

# LARIMER COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

## MINUTES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.,

Bison Room, Natural Resources Administrative Office, 1800 S. County Rd 31, Loveland, CO

*The mission of the Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Department 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.*

### ***PAB Members in Attendance:***

Chris Klaas	X	Mark DeGregorio		Stephanie Van Dyken	X
Deborah Shulman	X	Nick Clark	X	Steve Ambrose	
Frank Gillespie	X	Rob Harris	X	Steve Johnson, Commissioner	
John Gaffney		Ron Kainer	X		
John Tipton		Russell Fruits	X		

### ***NR Staff in Attendance:***

Gary Buffington	X	Ken Brink	X	Mark Caughlan	X
Dan Rieves	X	Kim Butler	X		

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

Gary introduced Ken Brink, our new Program Manager of Visitor Services.

Ken introduced himself: He grew up in Ft. Collins. He did not come from an outdoor family, but went to EcoWeek as a child and it was an incredible experience. Ken studied at CSU and earned a BS in Outdoor Recreation Administration with a Forest Biology Emphasis. Out of college, he worked for the State Forest for several seasons which turned into a full time job. He then was hired as a climbing ranger at Eldorado Canyon State Park, and then moved to a boat ranger position at Boyd Lake State Park. Ken was a Senior Ranger at Jackson, and then a Park Manager for Steamboat Lake & Pearl Lake State Parks in Steamboat. Following that position, Ken managed Chatfield State Park for a few years, and then worked as the Assistant Director for Colorado Parks & Wildlife for the last 5 years of his career. One of the last things he worked on was the merger of Parks & Wildlife. Training is a core value to him. Ken retired for all of 6 months, and then had an opportunity to apply here at Larimer County and is now the Program Manager for Visitor Services. The reputation of the department and the director is about as good as it gets in Colorado. He is very excited to be here and be a part of what we all do. He is looking forward to meeting the board members.

PAB Photo – 5:35pm

Rob asked Ken to explain his role at NR

Ken explained the hierarchy of Natural Resources as follows. Gary is the Director, and under him are 4 Program Managers. Below the managers is another level of supervisory staff managing a variety of parks and open lands that make up the Visitor Services Program.

## LARIMER COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

End of year presentation for Education and Volunteer Programs – Heather Young & Pam Mayhew – 5:40pm

### Volunteer Program Year in Review– by Pam Mayhew

Some achievements from this year:

- Patrolled trails, built trails, and restored damaged trails
- Monitored raptors
- Removed thorny Russian olive trees
- Hosted our campgrounds
- Photographed our properties and events
- Assisted boaters
- Built play structures
- Removed fencing and graffiti
- Restored fire scar areas

Volunteer Training

- Volunteer Ranger Assistant
- Campground Host – all filled for 2016!
- Park Ranger/Boat Ranger Assistant at Carter & Horsetooth – a little bit tougher to fill this position

Rob's feedback is that the volunteer application is very overwhelming and asks for too much information. Pam offered to give that feedback to FC, but reminded us that it's their program and their decision to change. They seem to get plenty of applicants. Rob H suggested mirroring the State Park volunteer application.

We kicked off the year last year in April with Comcast (136 volunteers) – built 1,000 ft of new trail, constructed the base for the raptor nest play structure & helped put in the big boulders all in 1 day!

Thank you Dan, for you & your staff's organization & enthusiasm.

We've been having more interest from corporate groups that want to volunteer recently.

Pam showed some examples of the trail work that has been done.

The Volunteers also work with Land Stewardship and Resource Management group to work on

- Monitoring
- Special Projects

Pam Shared Parks and Open Lands project pictures.

Compared to last year

- Same number of projects
- Increased number of engaged volunteers

Highs from last year

- High impact projects
- Growth in the number of corporate project requests
- Web-based recruitment
- Grant from Comcast to purchase CPR and AED training equipment

Lows from last year

- Senior Tax Worker Program Limits – program declining and are required to do fewer hours
- Volunteers entering hours – participants required to work fewer hours

2016 Volunteer Program Initiatives

- Manage capacity program-wide
- Cloud-based photographer portal
- Quality recruitment efforts
- Creative use of volunteers

## LARIMER COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

- 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Projects ex. New trail at Devil's Backbone, Thistle removal project around Blue Sky Trail area, new trail construction at Hermit Park

If someone wants to volunteer to work on a trail independently, they should apply on the LC NR website.

Chris K told us he started volunteering with the county 3-4 yrs ago and spoke to Pam's enthusiasm and dedication and said what she's doing with the volunteers is a very valuable service.

