

## RH Line calls printed Jan. 16, 2018

Posted: Tue Jan 16 11:18:47 MST 2018

### Camping numbers

I wonder if the numbers in the "Larimer County breaks camping record" article included all of the reserved campsites that remain empty for entire weekends when no one shows up to use them. As a family who doesn't always know our work schedule months in advance, we are punished by a reservation system that doesn't encourage parties to cancel appropriately and forces everyone to book two nights anytime they want only a Friday or Saturday night. The Larimer County campsite reservation system favors those who have money to throw at booking up every weekend just so they have the option to camp should they want to. It's a sad way to manage our resources.

### Trump comments

I know it's late on Sunday, but I can barely believe that in Sunday's paper in the RH Line there were two favorable comments on president. Thank you so much.

### Work together

It is time for Congress, both the Senate and the House and especially the Republicans in both bodies, to realize that speaking with a person who changes his mind day to day and three times a day, who insults others and who does not have the interest of this country at heart, that Congress needs to get together, figure out a way to do DACA, and establish a way for people to come into this country that honors the traditions of our country. But Republicans and Democrats have got to work together and do what's best for the country and leave the person in the White House behind.

### Definition of racism

The liberal left has a whole new definition of racism, and that definition basically means the entire population of Loveland and Fort Collins are racist. Why do you choose to live in Fort Collins and Loveland when you can choose to live in Detroit, Mich., or Baltimore, Md., or St. Louis, Mo., or Atlanta, Ga.? Why aren't you living there? Those cities are predominantly black and you're living in the predominantly white neighborhood. According to the liberal left you are therefore racist. Ridiculous.

### Trump and racism

•So our so-called racist president signed a proclamation honoring Dr. Martin Luther King. Most people do not even know what racism is. President Trump is the furthest thing from a racist. Use some common sense and start thinking for yourselves instead of parroting what you hear, which is utter nonsense.

•It's quite obvious that Donald Trump is a racist, as are the majority of the people that agree with the type of ignorance that he spews out of his mouth. I wonder what countries most of these individuals ancestors came from. That would be interesting.

### Fees at open spaces

Why is it that a user fee is charged at Carter Lake, yet hiking at the Devil's Backbone Open Spaces is free? Both of these areas cost Larimer County tax payers money and are constantly needing volunteers for an assortment of reasons. We greatly resent having to pay for recreation and entertainment for everyone else and cannot afford to take our own families for an outing. Something is very wrong with his formula.

### New high school

I encourage all citizens in the Thompson School District who do not believe we need a new high school to visit LHS classes and also during a passing period. It is like I-25 during rush hour. There are 1,600 students in a school initially designed for 1,200. There's no room to expand because the current land area does not meet current standards as a high school site. Please visit with the faculty and the students during the current overcrowding.

### Willard Water

It was wonderful to read Jim Willard's Sunday column in the Reporter-Herald on Willard Water. We have used L.A. water for years and years, an swear by it. We apply it to ourselves and our plants. It helps arrest any type of trauma and is extremely economical. Check it out.

### here the buck stops

The audacity comparing Harry Truman to Donald Trump. Harry Truman's motto was, "The buck stops here. Trump's motto: "The buck stops everywhere but here."

### Hawaii alert

Pushed the wrong button in Hawaii? You believe that? I'll sell you some swampland in Arizona.

### **School enrollment**

The reason our school district is losing children is because voters are always voting down mill levies, etc. I have two family members who have been teachers in the district for several years. I take offense to your statement that good teachers are not here in Loveland.

### **Republi-cons**

The Republican senators, Sen. David Purdue from Georgia and Tom Cotton from Arkansas, first claimed that Trump never said anything, they didn't remember him saying anything about the you-know-what-hole comment. That was on Friday. Then on Sunday, they changed their story. "Oh, well, he said something but not that." You know, Americans need to start referring to these con artist, these Republicans, as what they really are: Republi-cons.

