

2014 END-OF-YEAR REPORT

**Larimer County Natural Resources
Volunteer and Education Programs**



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

ACHIEVEMENTS...

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



ACHIEVEMENTS...

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



TRAINING

- VRA – Volunteer Ranger Assistant
 - VRA screening, interviewing, and selection
 - Ranger staff able to focus on field responsibilities and communication with volunteers
 - Continuing Education Classes Offered
- Park Ranger/Boat Ranger Assistant
 - Continuous Recruitment and Training
 - Leads at each location for training
 - More hands on training on site
 - Senior Tax Worker numbers declining
 - Boat Ranger Assistants now required to assist on shore

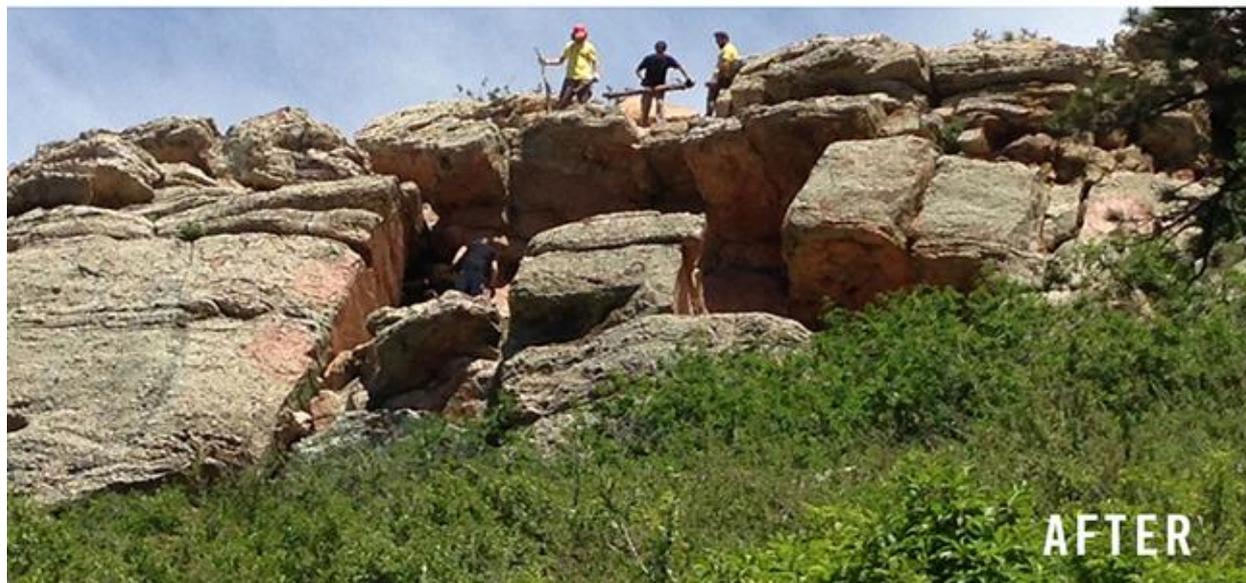




2014 GROUPS

- In-Situ
- Overland Mountain Bike Club
- Team B.O.B
- Poudre Learning Academy
- LCHA
- C.A.T.S.
- Centennial Bass Club
- CO Arsenal
- Boy Scouts
- NC3
- Trailcology
- CSU
- Front Range Forestry

NCCC AT ROTARY PARK



LAND STEWARDSHIP AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

○ Monitoring

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

○ Team Projects

- Glade Park Flood Debris Clean-up
- Slash Pile Project at Hermit Park
- Russian Olive Removal at 3 Bells and Kauffman properties
- Fire Scar Restoration at Hermit Park



PARKS AND OPEN LANDS PROJECTS



WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN?

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



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Highs

- Connections with field staff and volunteers
- Increased number of volunteer hours
- Growth of the Project Team
- Train the Trainer
- Cleaning up the database
- Web based recruitment

Lows

- Campground Host recruitment
- Senior Tax Worker Program
- Volunteers entering hours
- Too many initiatives



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM INITIATIVES FOR 2015...

