

## LARIMER COUNTY LAND STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY BOARD

*The mission of Larimer County Department of Natural Resources is to establish, protect and manage significant regional parks and open lands providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities and stewardship of natural resource values. We are committed to fostering a sense of community and appreciation for the natural and agricultural heritage of Larimer County for present and future generations.*

**Date:** 8/20/2020

**Time:** 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Zoom Webinar. Public registration:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Of4rsBi4RlyjmA2oMsAzkg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Of4rsBi4RlyjmA2oMsAzkg)

**Contact:** Please contact Sidney at [smichl@larimer.org](mailto:smichl@larimer.org) or 970-619-4462 if you are unable to attend.

### AGENDA

Scheduled times are subject to change.

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - a. Natural Resources events for this month: [larimer.org/naturalresources](http://larimer.org/naturalresources).
  - b. To sign up for Land Stewardship Advisory Board updates, go to [apps.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm](http://apps.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm), enter your email, click “Subscribe,” and check the “Land Stewardship Advisory Board” box.
  - c. 2019 Annual Report
  - d. 2020 Q1 and Q2 Reports
6. UPDATES/DISCUSSION ITEMS
  - a. Restoration and Enhancement Policy Approved by BOCC

- b. COVID Operations Update
- c. Devil’s Backbone OS Feral Rye Treatment Review
- d. River Bluffs Restoration Project Update
- e. Forester Position Update; Budget Service Request

7. ACTION ITEMS

8. OTHER BUSINESS

9. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: 11/19/2020 at Larimer County Courthouse, 200 W. Oak St., Fort Collins, CO, 2nd Floor, Lake Loveland Room.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a)) for discussion pertaining to the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real, personal or other property interest.

11. ADJOURN

*Included in PDF:*

- Agenda
- 2019 Annual Report
- Quarterly Board Reports
- 2021 Budget Service Proposal

*Attached Separately:*

- Minutes of last meeting

This meeting will be recorded and archived according to law. Votes require a quorum.  
 Public can view agenda and minutes at:  
<http://legacy.larimer.org/boards/minutes/lsabminutes.htm>



REPORT

# Larimer County Natural Resources

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



# Thank You Citizen Advisory Boards

## Land Stewardship Advisory Board

Laura Booth  
Renee Galeano-Popp  
Ronald Harris  
Ernie Marx  
Richard McCulloch  
Gordon Nuttall (Vice Chair)  
Ed Redente (Chair)

## Open Lands Advisory Board

Rick Brent  
Jason Brothers  
K-Lynn Cameron  
Mark DeGregorio  
Bob Hewson  
Peter Kelly  
David Marvin (Vice Chair)  
Tom Shoemaker  
Linda Stanley  
Sherri Valentine  
Nancy Wallace (Chair)  
Ken Zornes

## Parks Advisory Board

Steve Ambrose  
Steven Amundson  
Russell Fruits (Chair)  
Robert Harris  
Daniela Lawler  
Kathy Maher  
Amanda Peters  
Michael Robinson  
Ruthie Rollins  
Deborah Shulman (Vice Chair)

Thank you to Larimer County  
Government Officials:

**Board of County Commissioners:**

John Kefalas, Steve Johnson, Tom Donnelly

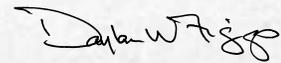
**County Manager:** Linda Hoffmann

**Community Planning, Infrastructure and  
Resources Director:** Laurie Kadrich

Cover photo: Pinewood Reservoir Trail,  
Photo © Jeanie Sumrall-Ajero

# An Invitation to Connect

Our shared successes demonstrated in this 2019 Annual Report would not be possible without the willingness of our regional partners, neighboring cities and towns, and members of the community to work side by side. Much gratitude goes to the efforts of our collective work that has been demonstrated this last year. Our team worked diligently to acquire, restore, and reconstruct critical areas of our landscape as well as to reinvest in our properties to improve visitor experience and access to recreation. I invite you to join us in our mission and connect with us. Your involvement will be vital as we address the needs of our growing community.



**Daylan Figgs**

Director, Department of Natural Resources

# Our Mission

To establish, protect and manage significant regional parks and open lands providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities and stewardship of natural resource values. We are committed to fostering a sense of community and appreciation for the natural and agricultural heritage of Larimer County for present and future generations.



