild Loop of the Devil’s Backbone.	4
Hermit Park Twitter Page	Twitter page specific to Hermit Park Open Space where information about current conditions could be shared with users along with users being able to post about their personal experiences.	4

Pre-visit education and information products:

Website – already developed

Description: A subsection of the Larimer County DNR webpage that focuses specifically on Hermit Park Open Space. The site is meant to be a pre-visit planning tool for visitors. The page will feature information about the site including, a description of the property, directions from various locations, links to camping registration, the site brochure, a site map, trail descriptions, the management plan and regulations for the site.

Theme: Hermit Park Open Space is a place where you can get away from it all relatively close to civilization with amenities to meet most needs.

Goal: To provide an online and pre-visit opportunity for visitors to adequately prepare for their visit to the site and set reasonable expectations for their experience at Hermit Park Open Space.

Site Brochure – already developed

Description: A c-fold, 2 color, tri-fold or quad-fold brochure specific to Hermit Park Open Space available on-site, online, and at the Bison Visitor Center. The format and style of this brochure will be consistent with other LCDNR informational brochures and will include a map of the area, information regarding trails and regulations, information regarding the Open Lands Program, information about camping in bear country, and a locator map of all properties managed by LCDNR.

Theme: Hermit Park Open Space offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities and ways for folks to get away from the hustle and bustle of their everyday lives. This significant landscape is open to all, and everyone has a responsibility for it remaining intact.

Goal: To provide visitors with a tangible guide to Hermit Park Open Space and its importance and to help plan their experience.

Camping in Bear Country Handout

Description: A rack card style flier, produced in house, with specific information about camping at Hermit Park and avoiding human/wildlife contact, specifically contact with bears. Principles of Leave No Trace camping and recreation should also be included. This flier should be given to each and every camper coming into the park to help mitigate the management issue of people camping in bear habitat.

Theme: Hermit Park Open Space provides prime habitat for bears and campers. Campers need to learn how to appropriately share this habitat.

Goal: To reduce the instance or evidence of negative human/wildlife interactions in Hermit Park Open Space’s campgrounds.

Hermit Park Open Space Visitor Services Building:

Conservation Education

Description: A small panel or poster located in the public area of the visitor services building describing the 40,000+ acre conservation corridor that Hermit Park Open Space ties into along with a brief overview on the partnership and acquisition of the property. Discussion of the Estes Valley Land Trusts holding of the Conservation Easement on the property would also be appropriate on this panel. Descriptions of wildlife corridors and their ecological importance will help the public understand the significance of the area.

Theme: Humans are not the only ones looking for solitude – wildlife seek out large tracts of protected areas to get away from human encroachment into their habitats.

Goals: To help the public understand the significance of the wildlife habitat and corridors in the area and the Herculean efforts involved in preserving Hermit Park Open Space.

Wildlife Education

Description: Hermit Park Open Space has been the beneficiary of several confiscated mounts from the Colorado Division of Wildlife’s Operation Game Thief program. These mounts were taken during investigations, and in many cases used as evidence at trial. Several of these currently reside in the visitor services building. Interpretation of these would include an explanation of DOW’s programs, and how the mounts were donated to Hermit Park Open Space, along with exhibit tags for each species describing the types of habitat they find at Hermit Park Open Space.

Theme: Wildlife in Colorado makes our state special, and is deserving of protection under the law. Hermit Park Open Space provides great habitat for many species for which the state is famous.

Goals: Provide the public information about how the mounts came to hang in the visitor services building while providing object lessons regarding habitat and wildlife ecology.

The Hermit’s Cabin:

The Legend of Dutch Louie

Description: A single high-pressure laminate panel located adjacent to the planned seating area near the Hermit’s Cabin detailing the Legend of Dutch Louie along with historical context of the homesteading era in Estes Park. The Dutch Louie story does not have much support in fact, and this panel will also give an opportunity to discuss the nature of oral history and how legends of the old west get ‘taller’ through the generations.

Theme: History and legend do not always coincide, but both have an important place in people’s understanding of those who came before them.

Goals: To share the rich history of Hermit Park Open Space with the public while providing historical context to the legends of the area. Every effort to respect these legends will be made, as many HP and Agilent employees will likely have fond memories of these tales from their days camping at Hermit Park.

