



## Monday, September 13

### Session 1 - 10:15 - 12:00

**1A – Natural Resources.** Forest Management Programs, what they cost (people, equipment, time, etc.) and benefits reaped. This is a great intro to Field Trip 7!

**1B – Outreach.** Continue the discussion with Linda Strand on best practices of outreach at your agencies.

**1C – Director’s & Manager’s.** Topics to discuss include protecting the GOCO money, the CE Tax Credit Program and local government certification, acquisition to management, etc.

**1D – Rangers.** Yielding and Speed Differential Challenges and Solutions. Panelists will present case studies of challenges associated with speed differential among different users as well as yielding issues. Panelists will share various management strategies/actions used to mitigate problem areas and discuss their effectiveness. Perspectives from urban trails, crowded Front Range trails, rural trails and mountain trails will be shared. Following panel presentations, the floor will be open for questions and broader discussion.

**1E – Volunteers.** Do you work with, manage or lead volunteers? Agencies are faced with doing more with less, so incorporating volunteers in to your workforce is likely getting more important. This new strand session will investigate the need for those who work with volunteers in an open space setting to get more out of COSA to face these challenges.

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### Session 2 - 1:15 - 2:30

**2A – The Use of Wildlife Cameras in Natural Resource Management.** *Bryan Posthumus Jefferson County Open Space.* Learn how Jefferson County Open Space uses wildlife cameras to monitor wildlife activity and applies that information to managing its parks. Participants will gain a better understanding of opportunities and limitations of wildlife cameras, discuss data collection parameters, and review results of three survey projects.

**2B – Create a DeHaunting Wild Things Event for your Open Space Department.** *Jennelle Freeston, Interpretive Naturalist, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks.* It’s never too early to think about Halloween! Halloween can be a great time of the year to tell the truth about bats, spiders, snakes, mountain lions and other beasties that give people the willies! Learn some tricks, logistical tips and interpretative strategies for planning an unscary, fun filled Halloween event for your organization, nature center, or school! Treats, crafts, music and costume ideas will be shared. Prepare to be unspooked!

**2C – Learning from the Feds. A look at tools and processes agencies such as NPS, BLM and USFS use when master planning for preservation, recreation and education on public lands.** *Justin Atherton-Wood, RLA, Belt Collins.* Federal land managers are charged with safe guarding some of our most valued public treasures. As such, they are subject to stringent regulations such as NEPA and NHPA when making management decisions and planning for future improvements. This session will draw on specific projects to briefly highlight planning tools the Feds use to preserve and protect natural and cultural resources while providing for public enjoyment as a means for uncovering approaches to planning at a more local level.



**2D – Temporal Trail Management.** *Jefferson and Boulder County Open Space Programs* will conduct an informational discussion on the benefits and challenges of using temporal management techniques. Examples at Apex, Centennial Cone, and Boulder Betasso will be included with graphic samples and documentation of process, from planning through construction phases. National models will also be referenced.

**2E – We’ve always done it that way.** *Jana Johns, Shaun Howard, Carolyn Tibbles of Jefferson County Open Space.* If you have an established volunteer program but are looking for ways to enhance and engage your volunteers to their full potential, you’ll benefit from attending this program. Come and learn what one successful Open Space volunteer program is doing to push the boundaries of volunteer investment and involvement through some innovative pilot programs. We’ll highlight 4 specific projects that you can replicate within your organization to get the most from volunteers. Camp Junior Ranger engages a cross-section of volunteers from different backgrounds to engage young people in land stewardship. The Pony Patrol provides opportunities for teen equestrian volunteers work in the field to reward good behavior from park visitors. The Park Host Mentor Program provides exceptional volunteers an avenue to participate more directly in the administration of a large volunteer contingency, thus allowing for substantial growth without a significant drain on resources. And finally, the trail maintenance Mini-Crew volunteer program shatters all boundaries when engaging trail users in volunteer-led projects that teach, advocate and demonstrate investment in park management decisions, while providing an out-of-the-box approach to volunteer trail projects.