### Education Year In Review by Heather Young – 6:00pm

Most of our programs are done by volunteer naturalists.

Education planning & product development from 2015

- Devil's Backbone management plan update
- Horsetooth Information Center interpretation
- Pinewood interpretive signs and kiosk
- Wrote a new Horsetooth Mountain Open Space ecology curriculum

Educational Volunteer Trainings

- Natural Assistant training (8 sessions over 1.5 months)
- Did not hold annual Volunteer Naturalist training due to outside issues going on in 2015

Programming and Outreach

- Did 184 events for 8,968 members of the public
- Slight increase in number of programs and 24% increase in number of participants

Types of programs we do:

- Guided hikes – 33%
  - 60 hikes reaching 745 members of the public
- Campground programs – 31%
  - 57 programs for 1,863 members of the public
  - Use lots of volunteers from other public programs
- School field trips 14%
  - 26 field trips reaching 1,360 students
- Special requests (not school) – 13%
  - 25 programs reaching 1,108 members of the public
- Trailhead Tables – 5%

Events

- National Get Outdoors Day in June – saw about 2,000 people
  - Will not be continued for 2016, looking at doing more guided hikes and other skill-based programs in answer to needs presented by a community survey instead
- Nature's Harvest Fest in September – saw about 1,200 people

2015 Highs

- Increased capacity
- Flexible programming to meet needs of public, volunteers and staff
- Focus on projects

2015 Lows

- Floods
- Staff turnover

2016 Education Program Initiatives

- Intentional efforts appropriate for level of capacity
- Interpretive planning projects

## LARIMER COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

- Frank asked for clarification – Heather said it’s the planning process that goes into the interpretive signs. It usually involves Heather, Teddy, graphic designer, and the park manager.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary programs
- Great Outdoors Colorado Inspire Initiative – We have about \$75,000 to do a planning process to get a shovel-ready project planned on how better to get kids connected to nature and how to better collaborate with the community.

Contact Info:

Pam Mayhew – Volunteer Coordinator  
970-619-4552 [pmayhew@larimer.org](mailto:pmayhew@larimer.org)

Heather Young – Education Program Coordinator  
970-619-4489 [hyoung@larimer.org](mailto:hyoung@larimer.org)

### GENERAL INFORMATION by Gary – 6:16pm

- Natural Resource Events for this month: See website <http://www.larimer.org/naturalresources>.
- To sign up for Parks Advisory Board minutes go to <http://larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm> put in your email and click ‘subscribe’, then check “Parks Advisory Board” box.
- Construction will take place at the Devil's Backbone Open Space trailhead, resulting in temporary closures starting Feb. 8. The work is expected to take 4 weeks, weather depending. The Devil's Backbone Trailhead, Morrison Loop Trail and the Wild Loop Trail from the southern arc of the loop to the trailhead will be closed. Visitors may still access the open space from the Blue Sky Trailhead or Coyote Ridge Natural Area trailhead. Improvements will include an expanded parking area, a new multi-use trail through Hidden Valley, designation of the Wild Loop Trail as hiking only, a webcam and additional interpretive and play features.
- We are also doing a trailhead expansion at Soderberg to try to meet the capacity issues.
- The Master Plan is moving along. It is currently in Finance. We will be working on getting a consultant hired to get plan made for next 10 years.
- This year is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for Open Lands (started 1996). More to come on upcoming activities!

### DISCUSSION ITEMS – 6:23pm

- *Vessel Registration Reauthorization – Ken Brink*
  - Please see handouts at end of minutes – Larimer County 2015 Water Patrol Operations Report
  - There’s a vessel bill going before the legislature in a sunset review to reauthorize the vessel numbering and registration program for the State of Colorado in less than 2 weeks. This has been of interest to us for at least 10 years.
  - In Ken’s opinion, Larimer County is doing an excellent job at water safety. FYI, half of the BUI charges in 2015 came from Horsetooth Reservoir. Mark said a reporter called to ask why we have so many drunk boaters. The take home is that we don’t have more, we are just more effective at detection. The biggest outcome is the safety record on our lakes, and we are very proud of that. We have a very high quality and very effective program.
  - Deborah asked how are some of the violations enforced? Mark explained that they see the violation, tie up to them, and do a vehicle inspection, just like when you’re driving a car and get pulled over. Dan added that there has to be a violation, etc. for police to stop you, and

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then you go on from there. Whoever's driving the boat is responsible for the boat at that time. There has to be a reason for us to contact them.

