



## 2011 Conference Session Descriptions

### Monday, September 19

#### Session 1 - 10:30 - 11:45

**1A – Natural Resources - Applying Science to Decision Making** *Jeffrey Boring, Larimer County Natural Resources*, It's a three ring circus out there! Natural Resource Planners are expected to balance legal requirements, public input, politics, and science when developing a management plan or coordinating decisions regarding the management of open space. What role does scientific research play in decision making and where does the research come from? This panel style session will focus on the use of science in decision making at various open lands programs.

**1B – Outreach** *Mary Ann Bonnell, City of Aurora* We'll start with a 'round the room discussion of headlines, accomplishments and/or exciting projects in the world of natural resource education and outreach. We'll end with a discussion about the integration (or not) of education and outreach into natural resource planning and management.

**1C – Director's & Manager's** *The Future of Conservation Tools in Colorado* - join us for a facilitated discussion on the sustainable futures of COSA, CCLT, GOCO and the conservation tax credit. Help guide the direction and longevity of these organizations through your feedback and input.

**1D – Rangers** *Terry Grosz, Wildlife Wars* Come take a walk along the Thin Green Line with retired Fish and Wildlife Service Special Agent and prolific author Terry Grosz. Terry has dedicated his life to the protection of natural resources and the conservation of wildlife. During his 32 year career his assignments included Special Agent in charge of supervising the Fish and Wildlife's law enforcement program in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, North Dakota and South Dakota and the Division of Law Enforcement's Endangered Species and Foreign Liaison Desk Officer in Washington D.C. Terry will tell unbelievable stories from a career as a wildlife conservation officer chasing bad guys. The bad guys in his stories are illegal deer hunters, over the limit anglers, elk poachers and trophy hunters often targeting public lands. You will leave this session energized to hide in the tall grasses until after midnight to protect the natural resources of your open spaces from illegal activity. Terry is the author of nine books including *Wildlife Wars*, winner of the National Outdoor Book Award. The Animal Planet has produced a two hour docudrama titled *Wildlife Wars* which will also be shown at the conference.

**1E – Volunteers** *CJ Cullins, 2011 DOVIA Volunteer Manager of the Year and Jeff Green, Larimer County Risk Management* This session will be a lively presentation of the realities facing agencies that use volunteers and how Larimer County Natural Resources is handling these challenges. This session will include scenarios, frequently asked questions, reference materials, lessons learned at Larimer County.



Good Samaritan Laws, Volunteer Protection, Volunteer Immunity, Liability Limitation, Shield Laws, Charitable Immunity. These terms, which have significant yet subtle distinctions, have been used to describe laws that protect people and organizations in the volunteer sector from claims, law suites and allegations of wrong doing. Although numerous researchers, legal authorities and other interested persons have written about these subjects, there remains confusion about whether volunteers and agencies can be sued and held liable for negligent acts by the volunteer, the public, and the staff that manage the volunteer. Additionally, many volunteer organizations are aware that there is liability associated with using volunteers, but carry a misconception about where the bulk of the risk lies. When they hear "volunteer liability", many people think about liability to volunteers, and not always about liability caused by volunteers for the organization.

**1F – Boards and Commissions** Whether you are on staff or a Board member, you'll need to be able to deliver a great presentation about your organization. This session will help you organize and present your message in a way that keeps your audience engaged and ready to act. Are you planning a booth at a community event or a presentation to an organization? Are you are trying to pass a sales tax initiative or encourage your citizens to volunteer? The way you deliver your message can make the difference in getting your audience to care for what you care about. We'll have time to work on individual projects, so bring your latest communications challenge.

## **Monday, September 19**

### **Session 2 - 1:00 - 2:15**

**2A – Pineries Open Space Master Planning – a Study in Natural Resource Conservation and Stakeholder Involvement.** *Elaine Kleckner, El Paso County Community Services Department, Ron Bevans, N.E.S. Inc.* The session focuses on lessons learned in the master planning process for the Pineries Open Space, a 1,067 acre regional park in the Black Forest area of El Paso County. The County secured ownership via developer land dedication in August 2010 and proceeded to develop a master plan with active stakeholder involvement. The primary goal was to preserve the outstanding resource values and allow managed public use.

