

County and cities seeking citizen input on land priorities

Reporter-Herald Staff Loveland Reporter-Herald

Posted:

ReporterHerald.com

Larimer County and municipalities within the county are seeking citizen input for a regional study of land conservation, stewardship and outdoor recreation.

The Our Lands -- Our Future: Conservation and Recreation Choices for Northern Colorado project began with a citizen survey.

The results have been released and planners now are asking for more input through a second survey to further refine and clarify natural area and open space priorities.

To take the second survey, visit http://larimer.org/ourlands_ourfuture.

At the end of the survey, people can use a mapping tool that allows exploration of lands and conservation values in Larimer County and Fort Collins to send a map of their conservation priorities to planners.

The municipalities involved in the study include Larimer County, the cities of Fort Collins and Loveland, and the towns of Berthoud, Estes Park, Johnstown, Timnath, Wellington and Windsor.

To learn more, visit larimer.org/ourlands_ourfuture.

LARIMER COUNTY

County awards open lands grants for 2013

Larimer County recently awarded 12 community programs a total \$19,890 through its Open Lands Program's Small Grants for Community Partnering awards for 2013.

The grants will be presented at the Open Lands Advisory Board's meeting at 5:45 p.m. Thursday at Loveland City Council Chambers, 500 E. Third St.

The grant program disperses a portion of Help Preserve Open Spaces sales tax dollars to community projects that connect people to the land, according to a county release.

Information: <http://noconow.co/smallgrants>. Click this story at Coloradoan.com for recipients.

Coloradoan staff

[Services A-Z](#)
 [Departments](#)
 [Public Records](#)
 [News & Info](#)
 [Jobs](#)
[Business](#)
[About](#)

News Release

Larimer County Land Stewardship Manager Receives Prestigious Award

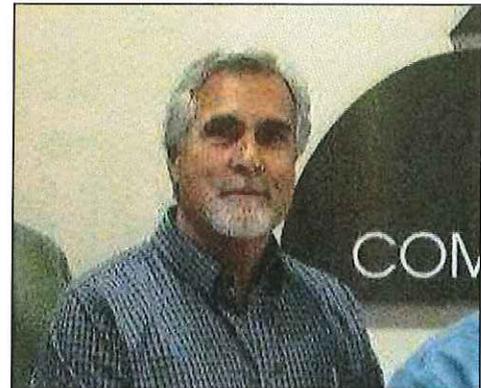
Department: Natural Resources
Release Date: Mar 29, 2013

[1 Comments »](#)

Contact Information:

Mecgan Flenniken, Resource Program Manager, (970) 679-4562, mflenniken@larimer.org

Tim D'Amato, Larimer County's Land Stewardship Manager, was recognized at the Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) March 2013 Conference with the award of "Outstanding Weed Manager." The WSWS Weed Manager Award recognizes outstanding and sustained contributions in support of weed science activities by a public employee.



Tim started his career in the 1980's working as a research technician with the Agricultural Research Service in Fort Collins. He spent 16 years working for CSU in the Weed Science Department, followed by a tenure as the Boulder County Weed Manager before coming to Larimer County as the Land Stewardship Manager in 2007. Tim is a long time member of the WSWS. A letter of support from George Beck, professor of Weed Science at CSU, noted "Tim runs one of the best county weed management programs in Colorado."

Tim believes in running the Larimer County Land Stewardship Program, which includes both weeds and forestry, through teamwork, both with his staff, other agency and organizational partners and private landowners. Tim has pioneered creative partnerships to conduct research and implement integrated weed management on public and private lands. The Land Stewardship Program provides support to landowners in the form of outreach on vegetation best management practices and such services as free on-site consultations, herbicide sprayers on loan, cost-share assistance, insect procurement, and other programs. For more information on the Larimer County Land Stewardship Program please visit: <http://larimer.org/weeds/>

To learn more about Larimer County's parks and open spaces, visit our website at www.larimer.org/naturalresources
[Like our page](#) on Facebook [Follow us @LCDNR](#) on Twitter

###

Discuss

We ask for your login to prevent computer generated spam in the comments. Your email address is not shown. Do not expect answers from the county for questions posed here. Use the contact information above for specific questions.