Eagle's Nest Open Space © Jeanie Sumrall-Ajero

# 2019 at a Glance



## Starburst

1 Starburst Award by Colorado Lottery for the Long View Trail, a 4.4 mile regional trail connecting Fort Collins and Loveland.



# 55,000

Acres conserved



# 2 MILLION

Visitors at reservoir parks\*

# \$247M

total revenue collected and distributed to date from the Help Preserve Open Spaces tax



# 52,000

## nights

camping under the stars

# 55%

## VISITORS



choose hiking as primary activity at Horsetooth Mountain Open Space followed by 21% dog walking and 19% wildlife viewing.\*



# 383

volunteers donated 20,405 hours of service, equivalent of 10 full-time employees

# 14

Open Spaces\*\*



# 4

Reservoir Parks

\*Data compiled during Visitor Use Study, Colorado State University, 2018 \*\*Includes Long View Farm and Big Thompson Parks (Glade, Narrows, Forks, and Sleepy Hollow).

## Grant Award



### Long Awaited Connections

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) granted \$2 million to construct final sections of Poudre River Trail.

## Audit Complete



### 20 Years of Financial Stewardship

Independent auditors, RubinBrown, issued no errors on financial management of sales tax initiative dollars accounting from 1997-2017.

# Improving Visitor Experience

When visitors pay a fee to visit a Larimer County park or open space, the money collected goes to support management and improvements on the properties. In 2019, fee increases allowed the Department to begin delivering improvements at our highly visited parks and open spaces to improve visitor experience.

## Highlights included:

- Major reconstruction was completed on the heavily used Horsetooth Rock Trail including rerouting portions, improving drainage, and installing steps on steep sections.
- The education pavilion at Horsetooth Reservoir got a jolt of life by adding electrical service to better support campground programs.
- Horsetooth Reservoir's Rotary Park, a heavily used day use parking lot, was repaired and resurfaced.
- Wildlife interactions are increasing as more visitors discover the outdoors. To mitigate this risk, staff installed wildlife resistant trash containers at Hermit Park, Carter Lake, and Horsetooth Reservoir. Additionally, bear boxes were added at all campgrounds in Hermit Park.
- Over \$9 million dollars of capital improvement projects were solidified in 2019 to begin first phases of work in 2020. These funds will be reinvested into our properties through projects that improve reservoir access, campground amenities, roads and other infrastructure that enhance recreational access, safety and security.



# Investing in Nature

Our work in 2019 reflects the Department's dedication to conserving key landscapes, providing safe and enjoyable public access, and stewarding natural resources.

## Highlights included:

- The final acquisitions of the Poudre River Trail and securing \$2M in Great Outdoors Colorado funding with City of Fort Collins, and towns of Timnath and Windsor to construct remaining portions.



- Finalizing key land acquisitions including an 800 acre inholding at Red Mountain Open Space, buffers to Forks Park, and the 162-acre Pittington Conservation Easement.

- Completing restoration of a three-quarter mile stretch of the Poudre River at River Bluffs Open Space. This project restored a previously channelized, non-functioning river by re-connecting it to the floodplain.



River Bluffs Open Space © Herb Saperstone



Soderberg restoration © Jeanie Sumrall-Ajero

- Stabilized and preserved four historic structures from the Herrington and Soderberg homesteads at Horsetooth Mountain Open Space with non-profit partner, HistoriCorps.

- To address weed management issues with a watershed approach, the Land Stewardship Program expanded to provide services to numerous agencies including U.S. Forest Service, local watershed agencies, and others.

# Connecting People to Nature

Special thanks to our volunteers who dedicate time and passion to our goals. Collaborations and volunteer time all leverage public funds. Your collective "lift" equals nearly ten full-time employees.