**2B – Nature Play on Public Lands: Safety, Accessibility and the Resource Implications of the “P Word”** *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. Tackling this issue, termed nature deficit disorder, has become an important consideration for many public agencies. Playing in nature or nature play is one way for people to begin to form a relationship with the natural world. While open lands represent a great venue for this type of experience to occur, this opportunity must be balanced with the recreation and resource protection goals of your open lands program. This session will explore the implications of designing, constructing, and placing features in the landscape for the purpose of play. We will discuss the implications of the “p word” and explore the nuances and grey areas that surround play when one examines federal regulations and guidelines for safety and accessibility. We will also discuss the resource impacts which nature play represents and



discuss how to minimize the potential impacts of this type of activity.

**2C –HB 50 and Other Legislative Updates** *John Swartout, Executive Director of the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts.* SB 50 is sponsored by Ellen Roberts and seeks to clarify that if land subject to conservation easement is condemned, the condemning authority has to pay no less than the fair market value of the land. After discussions with various interests, a task force was officially sanctioned to study, make recommendations, and report findings on all matters relating to the valuation of conservation easements subject to condemnation, including a review of existing Colorado eminent domain law relating to the application of the undivided basis rule in the context of property subject to a conservation easement, perceived deficiencies using existing law, appraisal practice implications, tax implications, apportionment issues and potential changes to existing law to address specific problems.

**2D – Are We Getting Through To You?!: An Overview of Successful Visitor Safety Communication Strategies for Public Lands Managers** *Carter L. Marshall, Belt Collins West.* The “theme park mentality” exhibited by some open lands users can be a real threat to public safety, one that can cause major headaches for land managers. But how do we get folks to recognize the host of risks and hazards present on public lands? How do we then convince them to behave responsibly, take care, and keep themselves safe? This session will present a framework for understanding visitor safety communications on public lands. It offers proven, successful ways to get through to open space users based on extensive research and interviews with public land managers at local, regional, and national levels including supervisors and rangers from several COSA affiliate open space programs. This presentation will focus on the visitor communications framework, provide examples, and engage attendees to share their own successes and challenges.

**2E – Extend Your Reach by Using Volunteers: They’re not free, but they can sure work!** *Sue Anderson, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado.* Our communities offer a great resource: people who care about our lands and want to help. How can you build your capacity to manage a volunteer program in times of diminishing financial resources? Why is it important to engage volunteers? This session will cover: creating and building a sustainable volunteer program, tips for recruiting, managing and keeping volunteers happy, and resources to make working with volunteers easy and a productive use of staff time.

## **Monday, September 19**

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

**3A – Coyote Country Update** *Mary Ann Bonnell, City of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department.* Did you miss the International Ecology and Management of Urban Coyotes Symposium in Austin this spring? Don’t worry; this interactive and engaging session will give you the coyote 411. The Coyote Country Update will deliver highlights on urban coyote ecology, behavior, human dimensions research, conflict definitions, reporting and mapping from the Austin symposium back to Colorado and the COSA audience.



**3B – Plug in to Nature, finding connections for youth to the outdoors in Larimer County –**

**A pilot project** *Rob Novak, Larimer County Natural Resources, Anna Gagne, Design Workshop, Kathleen Staks, Great Outdoors Colorado* An in depth look at the Plug In To Nature pilot project being led by Larimer County Natural Resources in conjunction with Great Outdoors Colorado. The session will begin with a brief identification of the issue and continue with the initiation, scope, goals, objectives and process along with initial results and lessons learned. The session will end with a discussion of how this issue is addressed in other communities and how the YFOPP may apply.

**3C – Budgeting for Capital Replacement Costs** *Mark Sears, City of Fort Collins.* Participants will learn how two or three different agencies budget for capital replacement and have the opportunity to discuss the pros and cons of the various methods.

