

1800 S. County Road 31  
Loveland, Colorado 80537  
(970) 679-4570 - Main Office - South Region (Carter Lake)  
(970) 679-4574 - FAX  
(970) 226-4517 - North Region (Horsetooth Reservoir)  
(970) 498-7985 - FAX

# Larimer County Parks

TO: Horsetooth Mountain Park Management Plan Advisory Task Force  
FROM: Daryl R. Burkhard, Open Lands Resource Specialist *DRB*  
DATE: September 19, 1997  
  
RE: Summary of Public Workshop Input and User Survey

*in Return*  
*MA*  
*DD*  
*KRP*

On September 4, 1997 we held a public workshop to solicit input regarding the current management of Horsetooth Mountain Park and perceived issues facing the Park. The workshop was very successful. We had approximately 25-30 attendees who had a strong interest in the Park. The group as a whole expressed positive support for the Park and a strong interest in assisting with improvements that would be beneficial to the Park. Their enthusiasm and caring concern were very inspiring.

During the workshop, we split up into three work groups to discuss issues facing the Park. I have enclosed a summary of that input for your convenience. I have also enclosed a summary of the user survey that was conducted in the parking lot from the middle of July to early August.

The next phase in the management plan development process will be to incorporate issues that you have identified over the last year with the public input and begin to develop a proposed management plan based upon existing conditions, issue identification, and a future vision for the park. At our next task force meeting, unscheduled at this time, I hope to have an initial draft for your comments.

If you have any questions, please call me at 679-4576. Thank you for all your help.

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3
<p><b>What do you like about the park?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes the trails as they are presently.</li> <li>• Feels the views are beautiful and untouched.</li> <li>• Enjoy the rapport between the different user groups, i.e. cyclists, hikers, horse riders.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-use trails.</li> <li>• Rapport between different user groups.</li> <li>• Limited parking and enforcement.</li> <li>• Preserve natural systems and avoid engineered or contrived intrusions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What concerns do you have about the park?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of boundary signs along the perimeter.</li> <li>• Keep the park "primitive."</li> <li>• Annual pass fees are too high.</li> <li>• Landowners are concerned with trespassing.</li> <li>• Lack of communication between HTMP and Lory State Park concerning trail closures.</li> <li>• Map needs to be updated.</li> <li>• Ranger accessibility.</li> <li>• Management plan should make it easier to volunteer for trail reparation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire danger. Fires in the park after dark.</li> <li>• Forest and range health and management.</li> <li>• Wildlife management.</li> <li>• Park expansion.</li> <li>• Steep trails.</li> <li>• Equability of use fees.</li> <li>• Concerned with cyclists creating new unwanted trails in flood damaged areas.</li> <li>• Dogs off leash.</li> <li>• Horse fodder.</li> <li>• Too steep trails.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equity in fee assessment.</li> <li>• More trail maintenance days.</li> <li>• Summit trail step stability.</li> <li>• Crews need to consider user in construction and maintenance, i.e. height of steps.</li> <li>• Single tracks in meadows turning to multiple tracks.</li> <li>• Cost to maintain maintenance road.</li> <li>• Ability for volunteers to become involved.</li> <li>• Dogs off leash.</li> <li>• Park drop-off area being used as "free parking."</li> </ul>
<p><b>What changes would you like to see implemented ?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Differential fee schedule for different park users.</li> <li>• Establish carrying capacity to protect natural resources.</li> <li>• Control/management by the county.</li> <li>• More multi-use trails.</li> <li>• Maps revised to indicate foot or multi-use trails.</li> <li>• More communication with Lory State Park about trail closures.</li> <li>• Restroom near towers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walk-in, bike-in annual pass.</li> <li>• Pay per use, i.e., ski pass.</li> <li>• Family fees pass (expensive per individual).</li> <li>• Bike only trails, but prefer multi-use trails.</li> <li>• Signs stating trail etiquette and usage, also for cyclists to carry bikes over flood damage.</li> <li>• Service road to towers, (alleviate conflict between cyclists and tower access.)</li> <li>• Rangers on bikes.</li> <li>• New maps.</li> <li>• Wildlife/user interface.</li> <li>• Wildlife education, i.e. lion and bear protection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop plan to manage high erosion trails during peak wet times.</li> <li>• More user education.</li> <li>• Reduced fee rates for multiple car users.</li> </ul>