You must be logged in to leave a comment. Login with:

Not a Current User? [Sign-Up](#)

Comments: (1)

[Terms & Conditions](#)

Fiber artist Linda Beach is this year's Visual Artist of the year

From a press release Loveland Reporter-Herald

Posted:

ReporterHerald.com

The Larimer County Natural Resources Department Visual Artist for 2013 has been announced for 2013.

Fiber artist Linda Beach will create a work of art inspired by Larimer County's parks or open spaces. Linda has been creating art quilts since 2001, serving as artist in residence at several national parks and exhibiting in numerous locations throughout Colorado and the U.S. Visit her website at www.lindabeachartquilts.com to find out more about the artist.

Linda will spend her term visiting Larimer County's parks and open spaces getting inspiration for her work, and will create a fiber art piece that she will donate to Larimer County for public display in a county building. This artwork will be unveiled at a celebration in late 2013 or early 2014.

Linda is the Larimer County Natural Resources Department's seventh visual artist. Previous years' artists and the pieces they created can be viewed at www.larimer.org/openlands/artist.htm

Bright open spaces



The Big Hole rim, part of the Belvoir Ranch property of the city of Cheyenne, gives ambitious hikers generous views. From the trailhead in Colorado, it is a long 5- to 6-mile walk one way. Roger Ludwig/Courtesy

Red Mountain Open Space and the Big Hole are bursting with vibrant colors, and while there, you might just learn something about Cheyenne, too.

IF YOU GO

Getting there: Take I-25 south to the Buckeye Road exit, No. 288. Go west toward the mountains on CR82 to its end, then right on CR15. After the curve, go left on CR84 (turning away from Soapstone Prairie) to its end then left on CR19. In a short distance, turn right on CR21 where the sign says "Red Mountain Open Space." Continue a ways to the second parking area. Unfortunately, no access is available from the north at this time. The Big Hole is closer to Cheyenne, both by car from Harriman Road and then by foot, horse or bike over the Belvoir. Hopefully, the city of Cheyenne will open it to us soon.

Regulations: Access is free. Dogs are not allowed, even on leashes, to avoid troubling the wildlife. Travel off-trail is prohibited. No drinking water is available. The parking area has two pit toilets.

Current conditions and maps can be found online at: www.larimer.org/naturalresources/red_mountain.cfm

Horseback: This is superb horseback country with parking for trailers in the first lot. Stock tanks provide water as does the creek. Horseback: This is superb horseback country with parking for trailers in the first lot. Stock tanks provide water as does the creek.

Mountain biking: For mountain bikers looking for a big cross-country experience, it doesn't get better than this. You will need to take the Sinking Sun route though as the Bent Rock Trail is closed to bikes.

By Roger Ludwig
Special to the Wyoming Tribune Eagle

Want to take a spring hike? Search for that first bluebird of happiness?

Our favorite hiking, though - around Vedauwoo - is still cold, at 2,000 feet higher than Cheyenne. Let me tell you about a good spot "on the level," its trailhead equal to our altitude. I've found, spring or fall, whatever the weather is doing here, it is likely doing there, with just a bit more wind. The spot? Red Mountain Open Space just across the Colorado border, about a 45-minute drive.

In Cheyenne, we live on "The Gang Plank." It is so normal to us that we don't realize how unique it is. It's the very reason our city exists.

Do you know those desserts called "impossible pies?" Baked in a casserole dish, there is a layer of hard crust at the bottom, gooey fruit filling on top of that, like strawberry-rhubarb yum, then maybe some crumbly sweet crunch topped with a dollop of unhealthy whipped cream.