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## Mussel-Free bill goes before Colorado legislature

Reporter-Herald Staff  
Loveland Reporter-Herald

Posted:Wed Jan 17 14:05:50 MST 2018

The Colorado legislature will consider a bill that would provide stable funding for Colorado Parks and Wildlife efforts to keep zebra and quagga mussels out of state waters.

The Mussel-Free Colorado Act (HB 18-1008) was introduced Jan. 10 in the legislature.

If passed, this bill will provide a funding source of \$2.4 million for Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Program in 2019 and beyond by requiring motorboats and sailboats to purchase an ANS stamp.

Colorado residents will be charged \$25 and non-residents will be charged \$50.

The bill also would continue Tier 2 Severance Tax appropriations, when available, to cover the remainder of the \$4.5-\$5 million annual cost of ANS program implementation, increase fines for violations and allow CPW to charge for labor and costs incurred to store and decontaminate intercepted vessels.

"Zebra and quagga mussels pose a serious threat to our state's water infrastructure, natural resources and recreation," said Bob Broscheid, director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife, said in a press release. "As a headwater state with no adult mussel infestations, the only way zebra or quagga mussels can get into Colorado is overland by hitchhiking on watercraft."

The numbers of motorboats and sailboats found by inspectors each year infested with zebra and quagga mussels continues to rise, according to the release.

In 2017, Colorado inspectors intercepted a record 26 boats infested with adult mussels coming in from out of state. They have intercepted 144 boats infested with adult mussels since the ANS Program began.

Zebra and quagga mussels are not native to the nation's rivers, lakes and reservoirs. Adult infestations harm aquatic ecosystems and fisheries by disrupting the food web and out-competing native species, according to CPW, as well as problems for water infrastructure used for municipal, agriculture and industrial purposes by attaching to, clogging and impairing water storage, treatment and distribution systems.

"While the problem is getting worse in neighboring states, Colorado's prevention program is working to keep mussels out of our waters," Reid DeWalt, assistant director of wildlife and natural resources for Colorado Parks and Wildlife, said.

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NEWS &gt; ENVIRONMENT

# Coloradans love their public lands, poll says, but some think national monuments harm the local economy

Still, more Westerners are recognizing the economic benefit of recreation on public lands, State of the Rockies survey says



Helen H. Richardson, The Denver Post

Ally Bevins, of Boulder, took advantage of the park closures to ski up the main road leading to Rocky Mountain National Park which was closed on Jan. 22, 2018 in Estes Park.

By **JASON BLEVINS** | [jblevins@denverpost.com](mailto:jblevins@denverpost.com) | The Denver Post

January 25, 2018 at 5:00 am

For eight straight years, the “Conservation in the West” poll of residents in eight Western states has shown growing support for public lands and protecting those wild places — so much so, that across those states brimming with public land, three-quarters of them described themselves as conservationists this year, up from a little more than 60 percent in 2016.

That’s a significant swing because people tend not to change how they think of themselves, said Public Opinion Strategies pollster Lori Weigel, who this month helped interview 3,200 residents in the states for the annual survey by Colorado College’s State of the Rockies Project.

“I think we are seeing a boost in intensity from what we have seen in the past,” Weigel said.

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That vigor seems to be stemming from President Donald Trump. The poll shows disapproval for Trump’s call to carve almost 2 million acres from national monuments in Utah, with 70 percent of Colorado residents saying the shrinking of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments was a bad call. Coloradans have a strong affinity for national monuments, with 86 percent of those polled saying the protected federal lands help nearby economies.

Still, while more than 90 percent of Colorado respondents said the state’s national monuments were treasures worthy of conservation, about a quarter of them said the monuments injure the local economy and tie up land that could be used for other purposes.

Other actions pursued recently by the Trump administration were not received well by Coloradans who were polled.

