OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD (OLAB)

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 26, 2017
5:00- 8:00 PM • Civic Center Municipal Bldg • Council Chambers • 500 E 3rd St., Loveland CO

The mission of the Larimer County Open Lands Program is to preserve and protect significant open space, natural areas, wildlife habitat, and develop parks and trails for present and future generations. These open lands provide opportunities for leisure, human renewal and protection of our natural and cultural resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members Present</th>
<th>Staff Present</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jason Brothers</td>
<td>Gary Buffington, Natural Resources Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzan Fritchel</td>
<td>Kerri Rollins, Open Lands Program Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trudy Haines</td>
<td>Meegan Flenniken, Resource Program Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Hindman</td>
<td>Charlie Johnson, Senior Land Agent</td>
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<td>Gerry Horak</td>
<td>Alex Castino, Land Agent</td>
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<td>Pete Kelly</td>
<td>Jennifer Almstead, Fund Development &amp; Special Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Marvin</td>
<td>Sandy Werkmeister, Department Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ward Nelson</td>
<td>Lori Smith, Accounting Program Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carl Sorrentino</td>
<td>Jenny Miller, Accountant II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sherri Valentine</td>
<td>Teddy Parker-Renga, Community Relations Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Wallace</td>
<td>Pam Mayhew, Volunteer Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marilyn Hilgenberg, Interim City of Loveland</td>
<td>Heather Young, Education Specialist</td>
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<td>Steve Gibson, Red Mountain District Manager</td>
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<td>Todd Blomstrom, Public Works Division Head</td>
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<td>Guests</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Mark Sears, Fort Collins Natural Areas</td>
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<td>Tawnya Ernst, Fort Collins Natural Areas</td>
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1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS
   Gary Buffington introduced Marilyn Hilgenberg as our new Loveland representative, and Todd Blomstrom, the new Public Works Division Director.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion by Suzan Fritchel, pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a) for discussion of the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real or personal property interest, to move into executive session. Motion carried unanimously. The Board left Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. to resume the regular meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none

3. AGENDA REVIEW – no changes

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
   Motion by Sherri Valentine and second by Carl Sorrentino to approve the November 9, 2016 meeting minutes as posted. Motion carried unanimously.
5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS
   a) Lori & Jenny are looking for volunteers for a committee to work with them on the annual financial review report for the Board. Estimated to be just one meeting. Dave Marvin, Pete Kelly, Gerry Horak, Nancy Wallace and Trudy Haines volunteered.
   b) Jennifer Almstead is looking for a committee to help review and refresh the Small Grants for Community Partnering program this year. Sherri Valentine, Gerry Horak and Dave Marvin volunteered for the committee.
   c) Larimer County Department of Natural Resources is seeking applicants for its Visual Artist program. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 17, 2017. For an application or more information, visit Natural Resources Visual Artist Program
   d) The annual Open Space Regional Board Meeting was a great success with 50 volunteers and staff in attendance. Presentations included annual recaps of how their tax dollars were spent and breakout sessions about the agriculture pieces of open spaces.
   e) Kerri and Jenn met with Boulder County Parks and Open Space, City of Boulder Open Space, The Mountain Parks and CSU to discuss a visitation and satisfaction study. This will be an ongoing process with multiple people involved throughout 2017 and beyond.
   f) Red Mountain Open Space limited big game hunting opportunities are now available. Cost is $10 per application, accepted from Feb. 1-28, 2017. All applications must be submitted through Larimer County’s website. Visit Hunting at Red Mountain Open Space (GMU 9)
   g) OLAB end-of-year attendance records and volunteer hours are available. Thank you for 700 combined volunteer hours!
   h) Education Assistant Dan Marotti has taken a full-time position with the Larimer County Conservation Corps. He will be missed! The position was posted and re-hiring is in the works.
   i) Open Lands held a staff retreat on December 20. Their updated priority sheet is attached.
   j) Distributed over 500 of our scenic 2017 Calendars
   k) Open Space Operations District Reports – no questions
   l) Sales Tax Revenue Distribution Report – no questions

6. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS
   a) Review of Acquisition & Development Financial Summary sheet
      ▪ Steve Gibson gave an update on the final numbers on the Soderberg Trailhead budget item, for which $15,147 (for the additional horse trailer parking lot) needed to be moved into acquisition & development rather than the long-term management fund.
   b) Charlie Johnson, and guests Marks Sears and Tawnya Ernst from City of Fort Collins presented the Spring Canyon Ranch Final Review. The property is 777 acres total: 481 acres purchased in fee by Fort Collins and 296 acres CE held by Fort Collins. The purchase price is 4.5 million and funding sources include Great Outdoors Colorado, Larimer County Open Lands Program, and the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program. Motion by Dave Marvin and second by Suzan Fritchel to recommend approving the Larimer County partnership portion ($1,250,000) of the Spring Canyon Ranch property purchase to the Board of County Commissioners.
   c) Action on Small Grants for Community Partnering Committee Recommendation - Jennifer Almstead
      ▪ Jennifer Almstead thanked committee members Sherry Valentine, Suzan Fritchel and Carl Sorrentino, also indicating her pleasure in getting to know them through the site visit process. She also thanked the staff for their time promoting and marketing the program before she came on board. Overall, the program received 16 applications. Of those, 13 are recommended, two are not, and one withdrew. Jennifer presented an overview of each. Motion by Pete Kelly and second by Sherri Valentine to accept the committee’s recommendations for the Small Grants for Community Partnering grants for 2017. The presentation and specific funding amounts are attached.
One request from the Board (for the future) is better follow-up on final reports, particularly for situations when considering funding for repeat applicants.

7. DISCUSSION & UPDATES
   a. Teddy Parker-Renga shared a recap of all that took place last year to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Help Preserve Open Spaces sales tax. Pam Mayhew and Heather Young presented end-of-year presentations about the Volunteer and Education programs. The presentation of all three is included with the minutes. Teddy also distributed a 20th Anniversary t-shirt to each of the Board members.

8. OTHER BUSINESS – Teddy reported that Lyse Dzija has given us her painting for the year. It is a beautiful painting of Sand Creek at Red Mountain Open Space. Her reception is February 15 at 3:00 p.m. at the Larimer County Courthouse Offices, 2nd Floor Lobby, 200 W Oak St, Fort Collins. She has created 8-10 paintings of our open spaces that you can look for around Loveland and Estes Park.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:05, motion by Nancy Wallace, pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a) for discussion of the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real or personal property interest, to move into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

10. ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.
Small Grants for Community Partnering

2017 Project Recommendations

Committee Members:
- Suzan Fritchel
- Carl Sorrentino
- Sherri Valentine

Applications received: 16
Total amount requested: $28,377
Recommended projects: 13*
Funding recommended: $19,217

*One applicant withdrew their application
2017 Project Locations

Audubon Rockies
Habitat Hero Demonstration Project at the Loveland Visitor Center
Requested: $2,000
Recommended: $2,000

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Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
Larimer County Bluebird Project
Requested: $1,997.32
Recommended: $1,200*

*Reduction

Existing Nesting Boxes:
- Horsetooth Mountain Open Space
- Soderburg Open Space
- Soaring Eagle Ecology Center at Red Feather
- Devil’s Backbone Open Space

Colorado Youth Outdoors
Swift Ponds Invasive Weeds Project
Requested: $1,400
Recommended: $1,000*

*Reduction

- Canada thistle
- Scotch thistle
- Russian knapweed
- Leafy spurge
Estes Valley Stewardship Association (ELSA)

ESLA Weed Booklet
Requested: $1,300
Recommended: $1,300

Hermit Park

Estes Valley Community Garden
Community Garden Gathering Area
Requested: $1,300
Recommended: $1,300
Glacier View Meadows Subdivision

Crelin Canyon Weed Mitigation Project
Requested: $423.29
Recommended: $423.29

Crelin Canyon is one of several hiking trails within the Glacier Meadows Subdivision. The canyon has a perennial stream with small waterfalls bordered on both sides by significant slopes. It is full of botanical specialties from sedges and ferns to wildflowers and home to an abundance of wildlife.

