



# **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

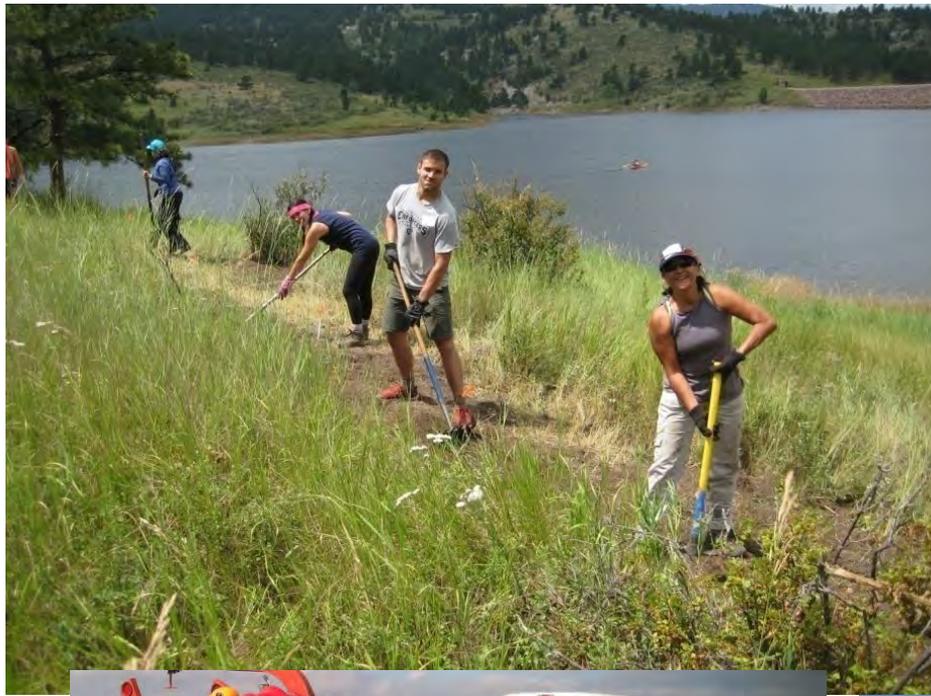
- Raptors at Horsetooth
- Grassland at Red Mountain
- Post Prescribed Burn at DBB
- Shrubland Ecological Integrity Assessment at DBB