- Manage capacity program wide
- Continued support to field staff that manage volunteers
- Quality recruitment efforts
- Creative use of volunteers
- Photo database mgt

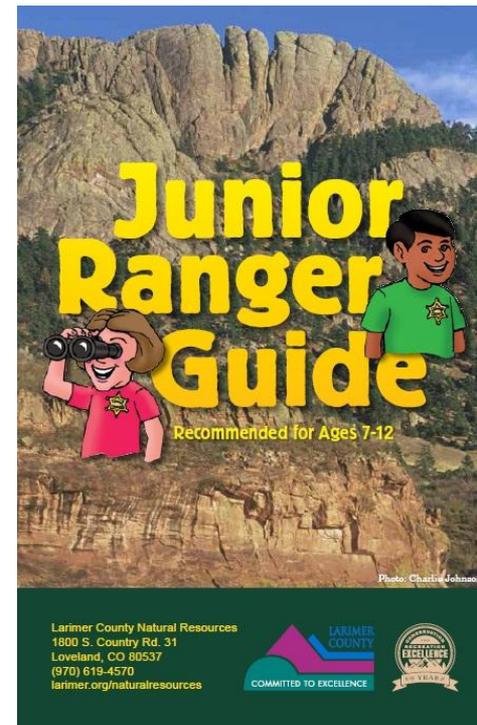




EDUCATION PROGRAM

EDUCATION PLANNING AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

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



VOLUNTEER AND EDUCATION TRAININGS

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



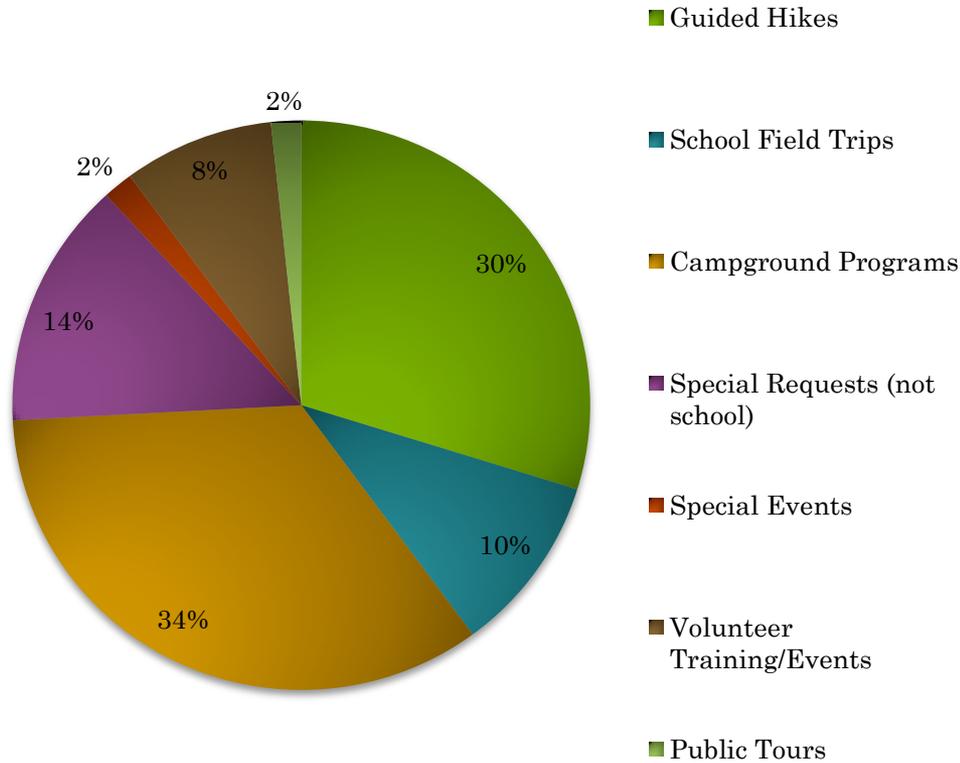
PROGRAMMING AND OUTREACH