Homesteading Life

Description: Without significant restoration, there can be no public access to the Hermit's Cabin. However, exhibits located within the Hermit's Cabin would help bring the homesteading era to life. Original artifacts or replicas would need to be obtained for these exhibits. Arrangements of period tools, clothing, furniture, and implements throughout the cabin with large exhibit labels would comprise the feature. Visitors would view the exhibits through plexi-glass covering the windows of the cabin. Lighting for the exhibit would be a significant challenge due to the lack of nearby electricity. Stepping stools may be called for depending on the area around the windows in question.

Theme: Homesteads were common throughout the Estes Valley and were indicative of the European settlement of the area. This was an often a harsh lifestyle, calling for innovation, invention, and hard work.

Goals: Bring the old west to life for the visitors while helping them forge connections to the past with the use of universal concepts and primary artifacts.

Bear Education in Campgrounds:

Camping in Bear Country

Description: Small unobtrusive 'regulatory' style signs to remind campers of their responsibilities while camping in bear country. These would be largely graphical in nature, allowing for easy reading from a car. Depending on funding and need there could be back to back signs on each post. Upon entrance displaying a general responsibility message, while on the opposite side a gentle reminder about leaving camp clean could be given.

Theme: Camping in bear country is a wonderful opportunity that comes with additional responsibility for everyone.

Goals: Reduce and mitigate human/wildlife conflict in Hermit Park Open Space's camping areas.

Wetland Boardwalk and "Line Shack"

Wetlands Ecology

Description: A set of 1-2 36x24 inch high pressure laminate panels along the ¼ mile boardwalk focusing on wetland ecology. Panel topics could include formation of wetlands, why they are significant, a typical wetlands food web, and the eco-services wetlands provide. Additionally, messages including rare plants at Hermit Park and the pristine condition of the wetlands may be beneficial in order to encourage stewardship of the area.

Theme: Wetlands are as rare as they are fascinating in the Western Rockies.

Goals: Increase awareness of wetland ecology and the significance of wetlands in the West.

The "Line Shack"

Description: 1 stand-alone high pressure laminate panel (likely 24x18) describing ranching in the Estes Park area, and how this land use factored into the European settlement of the valley. This same information could link to the Dutch Louie story, though that would be a lower priority for this particular sign.

Themes: Ranching played a significant role in the settling of Estes Park, and Hermit Park Open Space was once utilized as a ranching operation.

Goals: Help the public make a connection to past land uses and European settlement of the Estes Valley.

Kruger Rock Trail and Trailhead Area:

Trailhead Kiosk Signs

Description: A set of .80 gauge aluminum sign panels with UV coating containing general Hermit Park Open Space orientation and way finding materials, with a specific focus on the Kruger Rock Trail. Signs with regulations and emergency information would also be appropriate on the kiosk. Stewardship and respect messages would be prominent throughout these sign panels along with cautionary messages regarding elevation and altitude issues associated with coming up from the plains to hike in the mountains.

Theme: Kruger Rock Trail offers a unique look at a montane forest ecosystem and a short challenging hike that will reward your efforts with unbelievable views of the continental divide and the Estes Valley.

Goals: Help the public prepare and understand the experience they are likely to have on the Kruger Rock Trail.

Forest Ecology

Description: A single high-pressure laminate sign panel (36x24) fairly early in the Kruger Rock trail to introduce the concepts of forest ecology and provide for self-exploration along the remainder of the trail. Special attention would be paid to the importance of fire for forest ecosystems in order to explain the evidence of past fires encountered early on in the trail. Messages regarding the rare plant communities that Hermit Park supports would be appropriate on this panel as well.

Theme: The forest visitors' encounter on the Kruger Rock trail is diverse in both species and age, demonstrating a wonderful example of a healthy montane forest stand in various stages of development where fire continues to play a role on the landscape. .

Goals: To give the public a framework for on trail self-exploration along the Kruger Rock trail by explaining the basics of forest ecology and giving suggestions for things to look for along their hike.

Peak Locator

Description: A flat bronze or copper disc mounted on a sturdy rock or other appropriate substrate embossed with the outline, names, and elevations of the peaks visible from it's location with a sun-dial type implement which can be turned to line up the peak on the disc with the peak on the landscape ensuring you are viewing the proper peak. Examples of this less intrusive peak locator feature can be seen on Trail Ridge Rd. of Rocky Mountain National Park and at the Mount Evens recreation area.

Theme: Know your peaks to feel your place.

Goals: To help instill a sense of place in the visiting public by naming features that are clearly visible from the trail as they hike.