**2F – From Desert to Oasis.** *Bob Crifasi, City of Boulder.* Landscapes that we manage have been changed by the use of water over the past 150 years. How do diversions, irrigation systems etc. that have caused our landscapes to function and look as they do today fit with management goals, and how important are these systems if we desire to keep the landscapes as they are? The title comes from a brochure from the late 19th or early 20th century used to lure settlers to Colorado.

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### **Session 3 - 2:30 - 3:45**

**3A – Fighting Weeds with “Weeds”—Using Early Pioneer Natives for Revegetation.** *Crystal Yates-White, Colorado Weed Management Association and Megan Bowes, Colorado Native Plant Society.* While traditional revegetation goals have focused on achieving soil stability and quick ground cover, this presentation will emphasize the concept of early seral native plant species that can encourage native successional patterns in restoration and reclamation projects. The session will provide some practical how-to’s for selecting and acquiring plant materials—as well as real-world examples in which early pioneer natives have been used in land management.

**3B – Creating the 4th Frontier: Applying the Principles of Nature Deficit Disorder to Our Public Lands.** *Emily Patterson, Belt Collins West.* In his book *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv speaks eloquently of our children’s increasing dislocation from nature and the urgent need to reconnect them. Louv speaks of the Fourth Frontier, a place where the problems associated with our society’s disconnection from the natural world can be solved. How can our country’s diverse public lands be used to create outposts on this new frontier? What does the design of such a place look like and how can we measure its success? How can different public



land agencies address this problem within the framework of their existing mission and goals? What are the issues which may cause public land agencies to resist opening wild places to such activity and how can we identify lands which are well suited for this purpose? This session will pose these questions and ask participants to engage in a discussion of how their agency might begin to move towards a proactive solution to this important problem. Relevant examples will be provided to inspire participants to create their own outpost on the 4th Frontier.

**3C – Surveying Trail Users on Open Space Property.** *Julia Kertz Grant, Boise City Foothills and Open Space Manager, and David Gordon, Ridge to Rivers Trail Coordinator.* Changes occur on trails and in open space over time. Sampling trail and open space users to better understand who they are and what their preferences are helps resource managers achieve their goals. Are they aware of local open space conservation efforts? Why do they visit the area? Examples of questionnaires will be provided and a case study will be reviewed. There will also be time for a discussion with participants about their experiences with similar efforts.

**3D – GOCO Strategic Plan and Due Diligence** *Kathleen Staks, GOCO.* The GOCO Board adopted a new strategic plan in April 2010 that defines the Board’s vision and direction for the next five to ten years and defines three core program areas which staff has been working to implement through the funding opportunities GOCO currently provides. The Board has also placed specific emphasis on land acquisition projects, especially in the next three years. In addition, over the past several years, GOCO has adapted many of its due diligence processes address the fact that conservation transactions are increasingly motivated by economic factors. This session will cover potential changes to the grant programs as a result of the Strategic Plan as well as how GOCO’s increasingly rigorous business model affects the due diligence review and how this business approach may benefit other conservation entities

**3E – Dry Feet: Fiberglass Reinforced Polymer bridges - Alternative solutions for recreational use.** *Lance Henkel, Jefferson County Open Space.* Participants will discuss the benefits and challenges with using Fiberglass Reinforced Polymer (FRP) bridges and their current and potential use in remote and/or naturally sensitive areas, compared to the use of more conventional or traditional bridge-building techniques and materials.

**3F – Coloring Outside the Lines: Exploring Different Uses For Your GIS Data.** *Dave Davenport, Trails Worker I, Jefferson County Open Space.* Using GPS units to inventory your trail system is sometimes seen as a time consuming and potentially costly exercise with limited returns. We’ll explore multiple uses for GIS data beyond simple mapmaking and inventory; strategies for staff management, accurate budgeting, and utilization of volunteers are just a few. With minimal GIS knowledge you can make your data work harder for you.

## **Monday, September 13**

### **Session 4 - 4:00 - 5:15**

**4A – Are your open spaces healthy? Learn how to use a new tool developed by the Natural Heritage Program to assess the ecological integrity of your open spaces.** *Jeffrey Boring Resource Specialist, Larimer County Natural Resources Department.* There are dozens of ways to monitor the health of an open space. This presentation will focus on a method called the Ecological Integrity Assessment, which combines field work and plant identification with GIS analysis and landscape-level research. The result is both a simple score card that can be easily



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shared and detailed findings that will direct management actions. Audience members will complete simulated assessments on two real-world open spaces. If you like interactive presentations, this is the place to be.