## Highlights included:



**20,405**  
Service hours

383 volunteers



**12**

**Trailhead outreach tables**

900+ community interactions



**40**

**Campground programs**

reaching 1,000 summer visitors



**1,000**  
Students

from 18 schools

inspiring environmental education



**5,175**

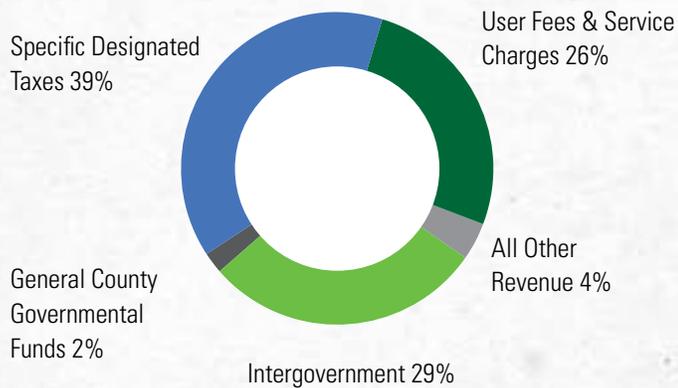
**Participants in 142 activities**

including guided hikes, field trips, outreach, events, and trainings

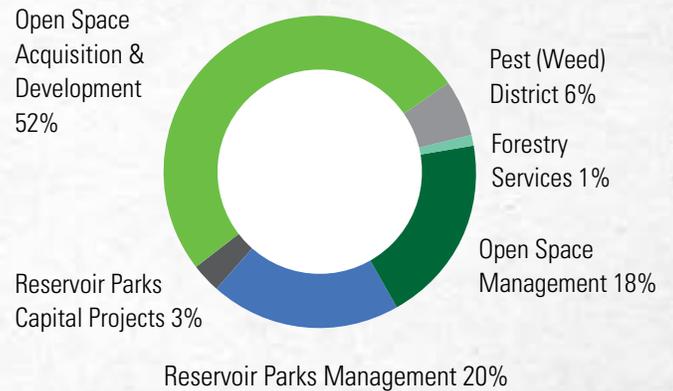
# Financial Summary

Revenues for Larimer County Department of Natural Resources are realized from a number of sources and totaled **\$20.2 million** in 2019. Expenses for 2019 were **\$13.2 million**.

## 2019 Revenues



## 2019 Expenses

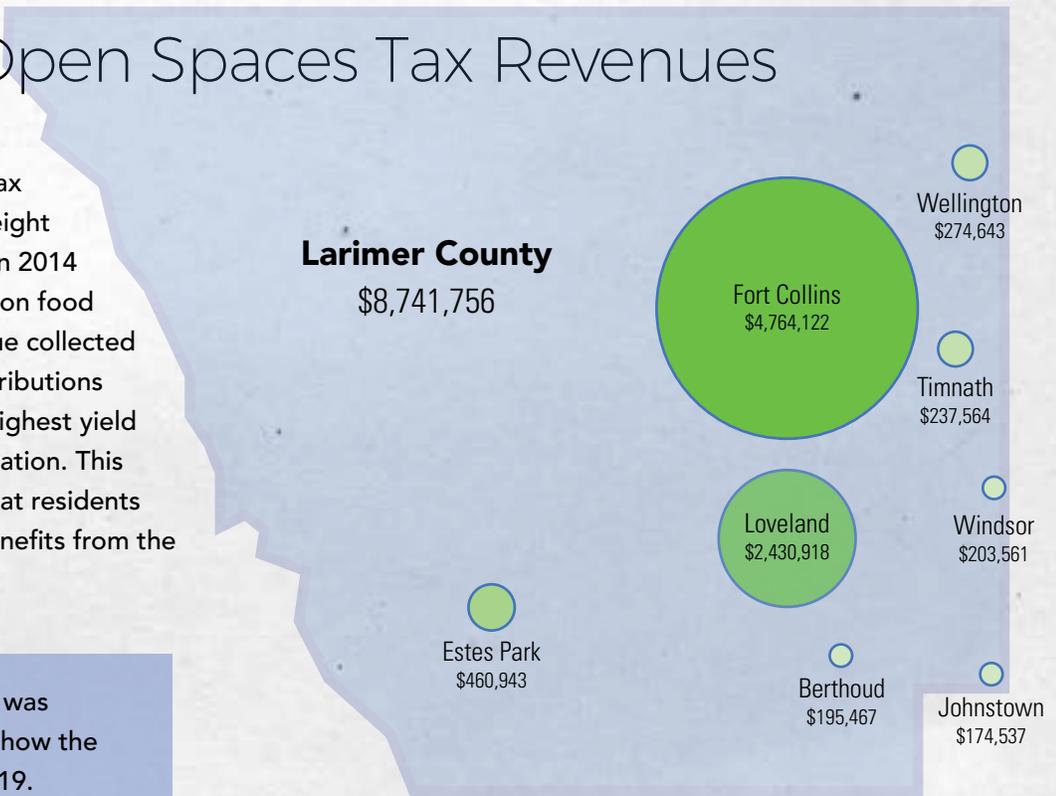


\*These figures are not audited. Audit will be completed in mid-2020. Figures in this chart have been rounded where appropriate.