# HORSETOOTH MOUNTAIN PARK USER SURVEY -JULY 1997

## HIGHLIGHTS

### 1. How many people in your party?

#### surveys

65%  
17%  
9%  
5%  
4%

#### people

30% 1-2 people  
19% 3-4 people  
15% 5-6 people  
11% 7-8 people  
25% over 8 people

### 2. Ages of persons in your party

14%  
16%  
19%  
28%  
23%

1-10 years old  
11-20 years old  
21-30 years old  
31-40 years old  
over 40 years old

### 3. How often do you visit the park?

24% This is my first visit  
35% 1 - 4 times per year  
20% 5 - 10 times per year  
9% Once a month or more  
12% Once a week or more

### 4. Approximately how long do you usually visit the park?

26% Less than 2 hours  
68% Between 2 - 4 hours  
6% More than 4 hours  
0% Over night

### 5. Please identify the route or trails you were on today. Over 83% of the trail use occurred in the southern part of the park going towards Horsetooth Rock or Horsetooth Falls.

### 6. Please rate the quality of the:

	Needs improvement	Adequate	Excellent	No Comment
natural environment	<u>0%</u>	<u>17%</u>	<u>80%</u>	<u>3%</u>
trails	<u>9%</u>	<u>29%</u>	<u>59%</u>	<u>3%</u>
parking facilities	<u>4%</u>	<u>33%</u>	<u>60%</u>	<u>3%</u>
picnicking facilities	<u>5%</u>	<u>29%</u>	<u>36%</u>	<u>30%</u>
visitor information	<u>4%</u>	<u>38%</u>	<u>51%</u>	<u>7%</u>
brochure with map	<u>3%</u>	<u>27%</u>	<u>61%</u>	<u>9%</u>

### 7. What is the most important reason for your visit today?

<u>14%</u> Wildlife viewing	<u>68%</u> Hiking	<u>14%</u> Mountain Biking
<u>1%</u> Horseback Riding	<u>3%</u> Picnicking	<u>39%</u> Exercising
<u>11%</u> Wildflower viewing	<u>17%</u> Solitude	<u>19%</u> Being with others



**8. Why did you choose Horsetooth Mountain Park as opposed to another location?**

68% of respondents indicated because it was close to home

**9. Please rate your feelings of crowding today:**

<u>45%</u>	Not crowded at all
<u>45%</u>	Moderately crowded
<u>1%</u>	Very crowded
<u>9%</u>	No comment

**10. Did you encounter any wildlife today?**

<u>35%</u>	Yes
<u>55%</u>	No
<u>10%</u>	No comment

If yes, what did you see?

squirrels, rattlesnakes, deer, elk, birds, lizards, rabbits, chipmunks

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**11. Have you had a conflict with another user in the park?**

93% No    7% Yes

**12. In general, do you find the park staff to be available, courteous and helpful?**

<u>89%</u>	Yes
<u>2%</u>	No
<u>9%</u>	No comment

**13. How do you feel about park fees or permits for individuals who walk-in or bike-in?**

Agree with walk/bike-in fees	<u>38%</u>
Neutral	<u>29%</u>
Disagree with walk/bike-in fees	<u>20%</u>
No comment	<u>13%</u>

**14. Would you like to see more environmental education?**

<u>48%</u>	Yes
<u>7%</u>	No
<u>35%</u>	Neutral
<u>10%</u>	No comment

**15. Overall, how would you rate your experience at the park today?**

<u>94%</u>	Good
<u>5%</u>	Fair
<u>1%</u>	Poor



# HORSETOOTH MOUNTAIN PARK USER SURVEY -JULY 1997

## HIGHLIGHTS

### 1. How many people in your party?

#### surveys

#### people

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<u>17%</u>	<u>19%</u>	3-4 people
<u>9%</u>	<u>15%</u>	5-6 people
<u>5%</u>	<u>11%</u>	7-8 people
<u>4%</u>	<u>25%</u>	over 8 people

### 2. Ages of persons in your party

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brochure with map	<u>3%</u>	<u>27%</u>	<u>61%</u>	<u>9%</u>

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<u>5%</u>	Fair
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PARKS AND OPEN LANDS DEPARTMENT

1800 South County Road 31  
Loveland, CO 80537  
(970) 679-4570  
(970) 679-4574 -Fax

*MA*  
*DF*  
*JL*  
*KP*

May 28, 1998

Mike Babler  
Colorado State Forest Svc  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5075

Dear Mike:

**THANKS A MILLION!!!**

Thank you for your support for the Horsetooth Mountain Park Expansion Project! Your letter of support played an important role in the success of this grant application. On May 20, 1998, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) awarded Larimer County **\$150,000** to help expand Horsetooth Mountain Park by 300-400 acres! The Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Department is very excited about this additional funding that will enable us to further expand this regional recreation treasure. We could not have had a successful grant without your help.