- Russell spoke to the importance of the boat ranger assistant and from his personal experience how many things boaters do wrong that invite a contact.
  - Dan said that if the ranger making the contact is not POST-certified and they need assistance, that they are to call a POST ranger. In his opinion, hopefully it won't happen, but if we upset someone in the path of keeping the lake safe, then that's part of the process.
  - Ken shared that a vast number of the people contacted by our staff are educational contacts, and then if that's not working, then the contact can escalate as needed.
  - Russell shared the example of the Borrowed PFD program, whereby visitors can borrow a PFD from us to go out on the lake.
  - Chris K asked how many contacts are made with jet skis vs. boats? Mark answered that jet skis are starting to decline in popularity.
  - Please see handouts at end of minutes – Colorado Vessel Registration and Boating Safety Partnership Fact Sheet
  - With the reauthorization of the Vessel Registration Act, there's an opportunity for many groups. Ken & Gary spent yesterday speaking to all of our state-level elected officials.
  - The Coast Guard delegated authority for water safety and patrol-related items to Colorado Parks & Wildlife. CPW thereby also manages all of the boating registration in Colorado.
  - And then in return, when you do boat safety, the Coast Guard says we will reimburse you up to \$1.4 million. CPW has been receiving about \$1.1 million annually for boat safety and registration.
  - So, even though our visitors have to register their boats, we get \$0 revenue (CPW is receiving an additional \$3 million from registrations – \$4 million total).
  - We feel like in all fairness that there should be some sharing of resources and would like to see the revenue put into a pass through fund so that local entities, cities, counties have the funding to support them.
  - Even if we are not successful this year, we will continue to pursue it.
  - Gary, Ken, and a few others plan to testify in front of the Ag & NR Committee next Monday and to request a sharing of funds.
- *Grand Lake Clarity Regulation – Ken Brink - 6:38pm*
    - Issues have been around for several years regarding the water quality and clarity of the lakes in Grand County. The Health Dept actually has a numeric standard for what the clarity level should be, but it has not been enforced. But, now there is potential for enforcement to begin.
    - Options for improving the water clarity can have drastic impacts on our water quantity and quality in Larimer County Parks. For example, they could delay CBT water delivery for 3-5 weeks, but water would still be leaving Horsetooth.
    - We want to make sure they recognize all of the potential impacts of their decisions.
    - Robert Harris added that there is serious algae growth in the summer in the reservoir, and it has to go through Granby Lake to get down the CBT.
    - Mark noted that last summer, if Horsetooth reservoir hadn't started 2 feet shy of full, and they stopped sending water, that we would have been out of business by mid-August.
    - Dan stated that it is an aesthetic concern that drives an economic concern, and they're not seeing the effect on others (like us). The biggest problem here is that they're not giving us a "seat at the table".
    - The Bureau has to move water to produce energy.
    - The Feds will start a 5 year EIS program.

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- What's being decided now is are we going to allow them to experiment with how to manage the water quality? However, we need to make sure we don't experience big delivery issues
- More to come!

### **ACTION ITEMS - Gary – 6:53pm**

- Help us select the 2016 Visual Artist of the Year! We need a Parks Advisory Board member to serve on the selection committee. The process takes place in late February/early March and involves reviewing typically 6-10 applications, meeting with the committee and helping with artist interviews if necessary. If interested, please contact Teddy Parker-Renga at [\(970\) 619-4561](tel:9706194561) or [tparker-renga@larimer.org](mailto:tparker-renga@larimer.org).
- Stephanie Van Dyke volunteered.

### **STANDING AGENDA ITEMS:**

*Park District updates and Parks Master Plan Implementation Progress report* – Dan Rieves, Carter Lake District Manager; and Mark Caughlan, Horsetooth District Manager

1. **Carter Lake South Shore Campground improvements - Dan Rieves - 20 minutes 6:56pm**
  - We had a public meeting scheduled for the end of the month and a construction start date planned, but it all had to change.
  - The last time this was planned was 2007, so we have had to revitalize the process. Carter Lake South Shore has been passed over several times
  - There is only electric there, no other utilities on the South Shore, so it really limits our options.
  - Since 2007, the well stopped working and we have had to had to redrill, which got us thinking, could the well support the shower building? And the answer was no.
  - Since then we've built a shower house at the North end of Carter Lake, and people drive from the south shore to use it.
  - We are allowed to drill a 2<sup>nd</sup> well and are not limited to the per parcel regulations.
  - The 2007 drawing was a dream drawing, not actually based on any measurements.
  - There is a huge WAPA line going through the potential new camping loop, and they've asked for us to maintain their easement.
  - Review of map & ideas
  - The potential shower building is running about \$500,000. The last one built cost \$250,000, but the construction market is in an entirely different place now.
  - There is an option to build a CXT shower house, but Dan really dislikes the look and the fact that they're a 1-season building. They have looked at prefabs, but they are expensive too.
  - The construction will increase capacity by 25 sites for a total of 51 sites.
  - They will probably lose 3 walk-in tent sites.
  - They will need a cistern from the wells and a booster pump to get enough water pressure for the shower house, but are still trying to get solid data.
  - They had planned to start construction on the day after Labor Day 2016, but now are going to wait a year and save up money since the project keeps growing.
  - The new plan is to use this year to get some partners onboard and take it to 50% design phase so that we can start working with contractors on plans.
  - The shower buildings can generate about \$10,000 revenue/year and it has been proven that people will stay a little longer if the campground has a shower house. So ROI in 10-12 years theoretically.
  - Gary commented that his strategy is to do it once every 30 years. We want to do it the right way so that it lasts.