**3D – Partnerships for Water Protection and Education** *Roaring Fork Conservancy*

For the past seven years, Pitkin County Open Space & Trails has partnered with Roaring Fork Conservancy, a non-profit watershed group, to provide educational programs on Open Space properties. Find out how both entities fulfill their missions and reach larger audiences through this creative approach to education on open spaces.

**3E –Boards and Advisory Committees** *Christian Meyer, Board Member, Great Outdoors*

*Colorado* Many open space programs utilize citizen boards in either an advisory or governance capacity. Efficient and collaborative communication between program staff and a citizen board is crucial for an effective partnership and can be used to build public belief and support that lands are being managed in an effective and transparent manner. This presentation will discuss common challenges that these two groups face and framework for collaborative efforts between these two groups.

## **Monday, September 19**

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

**4A – Green Printing in Garfield County** *Trust for Public Land* The Greenprinting process uses a series of layers of maps based on the demographics of the community and identifies elements that are missing in land and recreation facilities based on the values the community stated that is important to meet. The maps demonstrate gaps and where amenities and parks should be located along with land acquisition opportunities to support those needs. Garfield County, which currently has no dedicated monies for conservation, has taken a unique approach in using this tool. Come and find out what that is...

**4B – Engaging Park Visitors in 140 Characters or Less** *Bevin Carithers, Boulder County.*

*Vivienne Jannatpour, Boulder County.* This interactive session will introduce participants to the successful social media applications utilized by Boulder County Parks and Open Space through a formal presentation. Time will also be allotted for an interactive brainstorming discussion and question-and-answer period. Boulder County Parks and Open Space recently introduced the use of social media sites to the mix of communication tools used to reach our constituents. Utilizing



Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube independently and as feeds embedded in our website pages, parks and open space staff now recruits volunteers, promotes events, and delivers news through

text, video, and photos. Virtual tours of agricultural lands and closed properties as well as wildlife cams also help staff further enhance the park visitor experience. Boulder County ranger staff has also adapted social media outlets to direct visitor activities, manage recreation, and enforce rules and regulations. Rangers equipped with smart phones can communicate with park visitors through Twitter and Facebook and post trail conditions, emergency events, parking availability, wildlife sightings and safety bulletins directly from the field. Real time video feeds and photos help park visitors choose their recreational activities and before leaving their home or office.

**4C – Protecting Urban River Corridors – A New Grant-Making Initiative** *Kathleen Staks, GOCO Jackie Miller, GOCO.* GOCO’s 2010 Strategic Plan included direction to fund more projects along river corridors. GOCO staff will present information about the Urban River Corridor Initiative to fund projects along urban waterways that include land acquisition, trail and bridge construction, environmental education projects and any eligible elements that will enhance open space and outdoor recreational opportunities along these waterways. Staff will also cover application and due diligence requirements in a panel presentation and will answer any questions about the program.

**4D –Presenting the Complete Package: Getting Property to Closing with “Good Old” Due Diligence** *Teresa Kerrigan, Raw Land Solutions.* Understand how to obtain and organize the components of a complete due diligence package such that interested parties have a full picture of the property. Identify the steps that each transaction must go through in order to close (successfully). Learn to avoid the many pitfalls that can risk your funding and your deal.

**4E – Using an Interest-Based Problem-Solving Approach in Robust Planning and Decision Making** *Joan Sabott, CDR Associates. Andrea Meneghel, CDR Associates.* Planning and decision-making processes often require coordination and negotiation among various people and organizations. Challenges may arise during these processes. Involved parties can find themselves with differing objectives and problems that lead to conflict and cause unsupported decisions, project delays and/or strained relationships. Open space program staff can develop the capacity to engage effectively as problem solvers using an interest-based problem-solving approach which, in turn, can lead to successful projects and programs.