Kate Wilkins - CSU

Effects of bison reintroduction on grassland birds, mammals, and vegetation.
Requested: $2,000
Recommended: $2,000
Overland Mountain Bike Club
Diamond Peaks Mountain Bike Patrol
Requested: $2,000
Recommended: $2,000*

*Reallocation of request: Basic First Aid/CPR Medical trainings, patrol supplies and patrol events

Estes Park: East Crosier, Homestead Meadows, Johnny Park Road, Lion Gulch, Pierson Park road & West Crosier
Fort Collins/Loveland Foothills: Bobcat Ridge, Coyote ridge, Devil’s Backbone, Foothills Trail, Horsetooth Mountain Open Space, Lory State Park, Pineridge/Maxwell Natural Areas
Poudre Canyon: Hewlett Gulch, Old Flowers Road, Jack Gulch & Dadd Gulch
Red Feather Lakes: Killpecker, Mt. Margaret, Molly Lake/Granite Ridge, Lady Moon
Red Mountain & Soapstone Prairie: Red Mountain Open Space and Soapstone Prairie Natural Area

Red Feather Lakes Community Library
Library in the Landscape
Requested: $2,000
Recommended: $2,000

To provide educational graphic design for 2-4 mountain ecosystem interpretive signs, which will be displayed year-round in the natural play area.
Rocky Mountain Cat Conservancy
Communities, Cameras, and Conservation
Requested: $2,000
Recommended: $1,000*

*Reduction

The Growing Project
Young Farmer Training Program
Requested: $2,000
Recommended: $2,000
**Trails at Vista Bonita HOA**

Baker Lake Improved Access Project

Requested: $2,000  
Recommended: $1,000*  
*Reduction

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**Wildland Restoration Volunteers**

North Fork Big Thompson River Revegetation Project

Requested: $2,000  
Recommended: $2,000

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Project Location

County Road 43, between Drake and Glen Haven
Small Grants for Community Partnering 2017

Project not recommended 2
Funding not recommended $3,980
Application withdrawn 1
Total $5,962

Deer Meadows Metro District
Deer Meadows Metro District Natural Area/Wetland Restoration
Request: Installation of rock, weed barrier, native plantings within the city's right-of-way and removal of several Russian Olive trees.
Requested: $2,000
Recommended: $0
Robert Lecoq  
Big Thompson Aquatic Habitat Demonstration Project  
Request: Demonstration project on a small section of the Big Thompson river using HabiTubes.  
Requested: $1,980  
Recommended: $0

Applications received: 16  
Total amount requested: $28,377  
Recommended projects: 13*  
Funding recommended: $19,217