## LARIMER COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

- Dan says we'll probably drill another well regardless of the shower building because that cost is not extensive and we need to support the additional 25 campsites regardless.
- The existing roads will also be resurfaced.
- We have been asked to consider a trailhead place holder to connect south shore to Chimney Hollow.
- The funding sources for this project are the parks reserve, lottery (about \$600,000/yr), & sales tax.

### Board and Staff comments:

- Chris K asked if there is there an industry standard for RV dump sites? Dan said yes, but they wouldn't add it into the campground. Our RV dump there would just be a giant vault that's leaching out. We haven't identified it as a project element yet. A lot of campgrounds do not have them. Ken added that it's usually a 1 per park item. Mark said Horsetooth only has 2 because the park is literally built right on top of the sewer lines.
- Chris K suggested we maybe consider charging more to dump to offset costs? Right now we just make them buy a day pass, but some places charge up to \$20.

### **2. Horsetooth Building Projects – Mark Caughlan - 7:33pm**

- The Completion date is now probably mid-June due to recent snow days.
- They are putting in footers right now, pouring concrete on Thursday for the administration building, then pouring next week for the maintenance building.
- Heather will be back to talk about the interpretive aspects of the project at a future meeting.
- Topics they plan to cover in the interpretive displays include the CBT history, fisheries, recreation, a 3D topo map, what rangers do, geology, and some other great topics.
- Rangers are in training right now (boat training and field training). Ranger excellence school is week of May 16, when we will host training for rangers all around the state.
- We are looking at a total of \$5.4 million for all 3 buildings (Horsetooth complex) to be completed by Heath Construction

### Board and Staff comments:

- Stephanie asked if the board could have a tour of the new Horsetooth buildings? Mark said he is happy to show anyone around during construction process. Gary suggested a walkthrough halfway through.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Buffington, Director – 7:39pm**

It's a master plan year, so please start thinking of some creative ideas for the master plan.

He thinks we're going to see a lot of infrastructure challenges that haven't come up in the past.

We are just waiting for it to move on from Purchasing. The PAB Board will mainly be participating in the process from May – September. This is an "Update" to the Master Plan. We are not starting from scratch. Because the EA, etc has been done already, so it won't cost as much as it did in 2007. And to answer a question, yes, the Bureau has veto power over our projects, but it usually doesn't get to that point. We are all working together as a team.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

## LARIMER COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

Kimberly Butler

APPROVED:

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Russ Fruits, Chair

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***Next regular meeting [if needed]: March 8, 2016***  
Boyd Lake Room, Larimer County Courthouse  
Office Building, 200 W. Oak, Ft. Collins, CO

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Public can view agenda and minutes at  
[http://larimer.org/boards/minutes/parks\\_advisory\\_board.cfm](http://larimer.org/boards/minutes/parks_advisory_board.cfm)

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**2015 END-OF-YEAR OVERVIEW**  
 Volunteer and Education Programs  
 Pam Mayhew - Volunteer Program Coordinator  
 Heather Young - Education Program Coordinator



**VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

**ACHIEVEMENTS...**



- o Patrolled trails
- o Built trails
- o Restored damaged trails
- o Monitored raptors
- o Removed thorny Russian olive trees
- o Hosted our campgrounds
- o Photographed our properties and events

**ACHIEVEMENTS...**



- o Assisted boaters
- o Removed graffiti
- o Built play structures
- o Removed fencing
- o Restored fire scar areas
- o Set up, tore down and assisted with some of the most fun and highly visible special events!

**VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

- o Volunteer Ranger Assistant
  - Screening, interviewing, and selection
  - Ranger staff able to focus on field responsibilities and communication with volunteers
  - Continuing education classes offered
- o Campground Host
  - All sites filled for 2016!
- o Park Ranger/Boat Ranger Assistant
  - Continued recruitment and training
  - Lead volunteer at each location for training
  - Increased hands-on training at each site
  - Senior Tax Worker numbers declining



**GROUPS**

- In-Situ
- Overland Mountain Bike Club
- Team B.O.B
- Noble Casing
- LCHA
- C.A.T.S.
- Centennial Bass Club
- CO Arsenal
- Comcast
- NCS
- Trailology
- CSU
- Front Range Forestry
- Antea

### NORTHERN COLORADO CLIMBING COALITION AT DUNCAN'S RIDGE

### LAND STEWARDSHIP AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- o Monitoring
  - Raptors at Horsetooth Mountain
  - Raptors at Chimney Hollow
  - Conservation Easements
- o Projects
  - Night sky monitoring
  - Russian olive removal at Three Bells and Kauffman Conservation Easements
  - Restoration of Foothills Trail
  - Bison fence project at Red Mountain

### PARKS AND OPEN LANDS PROJECTS

### WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN?

- o Volunteer service hours
  - 2015 hours recorded to date: 21,078
    - No longer managing Mary's Lake and East Portal campgrounds
  - 2014 hours: 23,478
- o Maintained the number of projects
  - 2015: 30 projects
  - 2014: 30 projects
- o Increased the number of engaged volunteers
  - 2015: 360 volunteers
  - 2014: 320 volunteers
- o Continued the summer volunteer recognition
  - 160 attendees

### 2015 HIGHS AND LOWS

Highs	Lows
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o High impact projects</li> <li>o Growth in the number of corporate project requests</li> <li>o Web-based recruitment</li> <li>o Grant to purchase CPR and AED training equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Senior Tax Worker Program limits</li> <li>o Volunteers entering hours</li> </ul>

### 2016 VOLUNTEER PROGRAM INITIATIVES

- o Manage capacity program-wide
- o Cloud-based photographer portal
- o Quality recruitment efforts
- o Creative use of volunteers
- o 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary projects!



**EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**EDUCATION PLANNING AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT**

- o Devil's Backbone management plan update
  - Education section
- o Horsetooth Information Center interpretation
- o Pinewood interpretive signs and kiosk
- o Horsetooth Mountain Open Space ecology curriculum



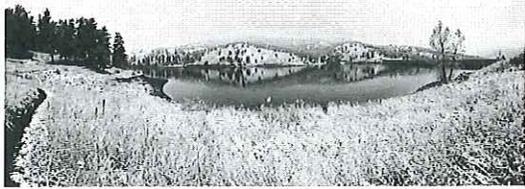
**EDUCATIONAL VOLUNTEER TRAININGS**

- o Naturalist Assistant training
- o Did not hold annual Volunteer Naturalist training due to 2015 capacity

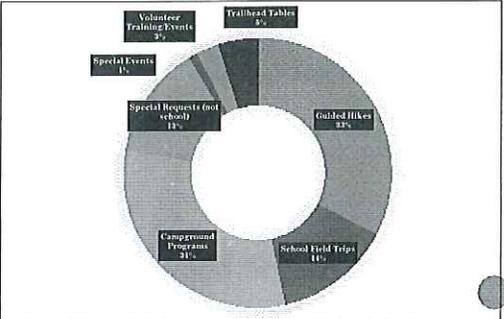


**PROGRAMMING AND OUTREACH**

- o Total outreach impact for Education Program
  - 184 events for 8968 members of the public
- o Slight increase in number of programs and 24% increase in number of participants.



**NUMBER OF PROGRAMS BY TYPE**



Program Type	Percentage
Guided Hikes	22%
School Field Trips	14%
Campground Programs	21%
Special Requests (not school)	12%
Volunteer Training Events	2%
Trailhead Tables	5%
Special Events	1%

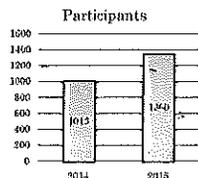
**GUIDED HIKES**

- o 60 guided hikes reaching 745 members of the public
  - Astrophotography programs
  - Birding tour of Three Bells Conservation Easement
  - Public tours of Chimney Hollow



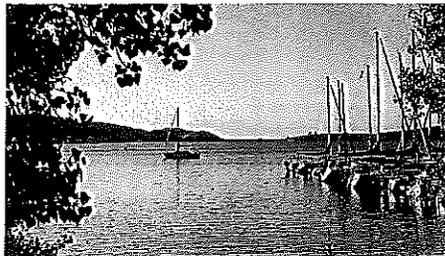

### SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

- o 26 field trips reaching 1360 students



### CAMPGROUND PROGRAMS

- o 57 campground programs for 1863 members of the public
  - Continue to refine for quality programs
  - Appropriate programs for each location