- 44 percent oppose raising entrance fees at national parks, with 40 percent supporting.
- 53 percent oppose privatizing management of services on public lands.
- 63 percent oppose expanding availability of public lands for drilling.
- 60 percent oppose expanding availability of public lands for uranium mining.
- 72 percent oppose mining on public lands adjacent to Grand Canyon National Park.
- 67 percent oppose changing habitat protection plans for sage grouse.
- 74 percent support requiring oil and gas producers on public lands to use updated equipment to prevent methane gas leaks and reduce the need to burn off excess natural gas, a regulation the Trump administration wants to overturn.

The poll numbers are evidence of a perception of trouble for public lands, said Amy Roberts, the head of Boulder's Outdoor Industry Association, which this week is hosting its venerable Outdoor Retailer trade show in Denver for the first time.

She pointed to survey results showing more than 90 percent of Westerners saying national monuments should be conserved for future generations, were places to learn about America's history and heritage, and places they wanted to someday show their children.

"It's human nature to be a bit complacent when you don't feel like things you care about are under threat," Roberts said. "This year, we saw that is not the case. To get all these numbers over 90 percent, obviously both Democrats and Republicans feel this way."

The Outdoor Industry Association three times has weighed the economic impact of the outdoor industry, estimating most recently that outdoor businesses and consumers spur \$887 billion in spending a year, a figure that establishes the industry as a leading national economic engine.

And that economic impact is getting recognized by Westerners, who are realizing that open spaces and outdoor play is a critical foundation for economic development of all stripes.

“We clearly see that people are making a connection between the economy and outdoor recreation,” Weigel said, noting that 72 percent of respondents from all eight states said public lands help their state’s economy. “They see the growth and they get that people want to be here for the public lands and outdoor lifestyle.”

Colorado College economics professor Walt Hecox, who founded the school’s State of the Rockies Project, has spent his career researching the evolution of economies anchored in Rocky Mountain resources. It started with mining, forests, grazing, and oil and gas. The economy now leans heavily on amenity resources — including tourism, hunting, fishing, hiking, biking and skiing — in addition to traditional extractive industries.

“We are seeing this big change where these natural resources are more valuable when they are left alone,” Hecox said. “I think the Rockies will always be resource-based. But not in like the mining or logging eras. We are now in the amenity era.”

The challenge for the industry is converting its economic power into political influence that can sway how public lands are managed for uses that include gazing as much as taking.

Watch for that emerging political clout in the national midterm and even local elections this year, Roberts said.

“I think the 2018 midterms will be a watershed moment,” she said. “People running for office in Western states have a choice to make whether they support public lands and public lands funding or not, and that’s going to be an issue on top of a lot of voters’ minds.”

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# Larimer County, Fort Collins Conserve 2,492 Acres Near Horsetooth