**4B – A Storied Trail: Adding value to trails through Interpretation.** *Mimi Mather Belt Collins West, Ltd.* Consider the potential of trails as a tourism destination and a corridor where the stories of place can be revealed and celebrated. Interpretation adds value to trail development by enhancing the trail experience *and* creating a community amenity that can double as a tourist draw. Through text-messaging and traditional brainstorming, this session will provide an interactive format for extracting the “interpretive seeds” that you can use to cultivate a trail-based interpretive experience.

**4C – Engaging a Hostile Public.** *Jesse Rounds, Ernst Strenge, & Chad Ricklefs - Natural Resource Planners, Boulder County Parks and Open Space.* Open Space programs are designed to serve our residents. To get the best measure of what the public wants out of an open space property we reach out to the public. What happens when the public begins to disagree with how properties are run or decisions are made by staff? No matter how well you design a public process what can go wrong? Are there ways to avoid acrimonious processes?

**4D – Stormwater Regulations for Natural Surface Trails - Is this the Future?** New storm water regulations can effect your trail construction plans. Join this panel of open space, planning and zoning officials from Jefferson County, Douglas County, and Ken Caryl District in a discussion on how these new regulations will be implemented, a policy decision to address them, and the community feedback received.

**4E – Increase your negotiating power with 1031 tax deferred exchanges.** *Kennen Cohen, Colorado Division Manager for Asset Preservation Inc.* Understanding the motivations and concerns of the seller are critical in the open space acquisition process. With capital gains taxes increasing, you could overcome a key seller objection with an understanding of 1031 exchange basics. This class is taught by a 1031 expert, using easy to understand concepts and real-life examples. We will discuss not only acquiring fee title, but also conservation easements and water rights.

**4F – Plan-Do-Check Act-Strategic Planning for Volunteer Programs.** *Cathy Jo Cullins, Larimer County Natural Resources.* Presentation and discussion on the best practices in agency strategic planning, lessons learned, department wide buy-in, and what success looks like after implementing strategic changes. Attendees will understand the PDCA cycle and how to implement it, understand the need for complete department buy-in from staff and volunteers, and be able to go back to their agencies and facilitate a strategic planning process.

## **Tuesday, September 14**

### **Session 5, 9:45 – 11:45**

**5A – Patty Limerick** – Join Patty for a continuation of thoughts and discussions from her keynote presentation.

**5B – Everyone is an Interpreter.** *Linda Strand, Arapaho County Open Space Board and Mary Ann Bonnell, City of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space.* We’ll discuss how everyone within your organization can and should add the communication skills of an interpreter to their tool belt. At some point all staff and board members are called on to communicate information to our constituents. Whether it’s a formal presentation to a community group, a regulatory contact by a Ranger, or an informal question from a trail user we can all use interpretive techniques to do a better job of conveying information.



**5C – Managing Parks with Vision: Centennial Cone Park Mountain Bike Tour.** *Attendees must also have signed up for FT8. Jason Hamburg Park Ranger, Jefferson County Open Space.*

Join park rangers on a 13 mile intermediate/advanced mountain bike tour of Centennial Cone Park. We'll discuss how following the vision set out for the park can help with public understanding and acceptance of unique management practices. We'll stop at various points along this beautiful loop trail to enjoy the views and discuss the wildlife and recreation management tools being used at Centennial Cone Park to meet both wildlife protection and park user experience objectives. Group will meet at the hotel, then travel in your own vehicle 50 minutes to the park.

**5D – Use of Permeable Pavers in Sustaining & Enhancing Water Quality - B.J. Ellison, Jefferson County Open Space.** Learn how permeable paving techniques have been incorporated. This will include permeable asphalt, permeable concrete and culminate with a more detailed look at the permeable interlocking concrete pavers. Is this application right for you? See applied uses in Field Trip 5.