# Help Preserve Open Spaces Tax Revenues

Revenue from the 1/4-cent Help Preserve Open Spaces sales and use tax is shared among Larimer County and eight municipalities. The tax was extended in 2014 and sunsets in 2043. It is not imposed on food or prescription drugs. The total revenue collected to date is more than \$247 million. Distributions to municipalities are based upon the highest yield of either population or sales tax generation. This revenue sharing agreement ensures that residents throughout Larimer County receive benefits from the Help Preserve Open Spaces tax.

Total tax revenue collected in 2019 was 17,483,512. This graphic illustrates how the tax was distributed per entity in 2019.





2020

# Larimer County Natural Resources

**QUARTERLY BOARD REPORT**  
1ST QUARTER (JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH)



## Reservoir parks receive federal funds to improve aging infrastructure

Horsetooth and Carter Lake reservoirs represent the two largest and most heavily visited reservoirs in Larimer County, and in the top 10 statewide. The Department manages the reservoir parks through an agreement with the US Bureau of Reclamation to provide high quality outdoor recreation opportunities. Without significant improvements to their aging infrastructure, these areas will not be able to keep up with increased visitor demands.

The Department received approval and now awaits final documentation for a grant from the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) for \$7 million dollars with a \$3 million dollar match to reconfigure and pave existing parking lots to help ease traffic congestion, improve safety and capacity, and mitigate surface run-off. As noted by Jennifer Almstead, Department Fund Development Specialist, "This grant award rounds out a successful two-year funding streak for the Department, which overall has secured 6 different grants totaling over \$11 million dollars."



*Federal grant will support reconfiguration and paving of existing parking lots to ease congestion, improve safety, and mitigate surface run-off.*

## Shoring up Eagle Campground at Carter Lake



*Volunteers at work this January at Eagle Campground.*

In January, volunteers assisted staff over four days to renovate 22 campsites in the upper Eagle Campground at Carter Lake. These campsites have not been renovated in years, and the 130 hours of volunteer help allowed maintenance staff to finish within a much shorter period. Renovation included installing erosion retaining walls on the uphill sides of campsites, while the downhill sides were shored up with rock walls to level the camping area. Crusher fines were applied and tamped down for a new surface.

# Waterline and electrical upgrades coming to Horsetooth

Staff are working to make improvements to critical infrastructure at Horsetooth Reservoir. The plan to replace an aging waterline at Inlet Bay was completed this quarter with its work beginning this fall. The new waterline will improve drinking water reliability and reduce staff time needed for ongoing repairs. Horsetooth also plans to replace aging electrical pedestals in the most popular camping loops. "We want to show our visitors that we are investing their fees in improved services," said Visitor Services District Manager, Mark Caughlan.



# Cabin road renovations at Hermit Park Open Space



This March, contractors began actively reconstructing and resurfacing 1.1 miles of roadway along the cabin loops at Hermit Park Open Space. Original to the 1970-80s, the roads have degraded over time with sections down to the bedrock. Big Thompson Maintenance crews were spending large amounts of time and money merely keeping the roads accessible. This project was identified and funded as part of the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) plan with total project costs in excess of \$371,000. "We are excited to make this investment to be able to repair and re-engineer these roads to our high standards; it will not only save time for our crews but will improve our visitors overall experience at Hermit Park Open Space," said Chris Fleming, Visitor Services District Manager. Completion of this project is estimated in mid-May.

# Poudre River Trail garners additional support

During this quarter, the remaining trail easements and crossing agreements to complete the Larimer County section of the Poudre River Trail were nearly finalized. In addition, the county applied for another grant for \$400,000 to CDOT's multi-modal options fund (MMOF) to complement the previously awarded \$2 million GOCO grant and further leverage Department funds. The project was approved for funding and ranked #2 in the region. The section of the project between River Bluffs Open Space and Timnath will be designed in 2020 with anticipated construction in 2021. "We are excited to have the easements and funding in place to construct the County's final section north of River Bluffs Open Space, and complete the 45-mile regional Poudre River Trail," said Zac Wiebe, Planning and Resource Specialist.



Cyclists enjoying the Poudre River Trail.