**Tuesday, September 20**  
**Session 5, 9:45 – 11:45**

**5A – More on the Economics of Open Space** Join keynote speaker, *Jessica Seargent* for continued discussion on the economic value of open space. Increasingly local and regional open space managers need to strategically communicate the economic benefits and fiscal impacts of land conservation to other local government officials and the public. This session addresses this



need by teaching participants how to talk about the economics of conservation using a recently released report on the return on investment in Colorado's conservation easements and case studies from across the country. We will provide an overview of the categories of economic benefits and their values. We will also relate recent conservation funding successes at the ballot box -- even during the difficult economic climate. It takes diligent and focused effort, but we will show that some of our biggest wins to secure dedicated funding for conservation funding have come during the past three years.

**5B – Climb On! Comparative Rock Climbing Management** *Zac Wiebe, Larimer County Natural Resources. Mike Morin, Jefferson County Open Space. Scott Abbott, Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation Dept. Joe Reale, Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks. David Trevino, Ft. Collins Natural Areas* This session will compare and contrast different management issues and associated management strategies of five different land management agencies. Panelists will present issues unique to each program as well as management concerns that are common to every popular rock climbing area. Topics will include resource damage, bolting policies, user group collaboration, outreach, etc. The discussion will be a precursor to field trip 7 to Rifle Mountain Park.

**5C – Movie by Animal Planet: Wildlife Wars** *featuring Terry Grosz.* Terry has written nine books including *Wildlife Wars* which won the National Outdoor Book Award. The Animal Planet has produced a two hour docudrama titled *Wildlife Wars* which will also be shown at the conference

**5D – OPDMD rules and new ADA guidelines** *Janet Zeller* This session will cover OPDMD law and give an overview of how it is being handled in different places around the US. Janet will also discuss new ADA access guidelines for outdoor facilities that will be out by the end of the year. It will not apply to local level government for another 5 years, but it will apply if there is federal grant money or CDOT money.

**5E – Communications Bootcamp** *Linda Strand, Arapahoe County Open Space Board & Mary Ann Bonnell, City of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space.* Whether you are on staff or a Board member, you'll need to be able to deliver a great presentation about your organization. This session will help you organize and present your message in a way that keeps your audience engaged and ready to act. Are you planning a booth at a community event or a presentation to an organization? Are you trying to pass a sales tax initiative or encourage your citizens to volunteer? The way you deliver your message can make the difference in getting your audience to care for what you care about. We'll have time to work on individual projects, so bring your latest communications challenge.

## **Tuesday, September 20**

### **Field Trips, 12:15 – 5:30pm**

**FT1 – Bike Tour of Glenwood Canyon Recreation Area, Leader: Ralph Trapani**



Learn the ins and outs of the Glenwood Canyon Highway improvement project, time, costs, challenges and the Pedestrian Amenities located throughout the 18 mile trip. Participants should bring their own bike; the trail is a hard surface concrete and paved trail. Helmets are strongly recommended. The tour is rated easy to moderate bike trip, participants will be shuttled to the east side of the bike path and ride west Glenwood Springs directly to the hotel. Maximum - 20 people.

**FT2 – Storm King Mountain Interpretive Memorial, Leader: Bill Kight**

Initially developed by the grieving families and community, the Storm King Mountain Memorial Trail is one of several memorials to those who lost their lives while battling the South Canyon fire. The Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and local volunteers have since improved the trail. The trail is designed to take hikers on a journey as if they were a firefighter climbing to a fire. The footpath, marked only by rock cairns, is not maintained, and parts of the trail can be strenuous. The trail's rough condition is intended as a tribute to firefighters and the challenging conditions under which they work. The main portion of the trail is about 1.5 miles long and leads to an observation point with a good view of the entire field where the fire took place. Beyond the observation point, a footpath leads to the sites where firefighters died. Maximum - 15 people.

**FT3 – Droste Interpretive Tour and Management Plan, Leader: Gary T and Roaring Fork Conservancy** Hike the newest interpretation tour of the Brush Creek Ranch area, and learn about the four (4) agency partnership, GOCO funds, and management planning that secured the funds to acquire this piece and create a 2,500 acre mountain park. This moderate hike includes stops to admire the spectacular views. The Roaring Fork Conservancy will lead an educational tour and talk about this important conservation piece. Maximum - 20 people.