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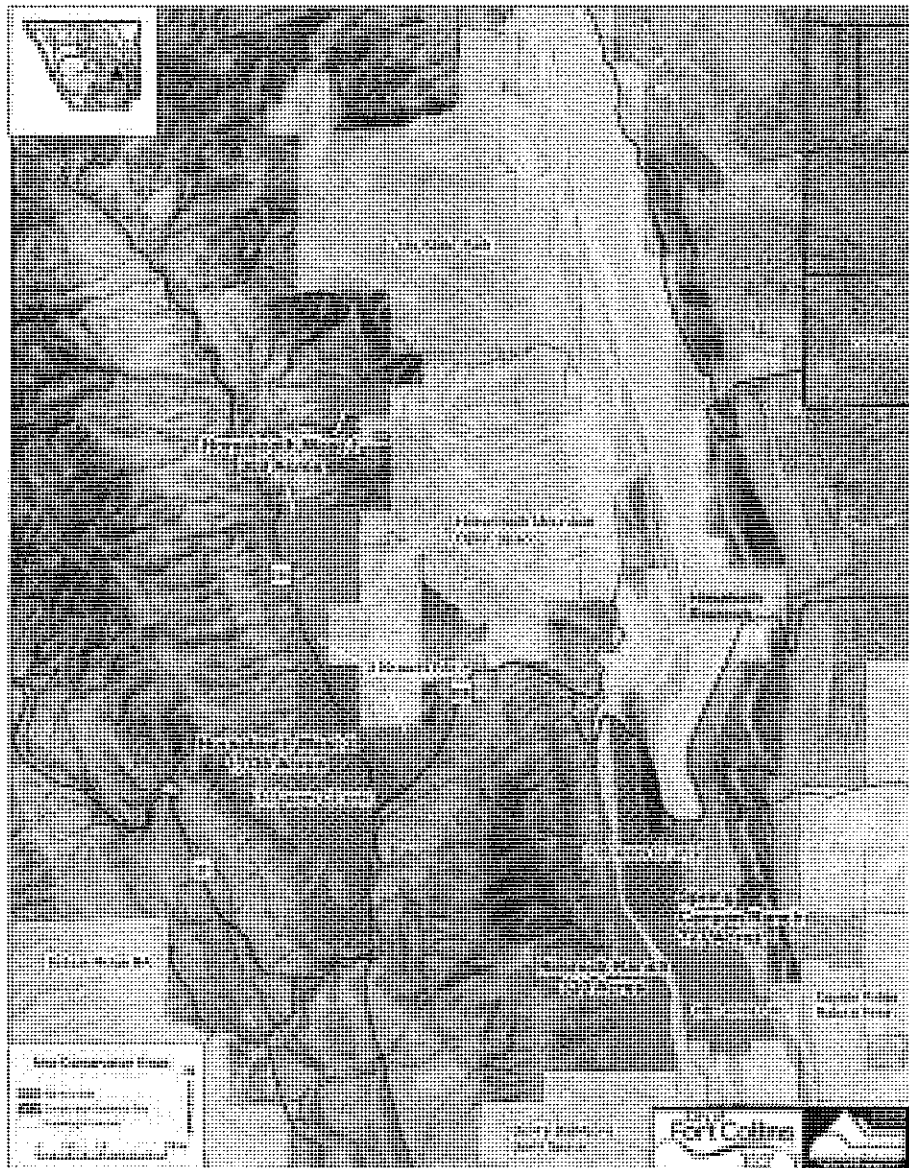






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#### FORT COLLINS UTILITIES Receives Award for Driving Fort Collins Clean Energy Economy

BUSINESS & EDUCATION

FORT COLLINS, Colo. – Earlier this month, Larimer County and the City of Fort Collins closed on the last in a series of land acquisitions south and west of Horsetooth Reservoir, conserving 2,492 acres of land.

Over the course of nearly a year, Larimer County and Fort Collins closed on four deals with separate, private landowners, all part of a larger effort to protect land in this conservation priority area. All the newly conserved land is adjacent to existing protected areas, including **Coyote Ridge Natural Area, Horsetooth Mountain Open Space** and **Devil's Backbone Open Space**. (Please see the accompanying map for location details.) The future of these properties, including any outdoor recreation or public access, will be determined through public planning processes by Larimer County and Fort Collins over the coming years.

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Larimer County  
Commissioners'  
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Matters Agenda for  
February 6, 2018

POLITICS

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"Conserving land in the iconic foothills just outside of the city, next to some of the most treasured and popular natural areas and open spaces, means that they will be here for us, wildlife and future generations," said Mark Sears, Fort Collins Natural Areas Manager and Acting Director. "The opportunity to conserve such a large area is increasingly rare, and we are thrilled to be part of the project."

While each possesses its unique characteristics, the new open spaces include rolling grasslands, mountain mahogany shrublands, hillsides forested with ponderosa pine and rocky ridgelines. Larimer County and Fort Collins conserved this land to protect its agricultural, scenic, community buffer, historic, recreational and educational values. The land also provides significant habitat for wildlife, such as bear, elk, deer, mountain lion, bobcat, turkey and grouse; key migration corridors for large mammals; and habitat for rare butterfly species and imperiled plants.

The land was acquired in both fee and conservation easements. Fee means the property is purchased outright, while conservation easement (CE) means only the development rights are purchased; the land remains in private ownership. Of the 2,492 acres conserved, 1,359 acres were fee and 1,133 acres were CE only.