# New noxious weed mapped in upper Poudre Canyon

Last fall, common tansy, a State of Colorado designated noxious weed, was detected and mapped in the upper Cache La Poudre Canyon on private land. This newly discovered infestation was spotted by a grant funded Natural Resource Department land stewardship crew dedicated to the early detection and rapid response of noxious weeds. The common tansy infestation was treated, and staff will continue to monitor this year for any plants that were missed or new infestations that may have gone unnoticed.



Common tansy



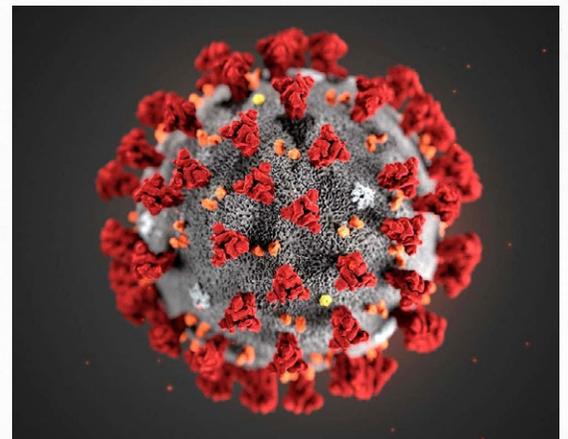
Senior Ranger Cindy Kirby and Ranger Chris Gardner

# Courageous actions in face of rabid mountain lion

We are extremely proud of Senior Ranger Cindy Kirby and Ranger Trainee Chris Gardner for their courageous actions in keeping the community safe at the scene of a mountain lion attack on March 11 at Riverview RV Park in Loveland, near Hwy 34. The rabid mountain lion had attacked a construction worker, threatened residents, and attacked a Sheriff Deputy taking her to the ground. Ranger Gardner was able to kick the lion off the deputy, ending the attack. The rangers were successful in keeping the aggressive animal away from the campground, and eventually chased the lion to the east where it was euthanized.

# COVID-19 Update

In mid-March, the COVID-19 pandemic began to cause significant disruption in Larimer County at all levels of our community. The Department began implementing its Continuity of Operations Plan in response to the pandemic with the top priority to sustain operations while keeping our public and staff safe in its midst. The implications of the pandemic on our community continues at press time, and the entirety of its impact is unknown. Despite this uncertainty, the Department continues to work together to balance its measured COVID-19 response and the unprecedented demands it has created.



# Financial Summary

Larimer County Natural Resources Department has five primary revenue sources including Colorado lottery proceeds, the open spaces sales tax, user fees on open spaces properties, user fees on reservoir parks properties, and the weed district property tax. Below are the January 1 through

March 31 revenue summaries, annual and daily permit sales, and camping reservation nights compared to the same period the previous year. Notably, significant reduction in annual permit sales this quarter may be attributed to the community's response to the ongoing pandemic.

## Year to Date Revenue (through March 31st 2020)

	2019	2020	% Change
Colorado Lottery	\$255,325	\$161,563	-37%
Open Spaces Sales Tax	\$530,614	\$612,419	+15%
Open Spaces Generated User Fees*	\$179,745	\$192,491	+7%
Reservoir Parks Generated User Fees*	\$861,203	\$1,031,263	+20%
Weed District Property Tax	\$272,830	\$326,172	+20%

\*User fees include those for entrance, camping, special events, group use areas, and penalty assessments

## Year to Date Number of Permit Sales (through March 31st 2020)

	2019	2020	% Change
<b>Open Spaces</b>			
Annual Permits	184	22	-88%
Daily Permits	6,035	6,386	+6%
<b>Reservoir Parks</b>			
Annual Permits	838	289	-66%
Daily Permits	4,388	5,900	+34%

## Year to Date Camping Reservation Nights (through March 31st 2020)

	2019	2020	% Change
Open Spaces	9	5	-44%
Reservoir Parks	1,657	1,426	-14%



Larimer County  
Department of Natural Resources  
Quarterly Board Report  
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2020

# Larimer County Natural Resources

**QUARTERLY BOARD REPORT**  
2ND QUARTER (APRIL MAY JUNE)



## Unprecedented Visitation Requires Agile Response

Record visitation was noted this quarter at all DNR reservoir parks and open spaces as hordes of visitors sought the benefits of being outdoors during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through June 30, daily permit sales at the reservoir parks were 51% higher over the same period last year. Aquatic Nuisance Species boat inspectors are experiencing the same increased customer demand. In May 2020, 8,000 boat inspections were completed, which is more than double increase over 2019 (3,500 inspections). DNR staff worked to meet increased sanitation and enforcement loads, to shift annual permit sales online, while simultaneously increasing site signage and public messaging to meet customer demand. Additionally, the Weed District office adopted a curbside delivery system for herbicide sales to lessen in-person contacts. This nimble approach has proven effective - as herbicide sales revenue continues to be strong, surpassing 2019 figures by 73%.