*One applicant withdrew their application
## Committee Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Project General Description</th>
<th>Project Location</th>
<th>Specific Items to Be Funded</th>
<th>Total Project Costs</th>
<th>Dollars Requested</th>
<th>Subcommittee's Recommendation</th>
<th>Important Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audubon Rockies - Habitat Hero</td>
<td>Audubon Rockies-Habitat Hero</td>
<td>Install a Healthy Hero Demonstration Garden at the Cheyenne Valley Center</td>
<td>Laramie, Wyoming</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$2,479.80</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bird Conservancy of the Rockies</td>
<td>Jumper County Bluebird Project</td>
<td>Do F1 Black-rumped, Mountain Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Western Bluebird populations</td>
<td>Laramie County, Wyoming</td>
<td>Equipment &amp; Supplies</td>
<td>$12,338.80</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Reduction: Small Grants has supported the Twin Lakes Bluebird Project since the program's inception in 2015. They believe the Bird Conservancy's application requests higher operating expenses and no other funders were listed on the application. They also feel the construction of a demonstration garden at the Cheyenne Valley Center is more competitive for future funding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Youth Outdoors Charitable Trust</td>
<td>Swift Ponds Invasive Weed Project</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Fort Collins, Colorado</td>
<td>Weed control</td>
<td>$194,134.00</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Reduction: CYTO is requesting funds to purchase a weed sprayer to help mitigate invasive weeds on their property. The project reflects theaudubon's involvement with CYTO's tendency to submit equipment-only requests. CYTO will be advised to change up their requests to be competitive for future funding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Door Meadows Metro District</td>
<td>Overhead Meadows Natural Habitat Restoration Demonstration Project</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Laramie, Wyoming</td>
<td>Weed removal &amp; restoration</td>
<td>$4,785.80</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Not Funded: When compared to other projects, the applicant felt other demonstration projects demonstrated a stronger need.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eaton Land Stewardship Assoc</td>
<td>Eaton Land Stewardship Assoc (ELSA)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Eaton, Colorado</td>
<td>Equipment &amp; Supplies</td>
<td>$2,024.88</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<td>Eaton Valley Community Garden</td>
<td>Eaton Valley Community Garden</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Eaton Valley, Colorado</td>
<td>Equipment &amp; Supplies</td>
<td>$2,830.00</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glacier View Meadows Subdivision</td>
<td>Glacier View Meadow Mitigation Project</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Livermore, Colorado</td>
<td>Equipment &amp; Supplies</td>
<td>$1,038.40</td>
<td>$625</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kate Wilkins</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Laramie, Wyoming</td>
<td>Labor costs for undergraduate assistant to monitor and maintain wildlife camera at Red Mountain Open Space and Soapstone Prairie Natural Area</td>
<td>$32,282.40</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Overland Mountain Bike Club</td>
<td>Diamond Peak Mountain Bike Patrol</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Larimer County, Colorado</td>
<td>Training supplies &amp; event expenses</td>
<td>$33,176.97</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Feather Lakes Community Library</td>
<td>Red Feather Lakes Library</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Fort Collins, Colorado</td>
<td>Training supplies &amp; event expenses</td>
<td>$32,282.40</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Lecoq</td>
<td>Big Thompson Aquatic Habitat Demonstration Project</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Larimer County, Colorado</td>
<td>Research &amp; development</td>
<td>$1,542.12</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rocky Mountain Cat Conservancy</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Larimer County, Colorado</td>
<td>Research &amp; equipment</td>
<td>$7,332.00</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
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<td>The Growing Project</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Larimer County, Colorado</td>
<td>Research &amp; equipment</td>
<td>$6,831.80</td>
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<td>Trail Stewardship Committee</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Larimer County, Colorado</td>
<td>Research &amp; equipment</td>
<td>$3,980.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildland Restoration Volunteers</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Laramie, Wyoming</td>
<td>Supplies for reseeding</td>
<td>$3,239.80</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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**Total:** $241,859.00 $28,377.00 $19,272.00
2016 END OF YEAR OVERVIEW

Outreach, Education and Volunteers

20TH ANNIVERSARY: OPEN SPACES TAX

Teddy Parker-Renga, Community Relations Specialist
20TH ANNIVERSARY OF HELP PRESERVE OPEN SPACES

- Passport
- Celebration event
- Video
- Merchandise
- Social media
- Volunteer projects
- Education programs

OPEN SPACES PASSPORT

Passport program launched May 31, 2016
- Posts with plaques to rub (easy and hard locations)
- 8 open spaces (16 total posts)
- Collect rubbings, win prizes and enter drawing!

Results after 7 months
- 7,000+ passports distributed
- Ages 2-80, lots of families, 56 kids!
- 208 passports returned in 2016
- 67% collected all 16 rubbings
OPEN SPACES PASSPORT

CELEBRATION EVENT

Celebration held Sept. 22 at Horsetooth Reservoir pavilion

- Partners, supporters, staff and friends
- 80+ attendees
VIDEO

4-minute video highlighting positive impact open spaces have on all of our lives

• Brief history of tax
• Values of open space
• Trailhead interviews
• Founder interviews
• Cost ~ $269

MERCHANDISE

T-shirts for:
• Staff and boards
• Volunteers
Stickers
Key Chains
SOCIAL MEDIA

#OpenSpaces20th
- Milestones
- Open Space birthdays
- Volunteer projects
- Education programs

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Pam Mayhew, Volunteer Program Coordinator
VOLUNTEER ACHIEVEMENTS...

- Trails patrolled
- Built 4.2 miles of new trails
- Installed fence
- Monitored raptor nests
- Removed dead and invasive trees
- Hosted our busiest campgrounds ever
- Photographed our properties and events

VOLUNTEER ACHIEVEMENTS...