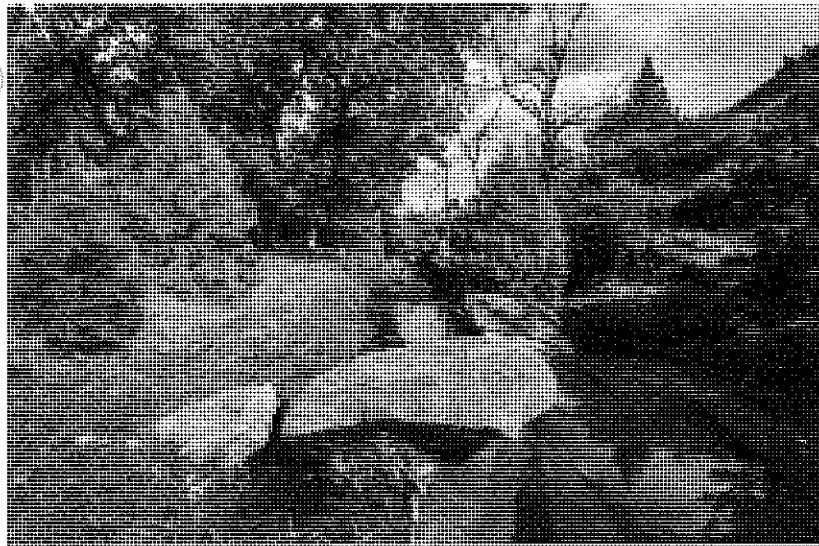


Photo by Charlie Johnson

The land was purchased, in total, for \$11,570,200.

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) provided \$4,853,500, or about 42% of the cost. Larimer County and Fort Collins split the difference of \$6,716,700 roughly 50/50. (For a breakdown of costs, acres, type of acres [fee vs. CE] and ownership, see the accompanying fact sheet.) Funding for these acquisitions comes from the Larimer County Help Preserve Open Spaces sales and use tax and the City of Fort Collins Open Space Yes! sales tax.

Kerri Rollins, Open Lands Program Manager for Larimer County, said staff has discussed land conservation with several of these willing landowners for years. The pieces all came together over the last 11 months.

“Some of these deals have been a long time in the making,” Rollins said. “We’re grateful that these people have such a strong conservation ethic and desire to ensure their land will continue to provide a myriad of values to the people and wildlife that call Larimer County home. We’re also thankful for the support of our partners at Fort Collins and GOCO for turning this larger conservation vision into reality, as well as the citizens of Fort Collins and Larimer County for continually supporting sales tax initiatives that make local conservation possible.”

For additional information, please contact Sears at (970) 416-2096 or Rollins at (970) 619-4577.

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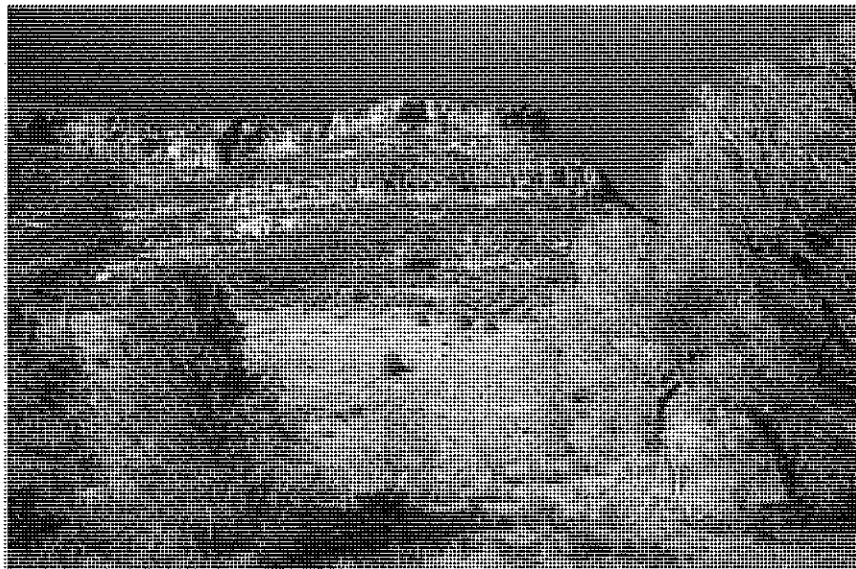


