



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

• Visitor Services

• Open Lands

• Weed Management & Forestry

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www.larimer.org/naturalresources

DATE: January 5, 2011

TO: Larimer County Natural Resource Boards

THRU: Gary Buffington, Natural Resources Director

FROM: Kerri Rollins, Open Lands Program Manager

RE: Regional Land Conservation, Stewardship, and Recreation Master Planning Effort

The purpose of this discussion item is for the Board to provide input on the merits of Larimer County, and potentially other agencies, to develop a Regional Land Conservation, Stewardship, and Recreation Master Plan and provide input on the following questions:

- Is this the appropriate time for the regional master planning effort?
- Should Larimer County pursue partnerships with cities and towns on a GOCO grant application to fund the Master Planning effort?
- Should cities and towns help fund the matching funds for the GOCO grant based upon the Percentage of Help Preserve Open Space – sales tax money received from Larimer County? (The HPOS revenues are shared as follows: Larimer County - 43%, Fort Collins - 34%, Loveland - 17%, Estes Park - 2.5%, Wellington - 1.3%, Windsor - .6%, Johnstown - .05%, Timnath - .1%.)
- Does an economic study regarding the benefits of open space fit in? And if so when? Do the benefits of an economic study, at a cost of perhaps \$20,000, justify the cost? Could we summarize the generic economic benefits of open space based on other studies at a much reduced cost and still be just as effective?

Please see “Draft Purpose Statement” on flip side

**Larimer County Natural Resources Master Plan
And
Regional Land Conservation, Stewardship, and Recreation Master Plan
For Larimer County**

Draft Purpose, Products, and Needs Statement

Regional Purpose:

- Partner with cities, towns and potentially state and federal agencies to create a Regional Land Conservation, Stewardship, and Recreation Master Plan for Larimer County. The plan would identify opportunities for enhanced customer service, effective utilization of sales tax revenues, and local and regional partnerships. It also would describe associated goals and strategies.
- The Plan would provide a wealth of regional and local information that cities and towns can use when they choose to develop or update their open lands and recreation master plans.

Larimer County Purpose:

- To bring the entire Department of Natural Resources under one master plan with a unified vision across all programs
- To update the current Open Lands Program Master Plan (2001) with vision and direction for management of existing lands and prioritization for potential new acquisitions.

Benefits for Partner Cities, Towns, State and Federal Agencies:

- The Study would provide a wealth of regional and local information that cities and towns can use when they choose to develop or update their open lands and recreation master plans.

Expected Products:

- A Regional Comprehensive Land Conservation, Stewardship and Recreation Master Plan, which would be an umbrella document, summarizing the collaborative planning effort.
- Larimer County Natural Resources Master Plan, which will include an update or rewrite of the current Open Lands Program Master Plan (2001)

Identified Needs:

- Want a grassroots, ground level up approach to the gap analysis with multiple venues for citizen input
- Need to identify a core team to oversee the regional planning process, and internal teams for each agency
- Meet with Governing Boards at works sessions to gain buy-in along the way
- Meet with Advisory boards at works sessions as appropriate
- Involve citizens and citizen groups as appropriate