Great Outdoors Colorado also awarded funds to two additional grants that were submitted for the Larimer County area. The Fort Collins/Loveland Corridor Conservation Project was awarded **\$500,000** to help preserve open space in the corridor between Fort Collins and Loveland. Larimer County, Fort Collins, and Loveland were financial partners in this grant. The Hirsch Open Space Grant was awarded **\$275,000** to purchase an additional buffer for Boyd Lake from encroaching development. Colorado State Parks and Loveland were partners in this grant.

All together, the Larimer County area received **\$925,000** in Great Outdoors Colorado grant awards!!! We could not have had successful grants without the support of Larimer County citizens and businesses and without abundant letters of support. Thank you. You might be interested to know that for the May 1998 Open Space grant cycle, Great Outdoors Colorado awarded \$4.9 million state-wide. For the Larimer County area to have received \$925,000 or 19% of that money is quite an accomplishment.

Thank you again for your support. We really appreciate it.

Sincerely,

*Daryl R. Burkhard*

Daryl R. Burkhard  
Open Lands Resource Specialist

*Thanks for your support,  
Mike.*

*Daryl*



# County wins GOCO grants of \$925,000

## Horsetooth Mountain, Boyd Lake in for face-lift

By STEVE PORTER

The Coloradoan

Great Outdoor Colorado grants totaling \$925,000 will help fund three open lands projects in Larimer County, county commissioners learned Tuesday.

The GOCO grants will help expand Horsetooth Mountain Park and Boyd Lake State Park and preserve open space in the corridor between Fort Collins and Loveland.

The county received \$150,000 for Horsetooth Mountain Park, a county park just west of Horsetooth Reservoir. "We're hoping to expand the park by 300 to 400 acres," said Daryl Burkhard, the county's open lands resource specialist.

County commissioners in March approved plans to buy about 100 acres of the former Soderberg Ranch on the east side of the park. Burkhard said GOCO funds will be used to help buy that property, along with 200 to 300 additional acres in the area.

Burkhard would not identify those properties because of ongoing negotiations but she acknowledged they are adjacent to the 2,100-acre park.

A second grant of \$500,000 will go to Larimer County and the cities of Fort Collins and Loveland to buy open space in the corridor between the cities.

All three governments are working to fund a mile-wide open space corridor from the foothills to Interstate 25 to keep Fort Collins and Loveland from growing together

## Recreation

and losing their separate identities.

A third grant totaling \$275,000 was awarded to Colorado State Parks and the city of Loveland to expand Boyd Lake State Park northeast of Loveland.

Gary Buffington, Colorado State Parks assistant regional manager, said the money will be used to buy open space on the park's northwest side.

"It's some buffer area we'd like to have between the lake and development on that northwest corner," he said.

Buffington said about 90 acres are being sought to expand the 250 land acres of the park, which also includes about 2,000 acres of water.

Buffington said the money is a start toward achieving some buffering from encroaching development west of Boyd Lake.

"It'll take a lot more than that, but it will be a piece that certainly will help," he said.

Burkhard said the grants will help provide visual open space and — in the case of Horsetooth Mountain Park and Boyd Lake State Park — additional public access and recreation.

"All of these grants will contribute a great deal to the open lands acquisition in Larimer County," she said.

Money for GOCO grants comes from statewide lottery ticket sales.

Fort Collins Observer 27 May 1998



# HORSETOOTH MOUNTAIN PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

## TASK FORCE AGENDA

July 10, 1997

### I. Introductions

### II. The Game Plan - where are we?

A. Purpose and objectives (*hand-out*)

B. Existing conditions inventory and mapping

i. Maps - BHA (*displays*)

a. Slope analysis

b. Vegetation — *Better, finer scale needed*

c. Soils

d. Ecological resources

e. Land use

f. Wildfire hazard

ii. Text

a. Natural resources - BHA (*in process*)

b. Visual resources - BHA (*in process*)

c. Cultural resources - BHA (*in process*)

d. Socioeconomic resources - DRB (*in process*)

### III The Next Step - where are we going?

B. Public process - surveys and workshops

i. User survey (*handout*)

ii. Public workshops

C. Alternative Management Plans

D. Draft Master Plan

E. Final Report

### IV Meeting wrap-up

*Look @ 10/30*

*Exotics - Norman Needs*

*Bruce Hendee  
Angela*

*1930's logging history*

*? Dave - Status of  
veg mapping @ H. tooth*



## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN**

Horsetooth Mountain Park was established in 1982 as a regional park preserve. The original intent behind the establishment of the Park was protect the mountain from residential development and to provide recreational opportunities. An original management plan was drafted in 1982 to serve as a tool for management and development of the area with the assumption that the area would provide public use while maintaining aesthetics, wildlife considerations, and both active and passive outdoor recreation opportunities.

