

Northern Colorado BUSINESS REPORT

Funds available for flood-damaged rec areas

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By Joshua Lindenstien, Boulder County Business Report January 21, 2014

BOULDER - Organizers of The Fund to Restore Colorado's Trails, Waterways and Parks announced on Tuesday that they have made \$75,000 in funding available to nonprofit organizations to aid in their efforts to restore outdoor recreation infrastructure damaged by September's flooding.

Priority will be given to projects in Boulder, Jefferson and Larimer counties. But proposals will be considered from all 11 counties that were given Federal Emergency Management Agency public-assistance designations, including Adams, Arapahoe, Clear Creek, El Paso, Fremont, Logan, Morgan and Weld in addition to Boulder Jefferson and Larimer.

The funding is available in grants of up to \$5,000 per project and targets volunteer-based projects that rebuild trails and repair other parks and open space areas. The nonprofits, which will apply for the grants through a competitive request for proposals, can qualify for a maximum of \$15,000 by bundling projects.

Organizations that apply for the funding must also prove that they have raised matching funds on their own that equal the amount they're applying for.

Craig Mackey - an outdoors industry lobbyist who is the chairman of the fund's board of advisers - said he thinks most of the projects awarded grants will be related to clearing debris, landscaping and planting trees to complement the efforts of local government agencies in repairing the outdoor spaces.

"That's what we're doing," Mackey said. "We want to provide these local organizations, that can mobilize these volunteers, with some cash. Our money will go to organize the projects."

Active Boulder, an industry association and advocacy group that promotes the outdoor, fitness and sporting goods industries in Boulder County, launched the fund. More than \$100,000 has been raised so far, with most of that coming from a private String Cheese Incident concert hosted at eTown. Donations have also come in from outdoor companies and local businesses as well as private foundations and individuals. The \$75,000 available now represents the first round of awards to be made, with fundraising ongoing.

The deadline to apply for the grants is 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 21. A copy of the RFP and grant information can be found at www.tinyurl.com/restore-colorado-fund.

Awards announcements are planned for early April.

"Spring is coming," Mackey said. "If we can get this money out there in April, people can get going on these projects in May and



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June."

The Active Boulder fund, Mackey said, is complementary to similar efforts in the state, notably those of Great Outdoors Colorado, which has offered up to \$5 million in grants for local governments in the 11-county area to repair their outdoor recreation infrastructure.

"Outdoor recreation drives Colorado's quality of life and our local economies," Kim Coupounas, an Active Boulder member and co-founder of Boulder-based apparel company Go-Lite, said in a press release. "We will not fully recover until our parks and trails are back up and running."

REPORTER-HERALD

Wildlife expert to present an overview of Colorado moose

By Reporter-Herald Staff

POSTED: 02/02/2014 01:06:33 PM MST

Friends of Larimer County Parks and Open Lands will offer a program on moose in Colorado at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11.

Eric Bergman from the Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife discuss the Moose Project at the Harmony Library, 4616 S. Shields St. in Fort Collins.

The program had been previously scheduled for December and canceled due to inclement weather.

The public is welcome to attend the free session.

For details, call 493-4791.