**5E – Evolution Relies on Adaptation – Can Adaptive Management Work for Trail & Visitor Management? – (Optional pre-session for FT1).** *Steve Armstead, Visitor Master Plan Coordinator, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks.* A trail study plan identified several new trails to be built and managed adaptively with standards-based monitoring and management responses. Concerns about the potential natural resource impacts of the trail, visitor willingness to stay on the trails, and compatibility of activities on the multiple-use trail, resulted in commitments in the plan to establish trail and visitor management standards and corresponding monitoring and adaptive management responses.

**5F – Front Range Forest Restoration and Fire Mitigation–Therese Glowacki from the Northern Front Range Mountain Pine Beetle Working Group, Michael McHugh from the Front Range Roundtable, and Gali Beh, Beh Management Consulting.** Learn what collaborative regional groups are doing to help restore forests and mitigate fire risks in the Front Range and what could be done by the various Open Space Agencies to help meet forest health and community protection goals. This session will provide an excellent opportunity to reach out to the various Open Space agencies in Colorado and find out what they are doing.



**Tuesday, September 14**

**Field Trips, 12:15 – 5:30pm**

**FT1 – A Hiking Exploration of Standards-based Adaptive Management Applied to Trail and Visitor Management.** (Optional post session to 5E). *Steve Armstead, City of Boulder.* This moderate 4 mile hike near Eldorado Mountain and in a beautiful Habitat Conservation Area will explore the resulting trails, management objectives, monitoring projects, and management responses and provide an opportunity to observe and discuss outcomes. Specific topics include managing undesignated trails, on-trail and dog regulation compliance, assessing recreational conflicts, evaluation of interpretive resources, trail design, and public process.

**FT2 – Silk Purse from A Sow’s Ear, Adaptive Re-use of Historic Buildings.** *Rich Koopmann, Boulder County Parks & Open Space.* Whether purchasing open space acreage or receiving land dedications in the development process, you can end up with old buildings that may not have obvious uses for your program. Demolition may be the most cost effective alternative for scarce public dollars. But are there creative ways to adaptively re-use the structure(s) for some other purpose? Join us to explore a number of properties where historic gems were saved from the match, put to new uses and now contribute to the fabric of community.” Maximum 50 people.

**FT3 - Bike Tour of Big Dry Creek Trail City of Westminster.** *Heather Cronenberg City of Westminster.* Take a leisurely bike ride along the City of Westminster’s Big Dry Creek Open Space and Trail corridor, which is the crown jewel of Westminster’s off-road trail system. The trail meanders nearly 12 miles from Standley Lake Regional Park to Interstate 25, crossing under most streets through underpasses. The trail is located on more than 925 acres of Westminster open space and 200 acres of park land along the creek, a land area greater than New York’s 843-acre Central Park! The bike ride will start at the Doubletree Hotel, then head north along Sheridan Boulevard until reaching the City’s Hyland Ponds Open Space to the west. Riders will ride along a dirt trail until reaching the Big Dry Creek trail at City Park. Riders will enjoy a leisurely ride northeast along the trail for approximately 8 miles while City staff point out volunteer projects, recent acquisitions and restoration projects, and discuss plans for Metzger Farm. The ride will continue back down the Big Dry Creek trail to the hotel.

**FT4 - Successes and Difficulties- Managing Open Space in Urban Settings.** Join the *City of Westminster and the City and County of Broomfield* on a tour of six open space areas to discuss the successes and difficulties in managing open space in urban settings. Participants will take a bus from the hotel and travel to three sites in Broomfield (The Field, Broomfield County Commons Open Space, and Hoopes property) where staff will discuss native grass restoration projects, land management techniques and uses that are compatible with surrounding developed areas, and the right mix of open space and park uses in an urban setting. The participants will then travel to three sites in Westminster (McKay Lake, Metzger Farm, and Westminster Hills Open Space) where staff will discuss noxious weed management, wildlife management, public education, and re-vegetation efforts. Staff will also discuss the unique partnership between Broomfield and Westminster to purchase and manage the 152-acre Metzger Farm.



**FT5 – Paving Options for Enhancing Water Quality.** *BJ Ellison, Jefferson County Open Space.* Visit several sites where permeable paving techniques have been incorporated, including Hildebrand Ranch Park trailhead. Paving techniques include permeable asphalt, permeable concrete and culminate with a more detailed look at the permeable interlocking concrete pavers. If you are a planner involved with decisions about surfacing of access drives and parking areas, or just interested in enhancing water quality at a regional level, this session is for you. Maximum 14 people.