## ○ 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

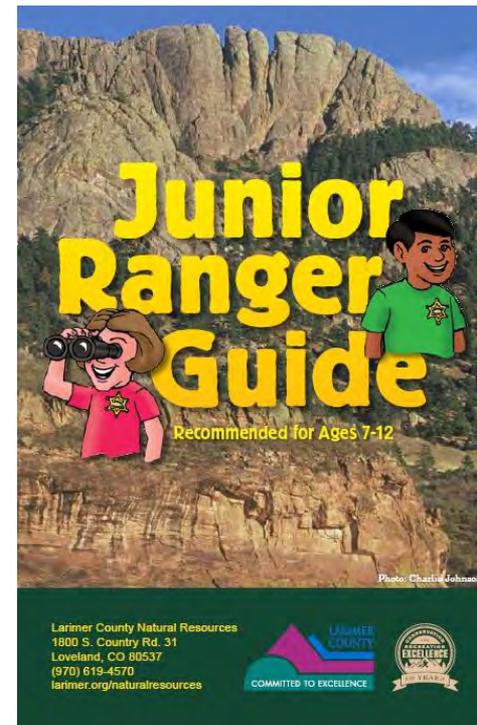




# EDUCATION PROGRAM

# 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



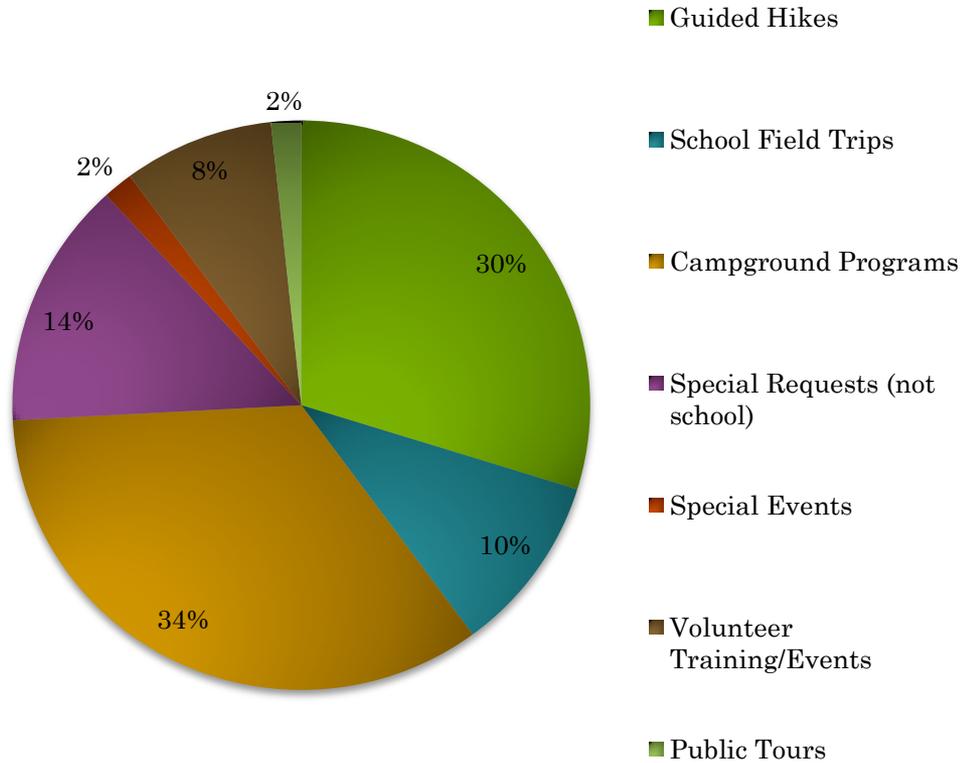
# PROGRAMMING AND OUTREACH

- 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.