**FT4 - BLM Red Hill Special Recreation Management Area Hike, Leader: Davis Farrar** Learn about the challenges of access issues, acquisition, and safety of the Red Hill SRMA on this moderate hike. Serving as Carbondale's backyard playground for hikers, bikers, runners, dog walkers and autos, this system includes trails ranging in difficulty from easy to very difficult. Red Hill's Mushroom Rock Trail, the most spectacular hike in this system, leads to an outcropping known as Mushroom Rock. From here, you'll have an incredible view of Mt. Sopris, the valley below, and the Town of Carbondale. Maximum - 20 people.

**FT5 – Red Canyon Rd./Boy Scout Trail Mountain Bike Tour** (*moderate to advanced technical and aerobic*) Join us on Glenwood's signature ride to experience big elevation gains and heart attack climbs while ripping through woods and big banked turns on the downhill. Also called Forest Hollow, Scout trail is really the name for the final drop into town. Alternate routes of unsecured access (shown in red) exist across the face of Lookout Mountain, and a spur trail provides a chance to visit Hubbard Cave. Maximum - 20 people.

**FT6 - Bike Polo, Leader: Steve Novy/ Brian Long**



Have fun with a small adventurous group of locals and test your skills with bikes, mallets and a ball! Bring your own bike or borrow one. The rest of the gear will be provided, **except a helmet – please bring your own.** Maximum - 15 people.

**FT7 – Rifle Mountain Park**, Leader: *Tom Whitmore, Rifle Parks*

Hike and learn about this internationally known park, 100 + years in the making and still going strong. Visitors from all over the globe visit the park for its rock climbing. The park currently boasts over 250 bolted climbing routes. Tom Whitmore Director of the Town of Rifle Parks will have local climbers on hand to talk about the history and partnerships that have created such a unique destination. Maximum - 20 people.

**FT8 - Porter Ranch Ag Tour with Aspen Valley Land Trust** Enjoy a hay ride and access 3,600 acres of the beautiful Alkali Creek valley south of New Castle, Colorado. Originally homesteaded in the late 1800's, Porter ranch is now operated by fifth and sixth generation family members as a working hay, cattle, and elk ranch. AVLT is working with the family on a possible conservation easement on the ranch. On this tour, you will see and hear about this project as well as other past, current, and future projects of this historic ranch. Maximum - 15 people.

**FT9 - Bio Fuels and Regional Solar Farm Tour, Rifle CMC**, Leader: Morgan Williams

The Western Colorado Carbon Neutral Bio-energy Consortium is currently investigating the opportunity for marginal lands in the mountain west to produce low-input biomass for regional conversion to high value liquid fuels for automotive and aviation use. The tour will show participants one of the three biomass growth locations (either Carbondale or Rifle) and additionally guide participants through the consortium's pilot scale bio-butanol conversion facility at the Colorado Mountain College West Garfield Campus.

Topics of discussion will include:

- 1) What is low-input biomass, and why is it sustainable?
- 2) Why biomass for marginal lands?
- 3) How regional bio-energy production is being approached in western Colorado?

Maximum - 20 people.

**FT10- Historic Tour of Glenwood & Glenwood Whitewater Park** – Tour Glenwood Springs' historic Linwood Cemetery, the final resting place of Doc Holliday and Kid Curry. Frontier Historical Museum Director, Cindy Hines, will lead you up the hill and through Glenwood's oldest burial ground relating the stories of our community's pioneers. From entrepreneurs to ladies of the evening, from miners to gunslingers, Linwood is full of fascinating tales as well as a few good mysteries. This is a 1/3 mile moderate hike. Please wear good walking shoes.

"Take a step back in time when life was lived at a slower pace. Tour Glenwood's historic downtown with a guide from the Frontier Historical Society & Museum. Explore the late 1800's to 1930's architecture and hear the anecdotal stories associated with some of our historic buildings. Please wear good walking shoes.