**FT6 - Tour of the South Platte River Heritage Corridor.** *Marc Pedrucci, Adams County Parks and Open Space.* Join with Adams County Open Space staff for a driving and walking tour of the South Platte River Heritage Corridor within Adams County. Tour will focus on conserved agricultural lands (conservation easements and fee simple), as well as reclaimed gravel mine sites with public access and development of the Colorado Front Range Trail. Tour stops will include the historic McIntosh Dairy and the Berry Patch Farms, a pick-your-own organic berry farm. Come prepared to pick! Maximum 24 people.

**FT7 – Front Range Forest Management.** *Randy Frank Natural Resources Management Supervisor, Jefferson County Open Space.* Field trip is geared towards natural resource professionals or those who have an interest in forestry. The purpose of the field trip will be to visit an active forest management project on Jefferson County Open Space property. An open discussion will take place on how the forestry project was developed, the steps that were necessary to implement the project, goals and objectives of the project will be covered, and the equipment that is being used on the project will be showcased. Minimum 10, maximum 28.

**FT8 - Managing Parks with Vision: Centennial Cone Park Mountain Bike Tour.** *This session is a continuation of Session 5C. Attendees must also sign up for Session 5C.* Bring your bike and join park rangers on a 13 mile intermediate/advanced mountain bike tour of Centennial Cone Park. We'll discuss how following the vision set out for the park can help with public understanding and acceptance of unique management practices. We'll stop at various points along this beautiful loop trail to enjoy the views and discuss the wildlife and recreation management tools being used at Centennial Cone Park to meet both wildlife protection and park user experience objectives. Group will meet at the hotel lobby, then travel in your own vehicle 50 minutes to the park.

**FT9 - Ralston Canyon- Jefferson County's Last Creek.** *Bryan Posthumus, Jefferson County Open Space.* Hike 3 relatively easy miles round trip along Ralston Creek, Jefferson County's last riparian zone without a highway. Lying just minutes from Golden, it is an area where bears, lions, peregrines, eagles, and elk abound. Experience a part of open space with limited human use while learning its history, wildlife, and management. Minimum 10, maximum 24.

**FT10 – Asteroids, Ancient Palms, and Dinosaurs- a look at our distant past on South Table Mountain.** *Dr. Kirk Johnson, Curator of Paleontology and Chief Curator of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and Tim Sandsmark, Lookout Mountain Nature Center, Jefferson*



*County Open Space.* Learn about one of Colorado's most significant paleontological sites at South Table Mountain. This site has many plant fossils such as ancient palm and leaf fossils. It is also an area where fossil evidence suggests the existence of the K-T (Cretaceous/Tertiary) Boundary. The K-T boundary is theorized to be evidence of the asteroid impact in the Yucatan Peninsula (called the Chicxulub event) about 65 million years ago that caused the extinction of the dinosaurs. This boundary separates the age of the reptiles and the age of the mammals.

Although the actual K-T boundary (a thin layer of clay that contains a high concentration of iridium which is an element that is much more common in meteorites than in Earth's crustal rocks) has not been found here, the fossil evidence suggests that it exists here.

Attendees will also talk about resource management actions for this area including Jefferson County Open Space's Management Unit Designations and possible Special Protection Area status for this site at South Table Mountain Park. Minimum 10, maximum 24.

**FT11 - Bike ride up Lookout Mountain.** *Lance Henkel, Jefferson County Open Space.*

Leaving from the Jefferson County Open Space offices, we will make our way up Lookout Mountain Road, enjoying the challenges of the approximate 6 mile climb up the mountain while making brief stops along the way at Windy Saddle Park and Buffalo Bill's Grave Site. Mountain bike riders have the option of taking Chimney Gulch Trail and Lookout Mountain trail to the Nature Center. When we reach the top we'll take a brief tour of Lookout Mountain Nature Center and Boettcher Mansion, before we descend back down the mountain. Estimated total distance is 12 miles round trip. Bring your own bike. Group will meet at the hotel lobby, then travel in your own vehicle to the Jefferson County OS offices.