*Devil's Backbone Open Space parking lot and trailhead throughout this spring while residents looked to find reprieve from the stay at home order.*

## New Inspection Stations Coming to Reservoirs



*Inspectors check a boat for aquatic nuisance species last summer.*

Since 2008, the Department has been working in partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Bureau of Reclamation to inspect trailered boats to safeguard reservoirs from Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS). This spring, increased demands for water-based recreation have increased ANS inspections. The Department is currently preparing to construct four small inspection stations at Horsetooth and Carter Lake reservoirs that will provide dedicated inspector workspace and equipment storage. The project is currently in design and is expected to be permitted for construction this fall.

# A Boost for Conservation in Laramie Foothills



Panoramic views reside throughout the Laramie Foothills region.

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) recently awarded Larimer County and the City of Fort Collins an \$822,475 Special Opportunity Open Space grant to help fund conservation of four working ranches, totaling 2,893-acres in the Laramie Foothills. These ranches provide significant buffers to Red Mountain Open Space and over 50,000 acres of other locally conserved lands in this ecologically and culturally rich region. Since 1992, GOCO has been an important and unprecedented funding partner to Larimer County Natural Resources, having awarded the Department with 64 grants, totaling \$28.1 million dollars!

## Big Changes at River Bluffs Open Space Trailhead

The trailhead at River Bluffs Open Space has seen exciting changes. In early May, a new 1-mile, 10-foot concrete trail opened. DNR Planning staff worked with the Town of Windsor to design this connection to the Town of Windsor's Kyger Open Space, where Windsor has developed a trailhead and soft surface trail around Kyger Reservoir. Ultimately, this spur will connect to Windsor's regional trail system, providing incredible access to the regional Poudre River Trail. In coordination with the trail project, non-native Siberian elm trees were removed from the trailhead and replaced with native species. These improvements are already proving to be a valued asset to the communities they serve.



The Kyger Trail will connect to Windsor's regional trail system.

## Glade Park 2.0



The natural surface trail guides visitors to the river.

Once a mobile home community, Glade Park was transformed by catastrophic flooding of the Big Thompson River in 1976, and again in 2013. The 2013 floodwaters created a second, overflow channel where a parking lot and picnic area once stood. In spring of 2020, Glade Park reopened to the public following replacement of old barbwire fence with wildlife friendly fencing, creating nose-in parking spaces, and trails program staff formalizing a natural surface trail loop to the river. Following various assessments, a light approach to site restoration was recommended, primarily allowing natural processes to occur. This tactic has proved successful as both the instream and native riparian forest communities are now thriving, providing beneficial wildlife habitat.



Restoration of an old roadbed at Homestead Meadows Trail is filling in nicely with native plants. The trail realignment is visible to the right/uphill.

## Habitat Restoration at Work

This May, DNR completed capital improvement projects to restore approximately 2 miles of unneeded roads at Red Mountain, River Bluffs and Hermit Park open spaces with the goals to decrease fragmentation, eliminate erosion, and restore native plant communities. Specifically, at Hermit Park Open Space, the Homestead Meadows Trail had been located within an old roadbed that also provided access to two cabins. As identified in the property management plan, these cabins will be relocated to a common "cabin loop" on-site, and an improved, single-track alignment for the Homestead Meadows Trail was constructed concurrent with the road being restored.

## Accolade for Poudre River Restoration and Resilience Project

We are honored to receive a 2020 Starburst Award from the Colorado Lottery for the Poudre River Restoration and Resilience Project at River Bluffs Open Space. Earlier this spring, the 3/4-mile reach of the Poudre River was transformed into a healthy and resilient ecosystem by using innovative techniques to re-connect the river to its floodplain, create wetland and riparian habitat, improve flood resiliency, and promote natural river function. As noted by Zac Wiebe, Planning and Resource Manager, "It's an honor to be recognized for this project's ingenuity, broad stakeholder input and diverse funding partners. Special thanks to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and Great Outdoors Colorado for their financial partnerships."