- Assisted boating guests
- Removed graffiti
- Built volleyball court at Hermit
- Removed fencing
- Restored fire scar areas
- Set up, tore down and assisted with some of the most fun and highly visible special events!
VOLUNTEER TRAINING

- Volunteer Ranger Assistant
  - Screening, interviewing, and selection
  - Ranger staff able to focus on field responsibilities and communication with volunteers
  - Continuing education classes offered
  - Program management transitioning 2017
- Campground Host
- Park Ranger/Boat Ranger Assistant
  - Recruitment and training
  - Seasonal Support as lead
  - Senior Tax Worker numbers declining
  - CPR/AED/First Aid

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- In-Situ
- Overland Mountain Bike Club
- Team B.O.B
- Colorado College
- LCHA
- C.A.T.S.
- Centennial Bass Club
- YMCA of the Rockies
- Estes Park Bike Coalition
- EKS&G
- HP Staff
PARKS AND OPEN LANDS

LAND STEWARDSHIP AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- Raptor Monitoring
  - Horsetooth Mountain
  - Chimney Hollow
  - Pinewood
  - Red Mountain
- Projects
  - Night sky monitoring
  - Buckthorn removal at Lions Park
  - Weed removal at Ramsay-Shockey and the Blue Sky Trail
WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN?

- Volunteer service hours
  - 2016 hours recorded to date: 25,396
  - 2015 hours: 21,078
- Increased the number of service projects
  - 2016: 39 projects
  - 2015: 30 projects
- Maintained a high number of engaged volunteers
  - 2016: 342 volunteers
  - 2015: 320 volunteers
- Continued the summer volunteer recognition
  - 196 attendees
### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Highlights**
  - High impact projects
  - Opportunity to work with Volunteers for Outdoor CO
  - Half time summer seasonal support
  - Focus on supporting trail construction in Hermit Park
  - Highlighted 20th Anniversary projects

### 2017 VOLUNTEER PROGRAM INITIATIVES

- Manage capacity program-wide
- Implementation of Offero Management Database
- Quality recruitment efforts
- Creative use of volunteers
- Have some FUN!
EDUCATION PROGRAM

Heather Young, Education Program Coordinator

INTERPRETIVE PROJECTS AND PLANNING

- Horsetooth Area Information Center Lobby
- Great Outdoors Colorado Inspire Initiative
- Pinewood Reservoir
NATURALIST TRAININGS

- Training
  - 10 new naturalists
  - 10 new naturalist assistants
- Continuing Education
  - 3 events for all naturalists
  - 40 active naturalists and assistants

PROGRAMMING AND OUTREACH

- 150 programs for 7,200 members of the public
- In 2015, 184 programs for 9,000 people
  - Less campground programs and intentional decrease in guided hikes
  - GO Day
PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Guided hikes
- School field trips
- Campground programs
- Special requests
- Outreach events and festivals

HIGHLIGHTS

- 20th anniversary programs
  - Robert's Ranch tour with Dr. Jason LaBelle
- Astronomy and full moon hikes
- Wildlife hikes at Sylvan Dale with David Neils
LONG TERM TRENDS

• Total impact to date: 2,409 programs for 59,250 participants

2017

• Manage for capacity of education program volunteers and staff to focus on quality over quantity and interpretive projects
• Interpretive projects: HAIC, Pinewood kiosk, Devil’s Backbone interpretive signs, Hermit Park Education Plan update
• Implement Offero, a new event and volunteer database that will automate many administrative tasks of the education and volunteer programs
• Focus on promoting existing products – Junior Ranger Guide and Foothills Plant Guide
• Evaluate K-12 engagement
CONTACT INFORMATION

- Teddy Parker-Renga – Community Relations Specialist
  - tparker-renga@larimer.org
  - 970-619-4561
- Pam Mayhew – Volunteer Program Coordinator
  - pmayhew@larimer.org
  - 970-619-4552
- Heather Young – Education Program Coordinator
  - hyoung@larimer.org
  - 970-619-4489