### SPECIAL REQUESTS

- o 25 special request programs reaching 1108 members of the public
  - Bison presentations
  - Community groups
  - Outreach booths

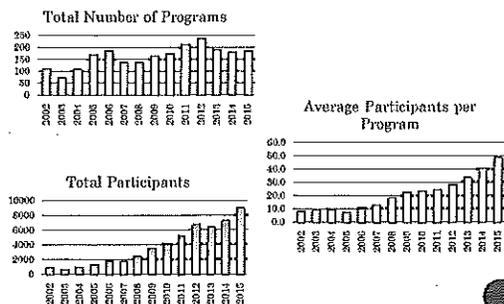


### EVENTS

- o National Get Outdoors Day – June 13, 2015
  - 2000 people
- o Nature's Harvest Fest – September 12, 2015
  - 1200 people



### LONG TERM TRENDS



### 2015 HIGHS AND LOWS

- | Higs   | Lows             |
|--|------------------|
| o Increased capacity   | o Floods         |
| o Flexible programming to meet needs of public, volunteers and staff | o Staff turnover |
| o Focus on projects  |                  |

**2016 EDUCATION PROGRAM INITIATIVES**

- o Intentional efforts appropriate for level of capacity
- o Interpretive planning projects
- o 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary programs!
- o Great Outdoors Colorado Inspire Initiative

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Pam Mayhew   | Heather Young  |
| o Volunteer Program<br>Coordinator                             | o Education Program<br>Coordinator                           |
| o <a href="mailto:pmayhew@larimer.org">pmayhew@larimer.org</a> | o <a href="mailto:hyoung@larimer.org">hyoung@larimer.org</a> |
| o 970-619-4552   | o 970-619-4489   |



## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Visitor Services
- Open Lands
- Weed Management & Forestry

1800 South County Road 31

Loveland, CO 80537

January 4, 2016

Colorado Water Quality Control Commission  
Department of Public Health and Environment

RE: Party Status Request for Regulation #33, Grand Lake Clarity Hearing

Dear Commission Representative:

Larimer County manages recreation on four Front Range Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs including Horsetooth, Carter, Pinewood and Flatiron. Over 1 million visitors recreate at these reservoirs each year and depend on a clean water supply for swimming, boating, fishing, water skiing and other water dependant activities. The economic impact of these activities is significant and important to our local economy.

Colorado-Big Thompson operations affect the amount and quality of water delivered to these reservoirs. Delays in the delivery of water to these valued public recreation sites directly impacts the ability of the public to access the water for recreational purposes. We are concerned about the social, economic, and environmental impacts of changes to the historic operations of the CBT system. Therefore, Larimer County is requesting party status for the Grand Lake Clarity Hearing.

Larimer County's contact is Ken Brink, Visitor Services Manager, Larimer County Natural Resources Department. The mailing address is 1800 South County Road 31, Loveland, Colorado 80537.

My phone number is 970-619-4555 and my email address is [brinkkm@co.larimer.co.us](mailto:brinkkm@co.larimer.co.us). Please include Mark Caughlan, Horsetooth District Manager ([brinkkm@co.larimer.co.us](mailto:brinkkm@co.larimer.co.us)) and Jeffrey Boring, Resource Specialist II ([jboring@larimer.org](mailto:jboring@larimer.org)) in all email correspondence.

Sincerely,

Ken Brink  
Visitor Services Manager  
Larimer County Natural Resources



## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

• Visitor Services

• Open Lands

• Weed Management & Forestry

1800 South County Road 31

Loveland, CO 80537

(970) 619-4570/ (970) 619-4574 FAX

[www.larimer.org/naturalresources](http://www.larimer.org/naturalresources)