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

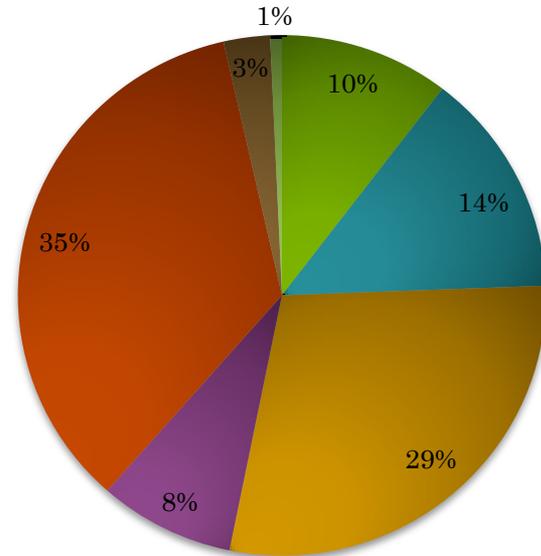


2014 NUMBER OF PROGRAMS AND PARTICIPANTS BY CATEGORY

2014 Number of Programs by Category

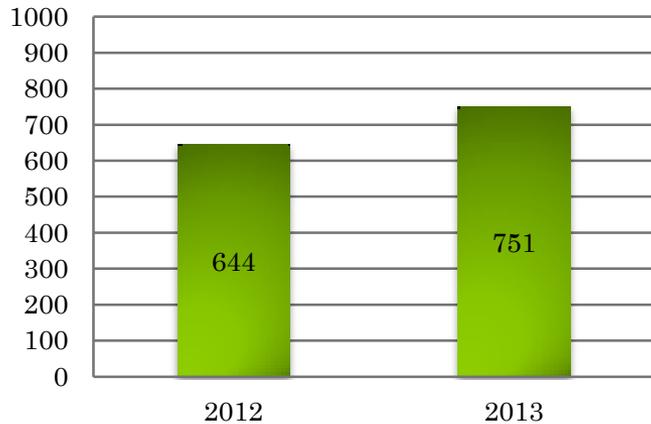


2014 Number of Participants by Category

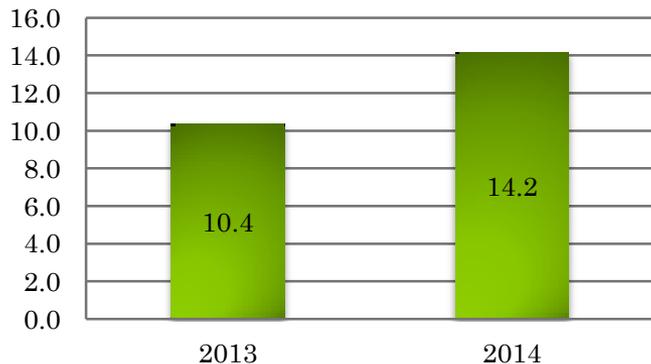


GUIDED HIKES

Guided Hike Participants



Guided Hike Participants per Program



- 53 guided hikes reaching 751 members of the public
- 15% decrease in number of programs
- 36% increase in participants per program