Homestead Meadows Connector Trailhead

Kiosk Signs

Description: A set of .80 gauge aluminum sign panels with UV coating containing general Hermit Park Open Space orientation and way finding materials, with a specific focus on the Homestead Meadows trail. Signs with regulations and emergency information would also be appropriate on the kiosk. Stewardship and respect messages would be prominent throughout these sign panels along with cautionary messages regarding elevation and altitude issues associated with coming up from the plains to hike in the mountains. Brief messages about homesteading may also be appropriate for this set of signs.

Theme: The Homestead Meadows trail is a walk through the past allowing visitors to see first hand what life may have been like for people living in the area around the turn of the 20th century.

Goals: Help the public prepare and understand the experience they are likely to have on the Homestead Meadows trail.

3.4 Evaluation of Products

The purpose of this education plan is to propose media and programs that will stimulate outstanding visitor experiences that allow people to forge meaningful and lasting connections with the significant natural and cultural resources at Hermit Park Open Space. These connections will hopefully lead to behaviors that will ensure the long-term sustainability of the site.

Integrating an evaluation phase for each product wherein actual visitors are allowed to engage with a nearly complete draft of the final product will help to ensure the final products meet their stated goals, and accomplish the sought after connections. Due to the nature of the phasing of products a meaningful timeline for evaluation is not possible at this time; however it should be noted that each product described above should undergo some form of formative and remedial evaluation during the development stages.

These evaluations will begin at the staff level and include invited content experts, but will also include surveying visitors with nearly complete products to ensure that messages and themes are apparent, and that there is no confusion regarding the material.

Section 4: Action and Implementation

There is currently no dedicated funding for interpretive products at Hermit Park Open Space. Solicitation of grant funding and working through the LCDNR budget process to set aside funds for projects at Hermit Park Open Space will be vital to ensuring the implementation of this plan. These estimates are meant to provide a framework for budgeting in the future, especially when plans for the development of facilities are being drafted.

Budget estimates have been provided for products within the first three phases of the four phase development. Phase four products are considered either products developed far into the future, or are significantly low cost.

4.1 Estimated Budget for Interpretive Products

Table XX

Budget Summary (1 st =top priority, 2 nd =second priority, 3 rd =third priority)			
Description	Cost Assumptions	Unit costs of set	Sub-Total of set
Recommendation Set #1 Pre-visit Information and Education			
Website Orientation	Staff time for creation and maintenance of website additions.	In House	
HPOS Site Brochure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content Development (Staff time) • Design-development costs (Staff Time) • Evaluation costs (Staff Time) • Production costs (Contracted) assumes 5,000 copies (initial run) of a single tri-fold 4-color brochure: ~ \$900 (assumes \$.18/per unit cost) 	\$900	
Camping in Bear Country Handout (1 st)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content Development – Staff Time • Design-development costs: Staff time • Production – Contracted assuming initial 5,000 copies of single 4x11 flier ~\$750 (assumes \$.15/unit cost) 	\$750	\$1650
Recommendation Set #2 Hermit Park Open Space Visitor Services Building			
Wildlife Education (1 st)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content Development (In-House) • Design-development costs (In-House) • Production costs – Contracted assuming small (~6x12) labels mounted into foam core or more durable substrate - \$25/per label @ 5 labels Also one larger poster or panel mounted on foam core (~18x24) - \$100 @ 1 panel • Installation costs: (In-House) 	\$125 for labels \$100 for panel	
Conservation Education (1 st)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content Development (In-House) • Design-development costs (In House) • Production costs – Contracted assuming a single (~18x24) panel or poster mounted on foam core or more durable substrate - \$100 @ 1 panel • Installation costs: In House 	\$100 for panel	\$325