The purpose of this document is to: 1) reexamine the management objectives for the park given the current ecological, social, economic, and political environment; 2) provide the formal program and policy guidelines that will direct the management and use of Horsetooth Mountain Park well into the future; and 3) develop specific implementation strategies for carrying out various components of the management effort. The overall objectives of the plan are to:

- Protect, manage, and enhance natural, cultural, and visual resources including maintaining and promoting healthy ecosystems and their processes;
- Provide and promote safe, enjoyable recreation opportunities while minimizing detrimental impacts upon natural, cultural, and visual resources;
- Provide educational opportunities regarding the values of the surrounding natural, cultural, and visual resources and the importance of responsible use and stewardship of the land;
- Define implementation policies, programs, and responsibilities for the above goals as well as provide specific implementation steps where appropriate.







HORSETOOTH MOUNTAIN PARK USER SURVEY - JULY 1997

*Larimer County Parks and Open Lands is in the process of revising the management plan for Horsetooth Mountain Park. Your input is important to us. Please fill out this survey as thoroughly as possible.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Weather \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

How many people in your party? \_\_\_\_\_ How many dogs? \_\_\_\_\_ How many horses? \_\_\_\_\_

Ages of persons in your party \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you visit the park? \_\_\_\_\_ This is my first visit  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1 - 4 times per year  
\_\_\_\_\_ 5 - 10 times per year  
\_\_\_\_\_ Once a month or more  
\_\_\_\_\_ Once a week or more

Why did you choose Horsetooth Mountain Park? \_\_\_\_\_

Approximately how long do you usually visit the park? \_\_\_\_\_ Less than 2 hours  
\_\_\_\_\_ Between 2 - 4 hours  
\_\_\_\_\_ More than 4 hours  
\_\_\_\_\_ Over night

Overall, how would you rate your experience at the park today? \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_\_ Poor  
Comments:

Please identify the route or trails you were on today. \_\_\_\_\_

Please rate the quality of the:

	Needs improvement	Adequate	Excellent	Comments:
natural environment	_____	_____	_____	
trails	_____	_____	_____	
parking facilities	_____	_____	_____	
picnicking facilities	_____	_____	_____	
visitor information	_____	_____	_____	
brochure with map	_____	_____	_____	

What is the most important reason for your visit today?

_____ Wildlife viewing	_____ Hiking	_____ Mountain Biking	
_____ Horseback Riding	_____ Picnicking	_____ Exercising	
_____ Wildflower viewing	_____ Solitude	_____ Being with others	_____ Other

Comments:



Please rate your feelings of crowding today: ☐ Not crowded at all  
☐ Moderately crowded  
☐ Very crowded

What uses influenced your feelings of crowding? ☐ Hikers ☐ Staff/Rangers  
☐ Mountain Bikers ☐ Picnickers  
☐ Horseback Riders ☐ Other

Did you encounter any wildlife today? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, what did you see?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you had a conflict with another user in the park? ☐ Never ☐ Once ☐ More than once  
If so, what type of user, where and why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In general, do you find the staff and/or rangers to be available, courteous and helpful? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
Comments:

How do you feel about park fees or permits for individuals who walk-in or bike-in?  
Agree with walk/bike-in fees ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree with walk/bike-in fees ☐

If there were designated campsites within the park would you: ☐ be more like to camp overnight  
☐ be less likely to camp overnight  
☐ would not effect camping at all

Would you like to see more environmental education? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Neutral

What is the most negative aspect of the park?

What is the most postive aspect of the park?