**FT12 – Accessibility & A Mountain Dog Park.** *Jean Reince Schwatz, Jefferson County Open Space.* To provide a look at the issues associated with a semi-rural dog park in a county Open Space System. With the increasing popularity and number of dog parks in Colorado, the issues associated with suburban dog parks take on a new twist and set of challenges in an unincorporated mountain community. The Elk Meadow Dog Off-Leash Park in Evergreen will serve as an example of how Jefferson County is addressing the ever-changing issues and opportunities. Minimum 5, Maximum 15.

**FT13 – Canceled - Tour of Clear Creek Canyon Park.** *Colleen Gadd Visitor & Resource Protection Supervisor, Jefferson County Open Space.* Come see what's up in Clear Creek Canyon Park. On this driving tour, you'll learn about the many activities that take place in the 11 mile linear park along the banks and cliffs of Clear Creek. Join us for a recreational gold prospecting demonstration; visit C.J.s Crystal Cavern and learn about caving activities; visit a sport climbing site; discuss kayaking, rafting, fishing, and other recreational uses in the canyon. Enjoy the day as we make a number of stops at areas of interest with a couple of very short hikes to reach our destinations. Minimum 5, Maximum 24.



**FT14 - Driving Tour of Boulder County Agricultural Lands and Market Farms.** *David Bell, Agricultural Resource Manager, Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department.* The objective is to examine opportunities and challenges associated with meeting the demand for more local and organic crops while still managing large-scale conventional agricultural operations. The tour will provide participants the ability to discuss local food, agriculture and policies with staff and local farmers. Maximum 30.

**FT15 – Denver’s Diverse Mountain Parks Driving Tour.** *Scott Robson, Denver Parks & Recreation.* The Denver Mountain Parks, dating back to 1912, are one of the most historic and diverse park systems in the nation. Take a “behind the scenes” walking tour of three properties which highlight the diversity, opportunities and challenges of this underappreciated system. Attendees will tour Red Rocks Park trails being rehabilitated and visit the rarely seen underground backstage of Denver’s legendary Red Rocks Amphitheatre. Attendees will then visit the nearby operations of one of Denver’s beloved bison herds. Last, attendees will tour the historic Chief Hosa Lodge, designed in 1918 by famous architect Jacques Benedict, which has recently undergone an extensive historic renovation. Maximum 30.

**FT16 – \*Get Blown Away – a behind-the-scenes visit to the Natural Resource Ecology Lab and wind power.** Guests will receive an overview of NREL’s wind program as well as an insider’s look at state-of-the-art design and testing facilities. NRELS’s wind energy research and development projects focus on developing technologies that will operate cost-effectively at lower wind speed sites and increasing national capacity. \*due to security, all guests must be pre-registered with the conference by 9/1, have a valid US driver’s license (for U.S. citizens) or completed a foreign national data card (for non-U.S. citizens, contact COSA immediately for one). Other restrictions apply (like no water bottles) that we will let you know when you register.

## **Wednesday, September 15**

### **Session 6, 9:30 – 10:45am**

**6A – Hunter Lovins.** Join Hunter for a continuation of thoughts and discussions from her keynote presentation.

**6B - Smile—You’re on Critter Candid Camera!** Deborah Price, Education Coordinator, Bobcat Ridge Natural Area, Caroline Krumm, Director, Rocky Mountain Cat Conservancy. Most wildlife go unseen at our natural areas, but eight heat and motion triggered cameras at Bobcat Ridge have captured hundreds of photos of wildlife, from squirrels and rabbits to coyotes, bobcats, bighorn sheep and mountain lions. The project is a collaboration between the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program, the Rocky Mountain Cat Conservancy, and Rocky Mountain High School. City master naturalists and high school students learn how to collect data and conduct research in the field. This fascinating and captivating project has allowed the city to get a glimpse into wildlife and their habits, and helps visitors appreciate why natural areas and open spaces are valuable to wildlife as well as people.