### Colorado Vessel Registration and Boating Safety Partnership

#### FACT SHEET

- Whereas Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) receives \$2.5-3M in revenue from the sale of vessel registrations annually and all Colorado boaters are required by law to purchase these registrations, regardless of where they boat.
- Whereas CPW has entered into an agreement with the U.S. Coast Guard to provide boat safety activities throughout the state of Colorado and they receive over \$1M in reimbursements for boating safety related activities annually.
- Whereas Larimer County Natural Resources and many other local government entities already have long standing effective partnerships related to fish stocking and the containment of aquatic nuisance species.
- Many city and county government entities now provide high quality boating safety services to the public. Entities such as Larimer County Natural Resources (Horsetooth and Carter Lakes), City of Westminster (Stanley Lake), Boulder County (Boulder Reservoir), Grand County (Granby, Shadow Mountain, and Grand Lake), and the City of Aurora (Aurora Reservoir) are providing boating safety services to the general public and they currently receive no registration funding from the state. Many city and county agencies have highly professional boat patrol programs. For example, Larimer County Rangers made half of the BUI arrests in the state of Colorado in 2015.
- Government agencies that provide a full spectrum of boating safety services should receive a portion of the registration revenue collected from the boaters of Colorado. A minimum of 20% of vessel registration dollars should be passed through to local government agencies that provide access to flatwater resources. Government agencies that provide navigational aids, law enforcement, search and rescue, and educational services to the boating public would qualify for funding. The amount provided to each entity should be determined by a formula that considers the number of documented safety inspections conducted, boating safety citations issued, number of boat ramps, buoys placed and maintained, on the water patrol hours, search and rescue responses, and educational activities.
- Groups that seek vessel registration pass through funds would be required to report key factors to Colorado Parks and Wildlife at the end of each calendar year.
- Larimer County Natural Resources would like to express their support for the reauthorization of the CPW Vessel Registration Bill with one amendment that would establish a revenue pass through to be divided between qualified government entities based on a simple formula as defined above.



*LARIMER COUNTY*  
*2015 WATER PATROL OPERATIONS REPORT*

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*INFORMATION + EDUCATION + ENFORCEMENT = SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM*

PATROL AREAS:

HORSETOOTH RESERVOIR (3<sup>RD</sup> BUSIEST RESERVOIR IN THE STATE OF COLORADO)

CARTER LAKE

TOTAL ACRES PATROLLED: 3,000

- HORSETOOTH 1,900 ACRES
- CARTER LAKE 1,100 ACRES

STAFF:

2015 FULL TIME STAFF BOAT CADRE:

JIM HAWKINS (BOAT SAFETY COORDINATOR)

LUKE BROUGH (HORSETOOTH DISTRICT) / DAVE NEFF (CARTER LAKE DISTRICT)

HORSETOOTH RESERVOIR: 2 SEASONAL FULL TIME POSITIONS AND 1 SEASONAL PART TIME POSITION

CARTER LAKE: 2 SEASONAL FULL TIME POSITIONS

FLEET:

(1) 20FT TRITON W/ 200HP MERCURY OPTIMAX OUTBOARD

(2) 19FT TRITON ENFORCER W/ 150 MERCURY OPTIMAX OUTBOARD

(1) 18FT TRITON W/ 150 MERCURY OPTIMAX OUTBOARD

(2) 16FT ALUMINUM FLAT BOTTOM TRITON W/ 50 MERCURY OUTBOARD

## INFORMATION:

THIS SECTION FALLS MORE ON THE STATE TO GET BOATING SAFETY OUT TO THE PUBLIC BY TELEVISION, RADIO COMMERCIALS & BILLBOARDS. LARIMER COUNTY HANDOUTS WHAT IS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW AND WHICH ITEMS YOU SHOULD HAVE ON YOUR BOAT.

## EDUCATION:

2015 DENVER BOAT SHOW – 5 HOURS WITH OVER 100 CONTACTS SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO BOATING SAFELY.

2015 CONDUCTED THREE BOAT SAFETY CLASSES (TWO OF THE THREE WERE CANCELLED BECAUSE OF LOW STUDENT REGISTRATION) WITH A TOTAL OF 14 STUDENTS CERTIFIED.

### *40 HOURS OF IN-HOUSE BOAT RANGER ACADEMY TRAINING*

- WATER SURVIVAL & RESCUE
  - SWIMMING EVALUATION
  - SURVIVAL STROKES / DROWN PROOFING
  - HYPOTHERMIA SURVIVAL
  - REACH, THROW, ROW & GO
  - BACKBOARD & KED
  - WATERY ENTRY, ESCAPE & ESCAPE IN SWALLOW AND DEEP WATER
- BASIC BOAT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION
- BOATING REGULATIONS
- TRAILER BACKING
- NATIONAL SAFE BOATING COUNCIL CLOSE-QUARTERS BOAT CONTROL AND OPEN WATER BOAT CONTROL.

USGC AUXILIARY MEMBERS WERE AT HORSETOOTH AND CARTER LAKE CONDUCTING FREE BOAT SAFETY CHECKS IN 2015.