Photo by Charlie Johnson

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# Water experts look to work together at Poudre River Forum in Greeley

February 2, 2018

As growth along the Front Range continues to rise in 2018

(<https://www.greeleytribune.com/news/business/economic-forecast-greeley-northern-colorado-economies-to-have-positive-outlook-for-2018-despite-slowing-state-growth/>), local water experts are trying to find ways to meet new demands.

One way water experts make progress is through collaboration, a key theme in Friday's presentations and discussions at the fifth annual Poudre River Forum at the Island Grove Events Center, 501 N. 14th Ave. But working together isn't always easy.

"It's much more natural for our brains to be motivated to protect the decisions we've already made," said Martin Carcasson, director of the CSU Center for Public Deliberation in his opening presentation.

Even in the world of water experts, facts and evidence will often grab the attention of only the people whose biases are confirmed by the evidence. We learn in ways that don't simply confirm our biases, Carcasson said, when we have genuine conversations with people we respect.

Ruth Quade, coordinator for Greeley's Water Conservation program, said she's worked with others her entire career in water conservation. Yet Carcasson's presentation still rang true to Quade.

"We all learned (about working through differences) when we were little, but somehow as adults, we forget," she said.

A panel of speakers highlighted some collaborations in the world of Colorado water: how state officials work with local water authorities to plan for water needs on a statewide scale, how the Fort Collins Water Utility worked with nearby water districts and more.

Kerri Rollins, manager of the Larimer County Open Space program, garnered the most questions after her presentation on a deal between the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources and the city and county of Broomfield. Larimer officials purchased a farm and its water rights southwest of Berthoud in 2016. They hoped to keep the farm in production, while offsetting costs through a water-sharing agreement. In August 2017, the alternative transfer method was finalized.

The agreement helps provide drought water to cities without the dichotomy that comes with "buy and dry" operations, where farms are permanently dried up. Rollins said the agreement was the first of its kind to share water from agricultural use to municipal use.

A member of the Greeley Water and Sewer Board, Tony Miller, said he could see some variations of that agreement down the road.

"Water is the lifeblood of their agriculture operation," Miller said. "But with the growth of the municipalities and industries around here — water is needed as well."

Agreements of that nature require deep pockets, Miller added. The agreement cost Larimer County about \$8.4 million, nearly \$7 million for the water rights alone.

Miller also said one of the biggest challenges is that in the world of water, things move slowly.

"We benefit right now from what our previous people did 50 years ago, so we need to think out, 'What do we need to do 50 years out in the future?' " Miller said.

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## THE POUFRE RUNS THROUGH IT

The Poudre Runs Through It is a group that studies the Poudre River to find ways to conserve its health and functions. The group organized the fifth annual Poudre River Forum on Friday at the Island Grove Events Center, 501 N. 14th Ave. For more information about The Poudre Runs Through It, go to [prti.colostate.edu](http://prti.colostate.edu) (<http://prti.colostate.edu/>). Or contact MaryLou Smith at (970) 491-5899 or [MaryLou.Smith@colostate.edu](mailto:MaryLou.Smith@colostate.edu) (<mailto:MaryLou.Smith%40colostate.edu?subject=>).

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**Mark Beggs**

Be careful, great Greeley Citizens about how much you buy in to the Democrats "water Conservation" program. This is just another way for them to eventually leverage us out of our "individual Liberties". This may sound over the top, but to a Democrat, we are soul less animals derived from the ape by freak accident. We are dirty, greedy, unforgiving and are not welcome on the earth because the earth was made for the animals, not us humans. We humans are the center of the universe and GOD made Earth for us. He did not make Earth to have water shortages. There is enough water under us to... [See More](#)

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