Recommendation Set #3 The Hermit's Cabin			
The Legend of Dutch Louie – 1 high pressure laminate panel (2 nd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content Development – In House • Design-development costs – Contracted: Assumes 30 hours at ~\$85/hour with 3 design review iterations – 2,550 • Production costs – Contracted: Assumes high pressure laminate~36x24 (Shipping included)- ~\$700 • Frame costs – Assumes single pedestal with steel backing (Shipping included) ~\$400 • Installation costs: (In-House) 	\$3750	\$3750
Recommendation Set #4 Bear Education in Campgrounds			
Camping in Bear Country (1 st)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content Development: (In House) • Design-development: (In House) • Production costs: Assumes .80 gauge aluminum panels at ~18x24 4 signs @ ~100 = \$400 • Frame costs – Square base posts ~8'x2" 4 @ 22 = \$88 • Installation costs: (In House) 	\$488	\$488
Recommendation Set #5 Wetland Area Boardwalk and Line Shack			
Wetlands ecology – 1-2 high pressure laminate panels (2 nd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content Development (In-House) • Design-development costs (Contracted) Assumes 30 hours at ~\$85/hour with 3 design review iterations – 2,550 • Production costs Contracted: Assumes high pressure laminate~36x24 (Shipping included)- 2 panels @~\$700 = \$1400 • Frame costs - Assumes single pedestal with steel backing (Shipping included) 2 frames @ ~\$400 = \$800 <p>Installation costs: (In House)</p>	\$4,750	
Ranching Life – 1 high pressure laminate panel (2 nd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content Development (In-House) • Design-development costs – Contracted: Assumes 30 hours at ~\$85/hour with 3 design review iterations – 2,550 • Production costs – Contracted: Assumes high pressure laminate~36x24 (Shipping included)- ~\$700 • Frame costs – Assumes single pedestal with steel backing (Shipping included) ~\$400 • Installation costs: (In-House) 	\$4,050	\$8800
Recommendation Set #6 Kruger Rock Trail and Trailhead			
Trailhead Kiosk (2 nd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content Development (In-House) • Design-development costs (Contracted) Assumes 25 hours at \$85/hour with 3 design review iterations - \$2125 • Production costs Assumes .80 gauge aluminum sign panels ~\$15/sq foot – set of panels totaling ~50 sq ft = \$750 • Frame costs - development budget would cover cost of wooden or core ten steel kiosk materials • Installation costs: (In House) 	\$2875	

Forest Ecology Panel (2 nd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content Development – In House • Design-development costs – Contracted: Assumes 30 hours at ~\$85/hour with 3 design review iterations – 2,550 • Production costs – Contracted: Assumes high pressure laminate~36x24 (Shipping included)- ~\$700 • Frame costs – Assumes single pedestal with steel backing (Shipping included) ~\$400 • Installation costs: (In-House) 	\$4,050	
Peak Locator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content Development (In-House) • Design-development costs (Contracted) • Evaluation costs • Production costs • Frame costs • Installation costs: 	\$3500	\$10,425
Recommendation Set #7 Homestead Meadows Connector Trail			
Trailhead Kisok	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content Development (In-House) • Design-development costs (Contracted) Assumes 25 hours at \$85/hour with 3 design review iterations - \$2125 • Production costs Assumes .80 gauge aluminum sign panels ~\$15/sq foot – set of panels totaling ~50 sq ft = \$750 • Frame costs - development budget would cover cost of wooden or core ten steel kiosk materials • Installation costs: (In House) 	\$2875	\$2875
Contingency		~10%	\$2800
Total			\$31,113

Appendicies:

Table 2 (Early land records in the Hermit Park region)

Name(s)	†Legal Location: T4–5N, R72W (Size)	Issue Date	Land Record
James S. Mathews	N½ of NE¼ + SE¼ of NE¼ + NE¼ of NW¼ of Sec. 33, T5N, R72W (160 ac)	October 27, 1891	Doc. # 15536; Acc. # COCOAA 037858
Jane Sanford	NE¼ of NW¼ of Sec. 3, T4N, R72W; and S½ of SE¼ of Sec. 34, T5N, R72W (128.54 ac)	July 20, 1892	H.E., Doc. # 3187; Acc. # COCOAA 037579
James E. Blair	N½ of NW¼ + N½ of NE¼ of Sec. 4, T4N, R72W (160 ac)	October 28, 1896	H.E., Doc. # 4311; Acc. # COCOAA 037585
Isaac J. Sanford	SW¼ of Sec. 34, T5N, R72W (160 ac)	May 17, 1897	H.E., Doc. # 4377; Acc. # COCOAA 037869
William F. Keller	NW¼ of SW¼ of Sec. 4; and S½ of SE¼ + NE¼ of SE¼ of Sec. 5, T4N, R72W (160 ac)	November 22, 1897	H.E., Doc. # 4460; Acc. # COCOAA 037586
John L. Jacobi	E½ of SW¼ + NW¼ of SE¼ + SE¼ of NW¼ of Sec. 5, T4N, R72W (160 ac)	February 3, 1898	H.E., Doc. # 4512; Acc. # COCOAA 037587
Christ Wilhelm Deuschle	NE¼ of NW¼ + NW¼ of NW¼ of Sec. 4; and NE¼ of NE¼ of Sec. 5, T4N, R72W (142.91 ac)	February 9, 1901	C.E., Doc. # 16847; Acc. # COCOAA 037591