Imagine some mysterious pressure lifting the center to the point where that underlying crust breaks through, exposed. That crust is the Rocky Mountain granite. Then imagine somebody spraying it with water from the kitchen sprayer, washing away all that yummy goo and crunch, leaving the crust high and dry. That is the Front Range after eons of rain and wind.



Story Tools

Printable Version | Email This Story | Text Size

SHARE

Leave Your Comments

Name:

Email: (optional)

Comments:

Current Word Count:

Image Verification: (Case sensitive)



Post Comment

There is a 200 word limitation per post

Comments are not posted until after being approved by WTE staff.

Comments may be rejected by the WTE staff at their discretion.

The comments posted on the Reader Comments section are not necessarily those of the WTE.

If you would like to report an offensive post, please contact us.

Except for Cheyenne and the Gang Plank. This is the one spot where no one washed away the layers of fruit and crunch. Vedauwoo and Pole Mountain are really high mountain peaks. It is just that here the layers of "overburden" are still in place, allowing the Union Pacific to make a gradual ascent over the Rockies in the shortest, most direct route. And we came into existence to service those trains. We live on it. We climb it driving I-80 to the summit.

It is a geologic miracle.

Walk the plank? How about walking under it?

Would you like to get a view into the basement beneath Cheyenne, to see the remains of the strawberry-rhubarb yum, eons of layered sediment? For a hundred years, people wouldn't let you.

It was a private ranch, closed to the public, those canyons where the south edge of the Gang Plank washes out into Colorado prairie.

But in 2004, Larimer County, Colo., purchased 13,500 acres with \$7.85 million dollars of Colorado lottery funds and \$1.85 million of local sales taxes. We added to it with Cheyenne's 2005 purchase of the northern end from the Nature Conservancy for \$525,000. That piece is "The Big Hole."

These acres were opened to the public in 2009.

CINERAMA OF COLOR

From the parking area at Red Mountain Open Space, two trails diverge in the yellow prairie. Each leads to a variety of loops and options all worth exploring, including some new paths built in 2011. To my tastes, the Ruby Wash Trail is the most interesting.

To get to Ruby Wash, follow the left-hand trail, Bent Rock. At the first fork, stay right, and at the second fork, stay right. Then go right on Big Hole Wash until it reaches Ruby Wash. Continue straight on Ruby Wash.

If all of that sounds a little confusing, free maps are usually available at the trail head. The junctions are marked, and from time to time there are "you are here" maps on post tops.

This path heads straight for the first small canyon, strata-like, a layer cake laying bare the history of our little piece of planet. The rock makes a surprisingly sharp 45-degree downward bend. The trail then comes back into the open for a couple of miles, with fine views of Red Mountain. Then the trail enters a second canyon, this one a little deeper and longer with rich maroon walls. At the end of this one, you may wish to turn back.

If you are game for a good, long 10-mile day, you can continue to the Salt Lick Trail which will take you back to the parking area via a section of the Big Hole Wash and then the Sinking Sun Trail. Or take the Cheyenne Rim Trail to the top of the Big Hole itself.

Wildlife is plentiful. I've seen elk, deer and antelope, bluebirds and hawks, listened to coyotes in the evenings. But the real treat here is the color. The rock bands are rust-red and cinnamon, burgundy and cream. The prairie is fine sage green, the yucca almost neon. Groves of old cottonwood provide shadow.

A blue sky is never bluer than when paired with red rock.

Reader Comments:

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Outdoors](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Blogs](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Cars](#)

[\[return to top \]](#)

Advertising Services: [Place a Classified](#) | [Advertise in Print](#) | [Advertise Online](#) | [Web Services](#) | [Public Notices](#)

Reader Services: [Home Delivery](#) | [Subscriber Services](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Buy Photos](#)

Company Info: [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Staff Directory](#) | [Work for Us](#)

Partner Papers: [Laramie Boomerang](#) | [Rawlins Daily Times](#) | [Rocket Miner](#) | [Northern Wyoming Daily News](#)

Copyright © 2013 Wyoming Tribune-Eagle