

LARIMER COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES

Open Lands Program

2009 Program Goals - CONFIDENTIAL

- Broaden the coalition of support for the Open Lands Program and establish new partnerships that fulfill diverse community needs by applying the Whole Communities concept
- Protect land in the county's important natural and agricultural resource areas, including the Laramie Foothills, Poudre River, Big Thompson River, Buckeye-Waverly, Wellington and near Devil's Backbone by working with willing landowners and partnering with municipal open space programs and land trusts to leverage our limited funds and seek grants from new and diverse sources
- Secure trail easements along the Poudre River and plan for future regional trail connections
- Minimize and mitigate the impacts of wind energy projects on protected land and wildlife habitat by collaborating with CSU, the renewable energy industry and other partners
- Design and construct Open Lands facilities, including Red Mountain Open Space trailhead and trails, Field of Dreams trailhead and the Poudre River trail and trailhead
- Sustain the ecological integrity of all protected lands by annually monitoring all conservation easements, tracking conservation targets on fee simple lands, implementing restoration projects on the Pleasant Valley Trail, Devil's Backbone and River Bluffs Open Spaces and maintaining 68 miles of natural surface trails
- Increase the understanding of land protection tools by developing two public educational seminars for landowners, attorneys, realtors, appraisers, and accountants, including one in the Waverly community
- Participate in developing best practices for local governments that hold conservation easements and prepare for state certification in 2010
- Play an active leadership role on the COSA Steering Committee by co-coordinating the 2009 COSA conference
- Complete the Volunteer Program strategic plan, modernize the volunteer database and ensure that the Volunteer Program complies with the volunteer management industry's best practices
- Develop an education plan for Hermit Park Open Space and implement Phase 1 of the Red Mountain Open Space Education Plan
- Develop and implement educational outreach events including the Northern Colorado Birding Fair, guided hikes, campground programs and presentations, as well as school field trips for Big Thompson and Poudre School districts