Removal of an invasive exotic species, feral rye, at Devil's Backbone Open Space will allow more native species to thrive.

## Taking Back the Grasslands

A grassland restoration project at the Devil's Backbone Open Space began this quarter. An invasive exotic species, feral rye (*Secale cereal*) has escaped cultivation and is outcompeting native species, thus altering the way the eco-system functions. In March, an aerial applicator was hired to treat 150 acres infested with feral rye with the goal of exhausting the seed bank and allowing native species to thrive. According to Amy Gilboy, Restoration and Stewardship Specialist, "Big changes are already noticeable! The absence of feral rye in the treatment area has led to more wildflowers, an abundance of insects, and more diverse species."

# Financial Summary

Larimer County Natural Resources Department has five primary revenue sources including Colorado lottery proceeds, open spaces sales tax revenues, user fees on open space properties, user fees on reservoir park

properties, and weed district property tax revenues. Below are the April 1 through June 30 revenue summaries, annual and daily permit sales, and camping reservation nights compared to the same period the previous year.

## Year to Date Revenue (through June 30th 2020)

	2019	2020	% Change
Colorado Lottery	\$456,273	\$335,927	-26%
Open Spaces Sales Tax	\$2,522,844	\$2,521,215	0%
Open Spaces Generated User Fees*	\$519,877	\$489,418	-6%
Reservoir Parks Generated User Fees*	\$2,126,029	\$2,585,231	+22%
Weed District Property Tax	\$614,143	\$717,633	+17%

\*User fees include those for entrance, camping, special events, group use areas, and penalty assessments

## Year to Date Number of Permit Sales (through June 30th 2020)

	2019	2020	% Change
<b>Open Spaces</b>			
Annual Permits	659	565	-14%
Daily Permits	25,889	31,014	+20%
<b>Reservoir Parks</b>			
Annual Permits	3,730	4,352	+17%
Daily Permits	50,497	76,181	+51%

## Year to Date Camping Reservation Nights (through June 30th 2020)

	2019	2020	% Change
Open Spaces	2,444	2,521	+3%
Reservoir Parks	17,994	14,734	-18%



Larimer County  
Department of Natural Resources  
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**Larimer County Department of Natural Resources  
2021 Budget Service Proposal  
General Fund Support for Noxious Weed Compliance Outside the Weed District**

**Request:**

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is requesting \$80,400 (to cover 50% of the existing Forestry Specialist FTE position) to meet unfunded noxious weed outreach and compliance needs on lands outside of the Weed District boundary. The budget amount requested in 2021 represents an ongoing budget reduction of approximately \$68,000 when compared to 2020.

**Background:**

The Larimer County Forest Specialist position is currently funded with 75% General funds to provide forestry services county-wide and 25% Weed District funds to perform weed compliance inspections within the Weed District boundary. Given the recent retirement of the Forest Specialist, DNR conducted a needs assessment for this position and concluded that forestry services in Larimer County are being met by several other agencies. At the same time there is a critical need and a state mandate to address noxious weed issues outside the Larimer County Weed District boundary.

**Justification:**

The Colorado Noxious Weed Act (CNWA) mandates that local governments are required to adopt a noxious weed management plan and seek landowner compliance from those that reside in both cities and unincorporated areas. In 2017 the Board of County Commissioner's adopted the Larimer County Weed Management Plan (LCWMP). Since adoption, the LCWMP has guided weed management and compliance operations and led to an increase in workload in regions of the county that has no dedicated funding for such activities.

Lands within the Larimer County Weed District currently pay a mill levy for these services. As such, the Weed District will fund the weed inspection work within the district. However, the weed district boundary is only about 20% of the total land area in the county. The other 80% of lands in the county do not currently pay the mil-levy and is without a funding source for this vital mandated service. This service proposal request of \$80,400 will be used to fund approximately half of salary and operating expenses for an existing full-time position (formerly the Forest Specialist) that will work outside the Weed District boundary.

Other funding sources used by DNR are restricted in ways that cannot fund this important position outside of the Weed District. If this project goes unfunded, the County will not be able to fully comply with the Colorado Noxious Weed Act or be unable to meet the demand for services needed to effectively mitigate the negative impacts of noxious weeds outside the Weed District boundaries.