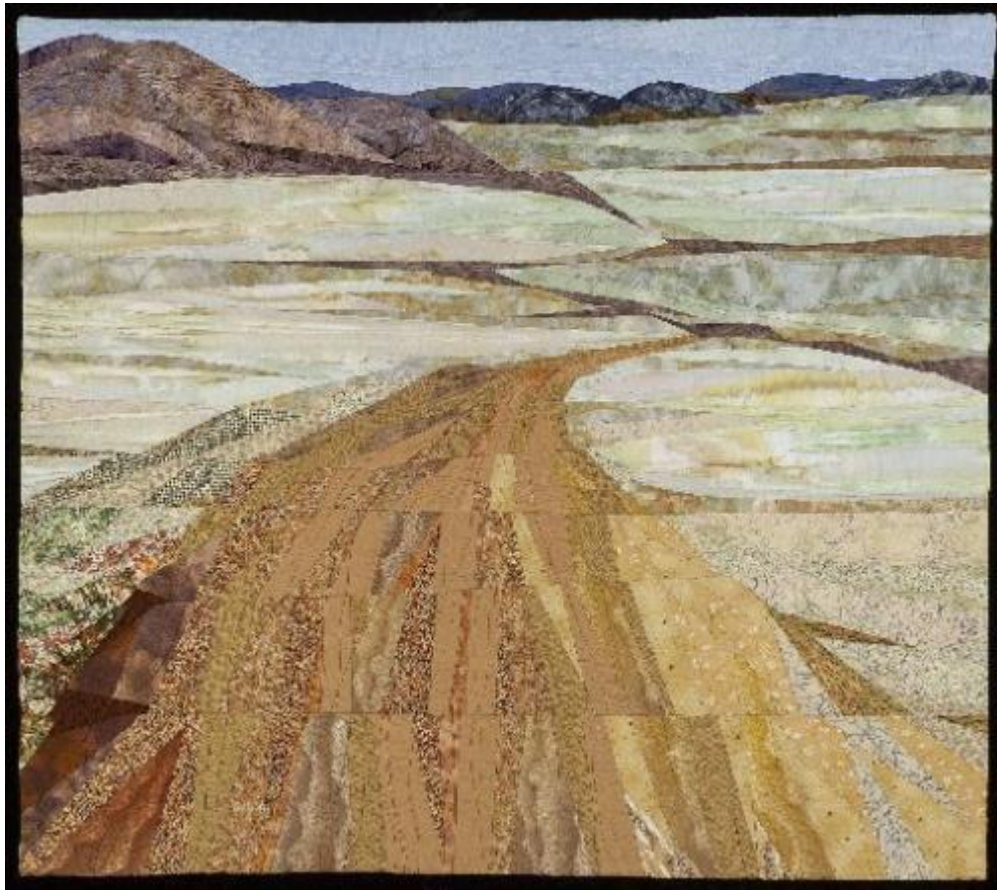
REPORTER-HERALD

Artist captures the fabric of Eagle's Nest

Quilter Linda Beach finishes a year as Larimer County Natural Resources Visual Artist of the Year

By Jessica Benes Reporter-Herald Staff Writer

POSTED: 01/22/2014 04:12:10 PM MST



Linda Beach designed a landscape scene called "Endless" based on a view at Eagle's Nest Open Space in her role as the Natural Resources Visual Artist of the Year. She is presenting the final art quilt to the Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board on Thursday, Jan. 23. (Special to the Reporter-Herald)

Linda Beach overlaps taupes and brown patterns to draw the viewer down the path into the hills. Splashes of green and yellow and white fabrics meld into rolling hills. And dark grays and black form the distant mountains.

Beach is a fabric artist that designs and sews artistic quilts of landscapes and mountains.

She was named the Larimer County Natural Resources Visual Artist of the Year in 2013 and has spent the last several months creating a work of art for the open lands program.

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If You Go

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board meeting: People are welcome to attend the Advisory Board meeting 5-8 p.m. at the Loveland Municipal Building's City Council Chambers, 500 E. Third St.

Reception: A reception for Beach will be at 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14, at the county courthouse, 200 W. Oak St., Fort Collins. Beach will give a presentation on her piece and the process behind it.

She designed and made "Endless," a quilt depicting a scene from the Eagle's Nest Open Space trailhead.

That quilt will be presented to the Open Lands Advisory Board on Thursday

Beach took several photos at Eagle's Nest and blended them into her design.

"When you get to the parking lot there, you sort of get this long range view of rolling hills and open area. You see these mountains in the distance. There's sort of a dirt road that doubles as the hiking trail. It invites you onto it," Beach said.

She drew a large-scale pattern and chose fabrics from a collection of thousands of scraps of material.



Linda Beach sorted through thousands of fabric swatches for a color palette of fabrics to depict a landscape scene at Eagle's Nest Open Space. She is presenting the final art quilt to the Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board on Thursday, Jan. 23. (photo by Linda Beach) (Special to the Reporter-Herald)

"I don't buy fabric for particular projects. A couple times a year I will go on a big buying spree," Beach said.