Adolph N. Krueger	S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 5, T4N, R72W (80 ac)	February 9, 1901	C.E., Doc. # 16848; Acc. # COCOAA 037592
Neil C. Sullivan	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ + SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 3; and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ + SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 4, T4N, R72W (160 ac)	July 31, 1903	H.E., Doc. # 5712; Acc. # COCOAA 037597
Frank W. Crocker	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 27; and S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 28, T5N, R72W (120 ac)	October 2, 1905	C.E., Doc. # 17692; Acc. # COCOAA 037916
Christianne M. Krueger, Adolph N. Krueger	N $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 5, T4N, R72W (80 ac)	May 19, 1910	H.E., Doc. # 04491; Serial Patent # 131183
Charles O. Bourk	S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 32, and S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 33, T5N, R72W (160 ac)	July 14, 1920	H.E., Doc. # 021394 & 021472; Serial Patent # 761416
Legora E. Thomas, Charles E. Thomas	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ + S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ + N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 34, T5N, R72W (320 ac)	February 1, 1922	H.E., Doc. # 023132; Serial Patent # 846471
Griffin Smith	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ + S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 4; and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 9, T4N, R72W (160 ac)	September 7, 1922	H.E., Doc. # 022833; Serial Patent # 878492
Arthur E. Pew, Jr.	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ + NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ + W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 3; and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ +	June 11, 1947	L.E., Doc. # 054377; Serial Patent # 1122342

	NW ¹ / ₄ of NE ¹ / ₄ + SW ¹ / ₄ of SW ¹ / ₄ of Sec. 4, T4N, R72W; and SE ¹ / ₄ + SW ¹ / ₄ of NE ¹ / ₄ + N ¹ / ₂ of SW ¹ / ₄ + S ¹ / ₂ of NW ¹ / ₄ + NW ¹ / ₄ of NW ¹ / ₄ of Sec. 33, T5N, R72W (662.7 ac)		
Hewlett Packard Co.	NW ¹ / ₄ of NE ¹ / ₄ + NE ¹ / ₄ of NW ¹ / ₄ + SW ¹ / ₄ of NW ¹ / ₄ of Sec. 5, T4N, R72W (133.39 ac)	April 22, 1983	L.E., Doc. # 5830011; BLM Serial # COC 030156FD

5LR11798 (HPS-07-7) is the “Hermit’s Cabin” site of “Dutch Louie.” The site consists of a standing, 1½-story log cabin and associated features on a wooded slope near the head of Big Gulch, north of Hermit Park. Signs above both doors of the cabin identify it as the “Hermit’s Cabin” of “Dutch Louie.” The “cabin” is Feature A at the site, a fairly large Pioneer Log building with a moderately steep, single-pitch roof—its large size, sturdy construction, and milled lumber details identify it more as a log house than a cabin. It measures 25' 7" E-W × 21' 5" N-S, faces east toward the curving gravel road to Hermit Park, and adjoins a modern parking-picnic area on the west featuring a BBQ pit and picnic table. The building is a two-room, 1½ story house of unpeeled pine logs, four framed windows, and an upper half story of board-and-batten construction (quite possibly an addition to the original construction) under a gabled roof of moderate pitch. Access to the attic-like upper floor was via a stairway in the north-central part of the house, now boarded up for safety considerations. The two doors on the ground floor are in the southern portion of the east wall, and the western portion of the south wall, adjacent to the two largest windows. Viga-like log extensions protrude above the entry door on the east side, perhaps the remnants of a roof over a small portico. The main floor has two distinct sizes of floor boards front and back. Apparently original metal repairs to the floor used can lids and other scrap metal. Joists for the upper floor fit into one large, slotted log running lengthwise E-W. Half-square notched and abutted logs of the ground floor are stacked on a dry-laid rock foundation that levels the natural eastward slope of the land.

The house may or may not be contemporaneous with Features B & C at Big Gulch across the road to the north. Feature B is a 15' 2" SE-NW × 13' 2½" NE-SW × 4' high concrete foundation of uncertain function, near the south bank of Big Gulch. Its east corner is missing, but a single milled plank frames the opening in the northeast wall, suggesting the position of the door. Adjacent is Feature C, a 13' 2" NE-SW × 7' 2" SE-NW wood (log and plank) foot bridge crossing the gulch toward a modern corral on the north side of Big Gulch. The corral is a log structure with metal gates. In more credible association with the Dutch Louie Cabin are Features D & F.