**FT11-** Regarding the open space tour at South Canyon, we could call it an “Historical and Historical” tour, including the community ruins, gun range, proposed archery range, the coal seam fire area, landfill (a drive by), and the future potential of the site for producing energy. With 3,000+ acres, mostly hillside and rough terrain, the opportunity for development is limited, but the potential for minimally invasive (?) use of the site and resources is significant. Attendees will be encouraged to comment on “the good, bad, and ugly” of potential uses for this area that is remote from the city and off the beaten path of county protective services

## **Wednesday, September 21**

### **Session 6, 9:30 – 10:45 am**

**6A – Keynote Workshop** John Fielder's Guide to Open Space Photos: How to Create a Better Sense of Place. Join keynote speaker for a continued discussion that will dive into more detail and cover techniques for creating amazing photos.

**6B – Lessons from the Field: Initiatives to Get Families Outside.** *Jennelle Freeston, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Department.* Organizations across the U.S. have created initiatives to address nature-deficit disorder. This session will explore some of the strategies these campaigns have launched to help you create your own initiative to address nature-deficit disorder.

**6C – Creative Land Conservation Solutions and Selling Public Interests, Does it Make “Cents”?** *Joy Lucisano, Jefferson County Open Space. Daylan Figgs, Ft. Collins Natural Areas, Brandon Marett, TRC Environmental, Gordon Reusink, Arvada Parks.* This session discusses specific and creative land conservation/preservation solutions that open space agencies and organizations have successfully implemented. This session will highlight those programs via a panel discussion of colleagues, and concludes with interviewing the audience to promote professional collaboration – so you can use/find your own creative solutions in your respective programs.

**6D – Repeat - Communications Bootcamp** *Linda Strand. Arapahoe County Open Space Board & Mary Ann Bonnell, City of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space.* Whether you are on staff or a Board member, you’ll need to be able to deliver a great presentation about your organization. This session will help you organize and present your message in a way that keeps your audience engaged and ready to act. Are you planning a booth at a community event or a presentation to an organization? Are you are trying to pass a sales tax initiative or encourage your citizens to volunteer? The way you deliver your message can make the difference in getting your audience to care for what you care about. We’ll have time to work on individual projects, so bring your latest communications challenge.



**Wednesday, September 21**

**Session 7, 11:00 – 12:15**

**7A – Repeat-Are We Getting Through To You?!: An Overview of Successful Visitor Safety Communication Strategies for Public Lands Managers.** *Carter L. Marshall, Belt Collins West.* The “theme park mentality” exhibited by some open lands users can be a real threat to public safety, one that can cause major headaches for land managers. But how do we get folks to recognize the host of risks and hazards present on public lands? How do we then convince them to behave responsibly, take care, and keep themselves safe? This session will present a framework for understanding visitor safety communications on public lands. It offers proven, successful ways to get through to open space users based on extensive research and interviews with public land managers at local, regional, and national levels including supervisors and rangers from several COSA affiliate open space programs. This presentation will focus on the visitor communications framework, provide examples, and engage attendees to share their own successes and challenges.

**7B – The Arts and Open Space: A Powerful Duo.** *Deb Matlock, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Department.* Creating a dynamic, inspiring and educational arts program can foster and nurture the public’s artistic exploration and appreciation of your land system. Come to this session and learn about the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Department’s award winning arts program. Walk away with practical tools and powerful inspiration to create an arts-based educational program for your own department.

**7C – TAAAX, TAAAX ON THE RAAANGE! - Discussing the Tax Implications of Open Space Transactions with Land Owners.** *Jim Daus, Boulder County Parks and Open Space. Lyle F. Hood, Wall, Smith, Bateman and Associates.* Land owners typically need to evaluate the tax ramifications of selling or donating property or conservation easements and you can help by outlining the typical considerations and benefits. This session will give you a working knowledge of how to respond effectively to many of the typical questions you will face and to appropriately promote or discuss the transaction based upon tax considerations

**7D – Continued from 6D - Repeat - Communications Bootcamp** *Linda Strand, Arapahoe County Open Space Board & Mary Ann Bonnell, City of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space.*