## ENFORCEMENT:

TOTAL PENALTY ASSESSMENTS FOR BOATING VIOLATIONS: 143

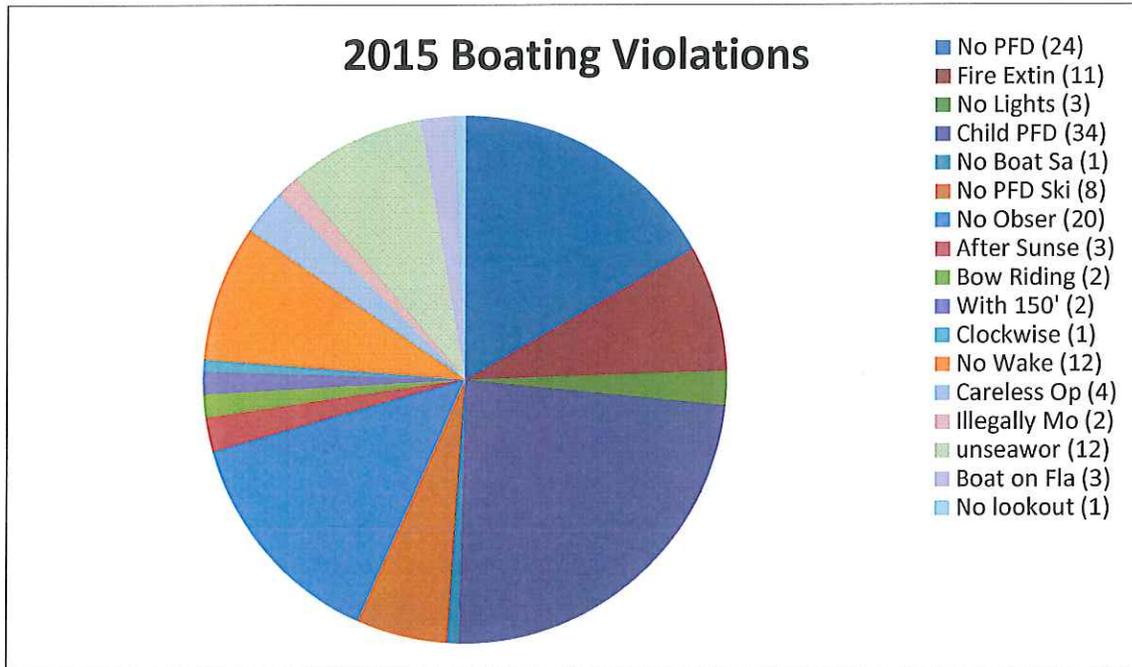
TOTAL PENALTY ASSESSMENTS FOR PFD VIOLATIONS: 44

**TOP 3 BOATING VIOLATIONS:**

CHILDREN PFD VIOLATION (TO7): 34

NOT ENOUGH PFD'S ON BOARD (TO1): 24

NO OBSERVER ON BOARD (VO2): 20



**2015 BUI ARRESTS:**

HORSETOOTH: 10

CARTER LAKE: 0

TOTAL VERBAL WARNINGS: 1309 (EDUCATING THE PUBLIC AND GAINING COMPLIANCE ARE ALWAYS OUR PRIMARY GOAL)

HORSETOOTH: 1017

CARTER LAKE: 292

TOTAL BOAT SAFETY PATROL HOURS: 2640

HORSETOOTH: 1440 HOURS

CARTER LAKE: 1200 HOURS

PUBLIC RELATION CONTACTS REFERENCE BOAT SAFETY: 216 (NON-LAW ENFORCEMENT)

BOAT ACCIDENTS:

TOTAL REPORTABLE BOAT ACCIDENTS: 10

HORSETOOTH: 7

CARTER LAKE: 3

FATALITIES: 0

REPORTED MISSING: 0

PEOPLE INJURED BEYOND 1<sup>ST</sup> AID: 3

HORSETOOTH: 3

CARTER: 0

PROPERTY DAMAGE (GREATER THAN \$500 REPORTABLE) TOTAL: \$1 6650

➤ HORSETOOTH: \$13300.00

➤ CARTER LAKE: \$3350.00

STATE BOATING REGISTRATION AND USCG FUNDS ALLOCATED DIRECTLY TO LARIMER COUNTY:

\$0.00

MISCELLANEOUS:

CARTER LAKE DISTRICT ATTENDED THE BERTHOUD SAFETY DAY

CARTER LAKE DISTRICT ALSO PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO LOVELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT ON LAKE LOVELAND 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY FIREWORKS SHOW.

TOTAL DOCKS MAINTAINED: 12

TOTAL BUOYS DEPLOYED AND MAINTAINED: 95

HORSETOOTH AND CARTER LAKE OFFER A FREE LIFE JACKET PROGRAM AT EACH RAMP.

2 CONVICTIONS ON STOLEN BOAT AT HORSETOOTH RESERVOIR.