"Fabric collections are like clothing collections. Different years different colors will be in style." So she buys fabric on a continual basis to maintain a wide variety of colors so she isn't stuck with all lime green one year.

She uses freezer paper templates that can be ironed onto fabric. Then she cuts out the fabric pieces and pins them to a design board to develop a scene. When all her fabric pieces are in place, Beach takes down a piece at a time and sews it into a quilt with backing and batting.

Beach has been an artistic quilter for 12 years or so.

"I've always liked working with fiber," Beach said. "As a kid I knitted and embroidered and did needlepoint."

She tried traditional quilting as an adult and quickly became bored with it.

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The visual artist program was started to create awareness and appreciation of the landscape that the open lands program conserves in the county, said Meegan Flennikan, resource program manager.

"We wanted to look at a way to include artists to express appreciation of these protected lands."

An online application is available at larimer.org/openlands/artist.htm. The deadline for the next visual artist is Feb. 22.

A committee reviews the artwork and chooses an artist with professional quality and diversity in the style from what has come before.

Beach is the eighth visual artist selected for the program.

Beach lives in Estes Park with her husband and loves hiking around the hills and mountains, especially Hermit Park and Eagle's Nest.

Red Mountain Open Space big game hunting applications open

BY [NFN](#) ON FEBRUARY 4, 2014 IN [DISPATCHES](#) · [ADD COMMENT](#)

Larimer County Natural Resources will offer limited big game hunting opportunities at Red Mountain Open Space in northern Larimer County. In partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Larimer County Natural Resources will offer nine special access hunting permits in 2014. There will be a drawing for two bull elk, three cow elk and four buck deer special access permits.

Permits can be obtained through the Larimer County special access hunting permit application process. All applications must be submitted on-line through Larimer County's Red Mountain Open Space webpage. Applications will be accepted from Feb. 1 through Feb. 28. The drawing for successful applicants will be held the first week of March. Successful applicants will be notified by email.

Visit larimer.org/naturalresources and click the Red Mountain Hunting Information icon for more information and to apply.

You might also like:

- [Larimer County Department of Natural Resources offers limited big game hunting at Red Mountain Open Space](#)
- [Red Mountain Open Space opens for season on March 1](#)
- [Big-game hunt license applications due April 3](#)

coloradoan.com

County seeks artists for open spaces project

The Larimer County Department of Natural Resources is looking for applicants for its 2014 Artist of the Year.

Artists of all types are encouraged to apply for the position. Once selected, the artist will create a work inspired by a county park or open space. Once complete, the work is then donated to the county and displayed for the public.

Apply online at www.larimer.org/naturalresources/openlands/artist.htm. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. Feb. 22.

For more information, contact Meegan Flenniken at (970) 619-4562 or mflenniken@larimer.org.

Trails at Horsetooth Mountain, Devil's Backbone reopen

Mule deer walk along a snowy hillside below Horsetooth Rock in this 2012 file photo. Trails at Horsetooth Mountain Open Space opened Wednesday after being closed for several days due to muddy conditions. / Coloradoan library

ADVERTISEMENT

Fort Collins hikers and mountain bikers, rejoice. Some of your favorite trails are open again.

Larimer County Department of Natural Resources said Wednesday afternoon trails at Horsetooth Mountain Open Space and Devil's Backbone have reopened following several days of closure due to extremely muddy conditions.



Icy and muddy conditions still exist. Rangers urge users to stay on the trails to prevent further trail damage. Nomad Trail at Horsetooth Mountain Open Space remains closed.

The 2,711-acre Horsetooth Mountain Open Space features 29 miles of hiking and biking trails, which includes the popular Horsetooth Rock and Blue Sky trails.

Devil's Backbone, located west of Loveland on U.S. Highway 34, has 12 miles of trails. The popular mountain biking singletrack trails connect to Rimrock and Horsetooth Mountain open spaces.

Both areas had been closed since Saturday. Larimer County often closes trails after heavy rains or snowmelt to protect the trails from erosion.

There is a \$6 entry fee to Horsetooth Mountain Open Space. No fee is required at Devil's Backbone.

Lory State Park is open, but valley trails still might be muddy in some areas.