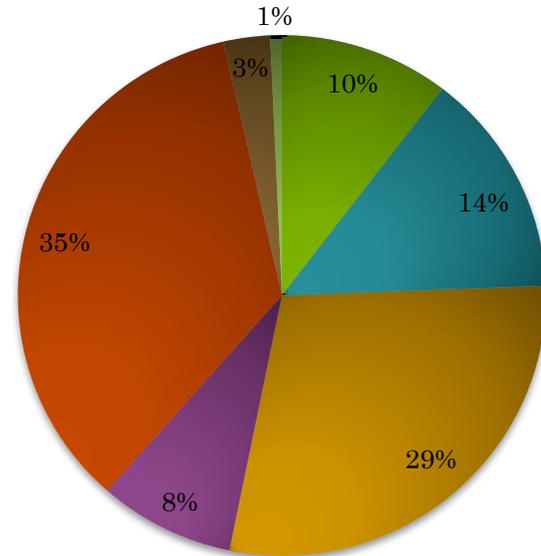


# 2014 NUMBER OF PROGRAMS AND PARTICIPANTS BY CATEGORY

## 2014 Number of Programs by Category

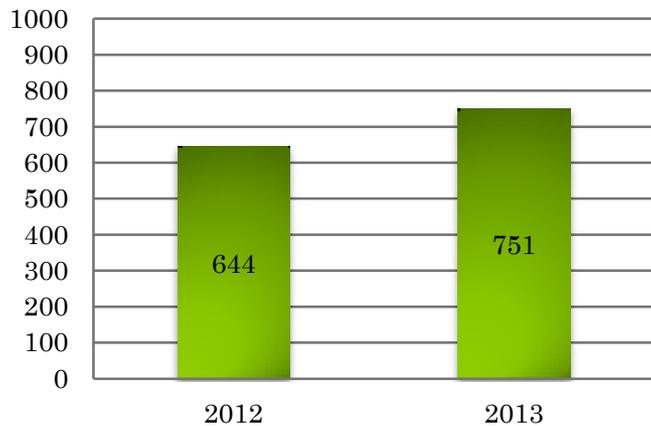


## 2014 Number of Participants by Category

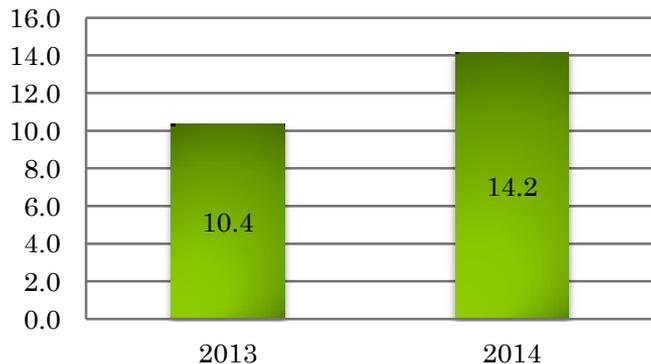


# GUIDED HIKES

## 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

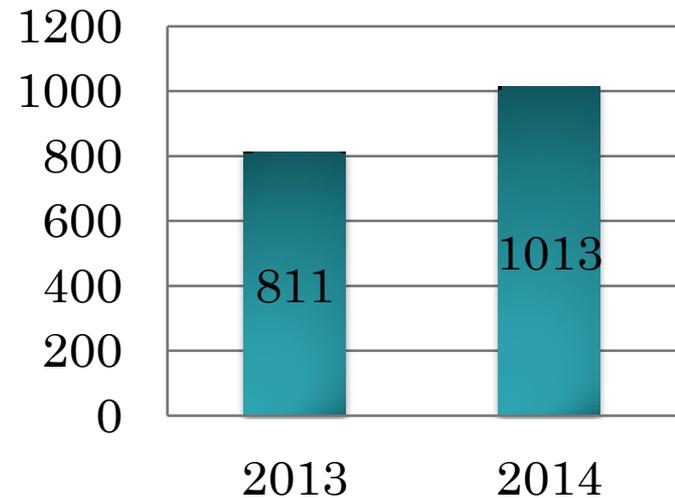


# SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

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



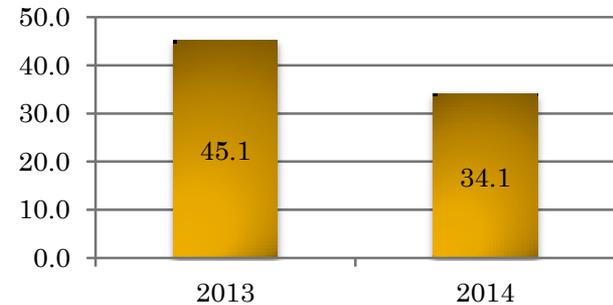
## School Field Trip Participants



# 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



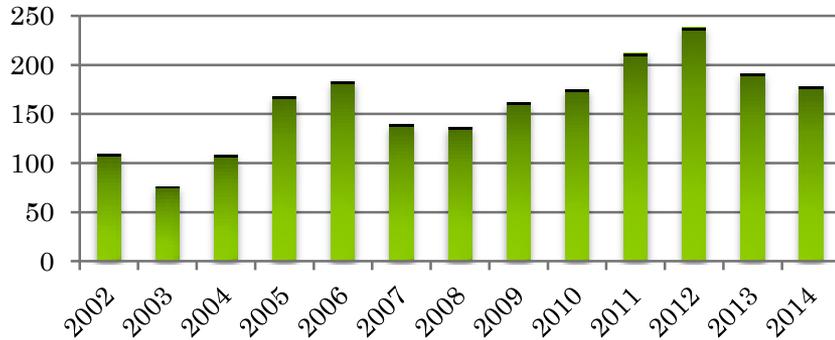
# THREE NEW EVENTS!

- 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

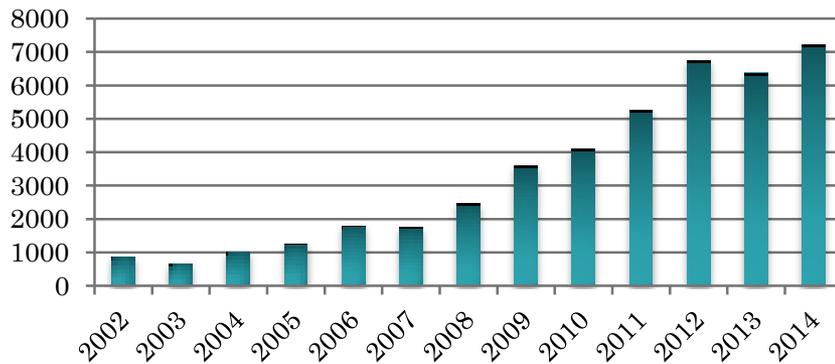


# LONG TERM TRENDS

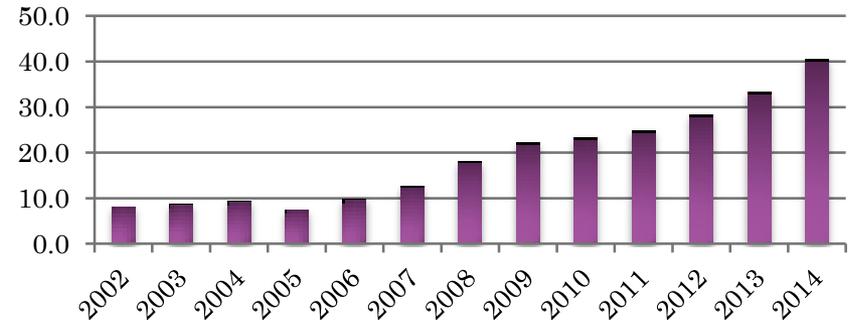
## Total Number of Programs



## 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?

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