2014 End-of-Year Report
Larimer County Natural Resources
Volunteer and Education Programs
Volunteer Program
ACHIEVEMENTS...

- Patrolled trails
- Built trails
- Restored damaged trails
- Monitored Eagles
- Removed thorny Russian Olive trees
- Hosted our campgrounds
- Photographed our properties and events
ACHIEVEMENTS...

- Assisted boaters
- Removed Graffiti
- Stacked slash
- Pulled weeds
- Restored Fire Scar areas
- Set up, tore down and assisted with some of the most fun and highly visible special events!
TRAINING

- **VRA – Volunteer Ranger Assistant**
  - VRA screening, interviewing, and selection
  - Ranger staff able to focus on field responsibilities and communication with volunteers
  - Continuing Education Classes Offered

- **Park Ranger/Boat Ranger Assistant**
  - Continuous Recruitment and Training
    - Leads at each location for training
    - More hands on training on site
    - Senior Tax Worker numbers declining
    - Boat Ranger Assistants now required to assist on shore
• In-Situ
• Overland Mountain Bike Club
• Team B.O.B
• Poudre Learning Academy
• LCHA
• C.A.T.S.
• Centennial Bass Club
• CO Arsenal
• Boy Scouts
• NC3
• Trailcology
• CSU
• Front Range Forestry
NCCC AT ROTARY PARK

BEFORE

AFTER
LAND STEWARDSHIP AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- Monitoring
  - Raptors at Horsetooth
  - Grassland at Red Mountain
  - Post Prescribed Burn at DBB
  - Shrubland Ecological Integrity Assessment at DBB

- Team Projects
  - Glade Park Flood Debris Clean-up
  - Slash Pile Project at Hermit Park
  - Russian Olive Removal at 3 Bells and Kauffman properties
  - Fire Scar Restoration at Hermit Park
PARKS AND OPEN LANDS PROJECTS
WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN?

- Increase in volunteer service hours, (2014 hours recorded to date - 23,478) (2013 - 18,138)
- Increase in the number of projects (2014-30 projects) (2013-20 projects)
- Increase in the number of engaged volunteers (2014-320 volunteers) (2013-210 volunteers)
- Addition of the first Volunteer Recognition Event with 160 attendees
# Volunteer Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Highs</strong></th>
<th><strong>Lows</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connections with field staff and volunteers</td>
<td>Campground Host recruitment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased number of volunteer hours</td>
<td>Senior Tax Worker Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Growth of the Project Team</td>
<td>Volunteers entering hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Train the Trainer</td>
<td>Too many initiatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cleaning up the database</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web based recruitment</td>
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Volunteer Program Initiatives for 2015...

- Manage capacity program wide
- Continued support to field staff that manage volunteers
- Quality recruitment efforts
- Creative use of volunteers
- Photo database mgt
Education Program
Education Planning and Product Development

- Foothills Plant and Flower Guide
- Junior Ranger Guide
- Devil’s Backbone Management Plan Update – Education Section
Volunteer and Education Trainings

- VRA, PA and CGH trainings
- Naturalist training
- Added naturalist assistant position
- 4 continuing education opportunities for volunteers
Programming and Outreach

- Total outreach impact for Education Program
  - 178 events for 7226 members of the public
- Decrease in number of programs, but 22% increase in participants/program and 13% increase in total number of participants.
### 2014 Number of Programs and Participants by Category

#### 2014 Number of Programs by Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guided Hikes</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Field Trips</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campground Programs</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Requests (not school)</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Training/Events</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Tours</td>
<td>29%</td>
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#### 2014 Number of Participants by Category

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<td>Guided Hikes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
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- 53 guided hikes reaching 751 members of the public
- 15% decrease in number of programs
- 36% increase in participants per program
**School Field Trips**

- 18 field trips reaching 1013 students (32% increase)

![Graph showing school field trip participants in 2013 and 2014]
Campground Programs

- 61 campground programs for 2080 members of the public
- Steady number of program; less participants/program due to Hermit Park closure

Campground Program Participants per Program

- 2013: 45.1
- 2014: 34.1
Special Requests

- 25 special request programs reaching 600 members of the public
- 32% decrease in number of programs, 35% decrease in attendance
  - Less focus spent here and more focus put toward Get Outdoors Day and the NoCo Nature Festival
THREE NEW EVENTS!

- National Get Outdoors Day – June 14, 2014
  - 1650 people (up from 400 in 2013)
- Chimney Hollow Bioblitz – July 12, 2014
  - 300+ species surveyed and 75+ members of the public engaged
- NoCo Nature Festival – September 27, 2014
  - 800+ people
LONG TERM TRENDS

Total Number of Programs

Total Participants

Average Participants per Program
EDUCATION PROGRAM

**Highs**
- High quality products
  - Foothills Plant Guide
  - Junior Ranger Guide
- High-impact events

**Lows**
- Too many initiatives
INITIATIVES FOR 2015

- Intentional efforts appropriate for level of capacity
- New seasonal Education/Volunteer employee
- Building on 2014 initiatives and projects
  - Junior Ranger Guide marketing
  - Foothills Plant Guide sales
  - Citizen Science initiatives
Questions or Comments?

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