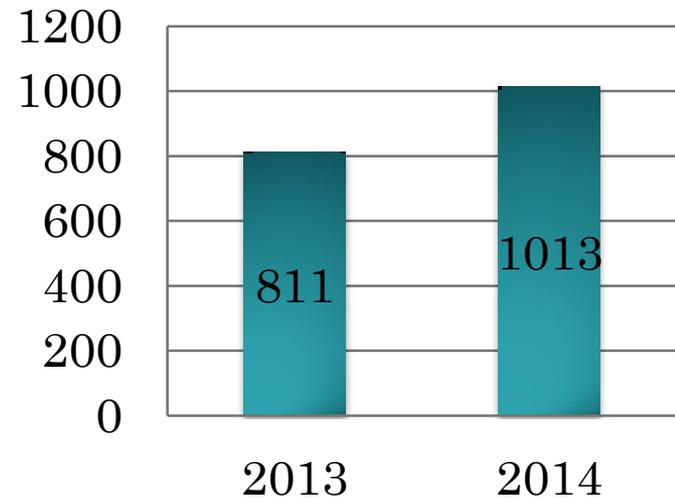


SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

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



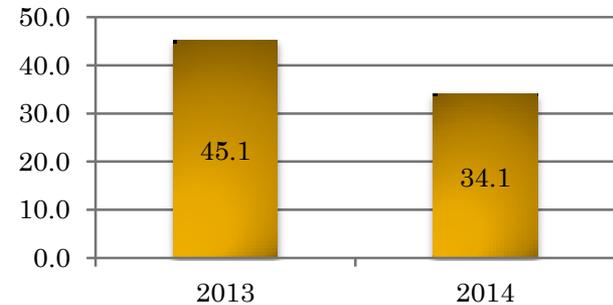
School Field Trip Participants



CAMPGROUND PROGRAMS

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

**Campground
Program
Participants per
Program**



SPECIAL REQUESTS

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



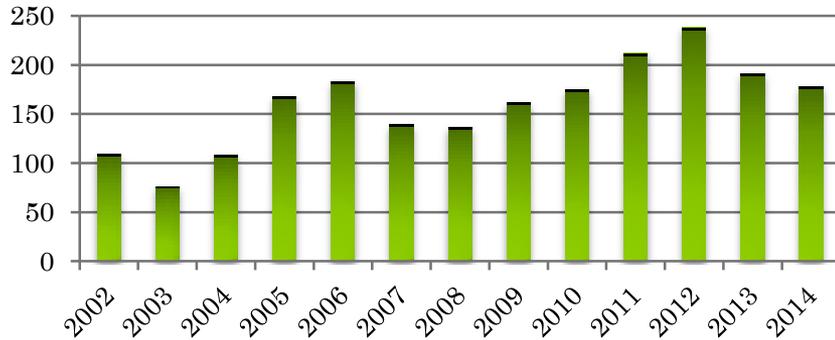
THREE NEW EVENTS!

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

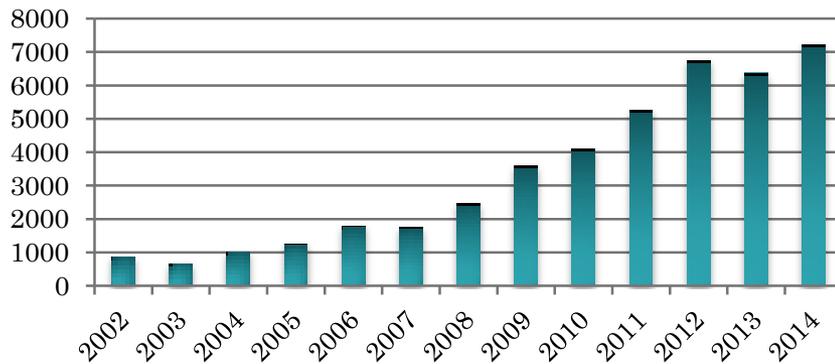


LONG TERM TRENDS

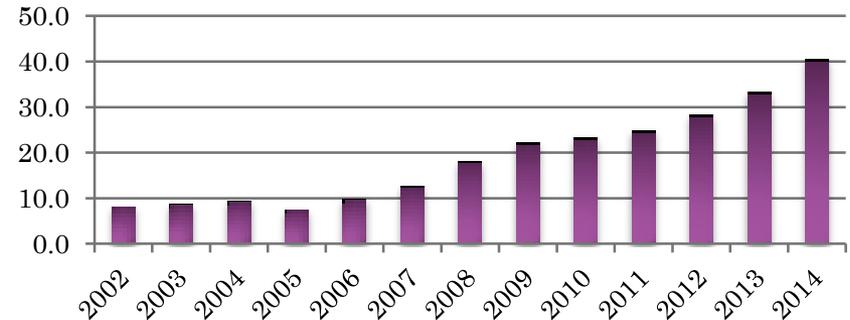
Total Number of Programs



Total Participants



Average Participants per Program



EDUCATION PROGRAM

Highs

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

Lows

- Too many initiatives



INITIATIVES FOR 2015

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



QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Pam Mayhew

Volunteer Program Coordinator

pmayhew@larimer.org

(970) 619-4552

Heather Young

Education Program Coordinator

hyoung@larimer.org

(970) 619-4489