**6C – Who gets the water?** *Michael Galloway, ERO Resources Corporation.* Hear how a one-year study of existing surface and shallow ground water resources at the 17,085-acre Arapahoe Grasslands Conservation Area provided alternative water rights development scenarios to reduce or minimize impact to the water-dependent ecosystems at the Grasslands. Conservation



constraints and opportunities, as well as recommendations for the existing conservation plans, were provided based on the results of the hydrologic study. See how this study can influence planning for your open spaces.

**6D – A-Zero of Planning a Zero Waste Event.** *Jennifer Bohn, Resource Conservation Specialist, Boulder County Resource Conservation Division.* How often have you been to an event where the trashcan ends up overflowing with foam cups, water bottles, plastic plates and forks? Through recycling and composting, the waste that accumulates at events can be minimized almost to ZERO! Get the scoop on how to plan your meetings, conferences, and parties as Zero Waste Events! What materials will you need to purchase for the event? Which of these materials can be recycled, composted, or reused? How will the recyclable and compostable materials be separated and collected? How will the attendees be informed that this event is Zero Waste? These questions and more will be addressed in this presentation on how to plan an environmentally responsible event. Come, join in, and learn the answers to all of life's Zero Waste questions!

**6E - Surveying Trail Users on Open Space Property.** *Julia Kertz Grant, Boise City Foothills and Open Space Manager, and David Gordon, Ridge to Rivers Trail Coordinator.* Changes occur on trails and in open space over time. Sampling trail and open space users to better understand who they are and what their preferences are helps resource managers achieve their goals. Are they aware of local open space conservation efforts? Why do they visit the area? Examples of questionnaires will be provided and a case study will be reviewed. There will also be time for a discussion with participants about their experiences with similar efforts.

## **Wednesday, September 15**

### **Session 7, 11:00 – 12:15**

**7A – Vacant Lots to Healthy Spaces.** *Scott Robson, Denver Parks & Recreation.* Denver's Parks & Recreation Department is making a concerted effort to identify neighborhoods in need of green space, and partner with non-profits and private business to develop parks and open spaces where there were once vacant lots and abandoned buildings. Particularly during this economic downturn, new partnerships and approaches are required to meet the growing need for healthy gathering places for children and families. Denver Park staff and non-profit partners will present case studies of four recent examples in Denver that are receiving national attention.

**7B – Banking Prairie Dogs.** *Andrew M. Cole, Natural Resource Planner, ERO Resources Corporation.* "Good-faith" efforts to relocate prairie dogs are generally required by local governments before development permits are issued. The outcomes of these efforts are typically a forgone conclusion; the prairie dogs get exterminated and development goes forward. By leveraging a simple suite of business and economic principles, open space departments along the Front Range could change compartmentalized thinking about prairie dogs, alleviate a management headache, and help conserve the species. We might even help fund K - 12 education in the process!

**7C – Skullduggery.** *Dave Sutherland, Interpretive Naturalist, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks.* Animal bones and skulls fascinate people of all ages. They also tell us amazing stories about behavior and adaptations if you know how to read the clues. We'll compare various mammal skulls and share teaching strategies to make anatomy anything but bone dry! This presentation is for anyone who teaches the public about wildlife.



**7D – Social Media 101: Digg, Tweet or Facebook me, LOL!** *Thea Rock, Manager of Citizen Outreach/Public Information, Jefferson County Open Space.* The changing vitality and accessibility of traditional media outlets (newspaper, radio, television) finds governmental and non-profit organizations scrambling to make their constituents aware of processes, projects and programs. Although it still makes sense to use brochures, flyers, news releases, public service announcements to let citizens know about your program and events, our audience has adopted other forms of communication that leaves traditional media in the dust. Twitter, Facebook, Digg, YouTube, RSS, are communication tools that can no longer be ignored. Unless you know a very patient 16 year old that's willing to give you a tutorial on what Facebook is and how it works, you should attend this session.

**7E - Improving the Effectiveness of Citizen Advisory Boards.** *A long-time citizen board member, John Stokes, Fort Collins Open Space Program Director, and an elected official* will lead a discussion of the dynamics and role of citizen advisory boards for public land conservation programs. While citizen advisory boards can serve an important function in advising elected officials, such boards present challenges and opportunities for the governmental entity and the open space program. Program participants will learn how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of open space program citizen boards, through consideration of several topics.