Are there any changes that you would like to see to the park? ☐ No ☐ Yes  
Comments:

Would you like to see more parks within Larimer County similar to Horsetooth Mountain Park?  
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Neutral

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*We greatly appreciate your time and contribution to our efforts to improve your experience at Horsetooth Mountain Park.*

*Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Department*



# Horsetooth Mountain Park

## Management Plan

### Soil Evaluation

### Soil Characteristics

### Suitability

Soil Type	slope	soil character	texture	erosion potential
Connerton-Barnum Complex	gentle to steep	alluvial	loam, sandy loam	moderate to severe
Haploborolls- Rock Outcrop Complex	steep to very steep	30-50% rock 50-70% cobble	granite, gneiss, schist	moderate to severe
Haplustolls	steep to very steep, btslope	15-30% cobbles	cobbly with clay loam	moderate to severe
Haplustolls - Rock Outcrop Complex	very steep/mid slope	5'+sandstone boulders,some loam	20%-40% rock outcrop	moderate to severe
Harlan Fine Sandy Loam	1-3%, nearly level	terraces,fans, valleysides	loam,sandy clay loam	moderate
Kirtley Purner Complex	5-20%	some rock outcrop	loam,sandy loam	severe
Purner Fine Sandy Loam	1-9%,uplands,ridges	some rocks ,small outcrops	sandy loam	severe
Ratake Rock Outcrop Complex	25-50% slopes, ridgetops	60%soil ,30% rock outcrop	loam	severe
Satanta	0-1% slope, terraces, uplands	24inch depth	deep,well drained	slight
Trag-Moen Complex	5-30% sides/ridges	loamy	sandy loam	moderate to severe
Wetmore-Boyle-Moen Outcrop Complex	5-40% slopes	frequently in forest	gravelly,sandy, loam	severe

- 2/1/1



# Horsetooth Mountain Park

## Management Plan

### Soil Evaluation

### Recreation Suitability

### Suitability

Soil Type	Recreation Camping	Picnic	Playgrounds	Paths & Trails
Connerton-Barnum Complex	poor	moderate	poor	good
Haploborolls- Rock Outcrop Complex	poor	poor	poor	poor
Haplustolls	poor	poor	poor	poor
Haplustolls - Rock Outcrop Complex	poor	poor	poor	poor
Harlan Fine Sandy Loam	good	good	good	good
Kirtley Purner Complex	moderate	moderate	poor	good
Purner Fine Sandy Loam	good	good	poor	good
Ratake Rock Outcrop Complex	poor	poor	poor	poor
Satanta	good	good	moderate	good
Trag-Moen Complex	poor	poor	poor	moderate
Wetmore-Boyle-Moen Outcrop Complex	poor	poor	poor	moderate



# Horsetooth Mountain Park

## Management Plan

### Soil Evaluation

### Habitat Potential

### Suitability

Soil Type	Wildlife Habitat Potential			
	Open Land	Woodland	Wetland	Rangeland
Connerton-Barnum Complex	moderate	moderate	poor	good
Haploborolls- Rock Outcrop Complex	poor	poor	poor	poor
Haplustolls	poor	poor	poor	poor
Haplustolls - Rock Outcrop Complex	poor	poor	poor	poor
Harlan Fine Sandy Loam	good	good	poor	good
Kirtley Purner Complex	poor	poor	poor	moderate
Purner Fine Sandy Loam	poor	poor	poor	moderate
Ratake Rock Outcrop Complex	poor	poor	poor	moderate
Satanta	moderate	moderate	poor	moderate
Trag-Moen Complex	moderate	moderate	poor	good
Wetmore-Boyle-Moen Outcrop Complex	poor	poor	poor	poor

why is loam a poor trail

116 Wetmore-Boyle-Moen ~~Outcrop~~ Complex

5-40%

117 " " Rock "

5-60% slope



# Horsetooth Mountain Park

## Management Plan

### Soil Evaluation

### Sanitary Facilities

### Suitability

Soil Type	Septic Absorption
Connerton-Barnum Complex	Good
Haploborolls- Rock Outcrop Complex	Poor
Haplustolls	Poor
Haplustolls - Rock Outcrop Complex	Poor
Harlan Fine Sandy Loam	Moderate
Kirtley Purner Complex	Poor
Purner Fine Sandy Loam	Poor
Ratake Rock Outcrop Complex	Poor
Satanta	Good
Trag-Moen Complex	Poor
Wetmore-Boyle-Moen Outcrop Complex	Poor



## SERVICE AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT, made this 26 Day of December, 1997, by and between Larimer County Parks Department, hereinafter referred to as the LANDOWNER, and the State Board of Agriculture in behalf of the Colorado State Forest Service, Fort Collins District, hereinafter referred to as the CONTRACTOR; and

WHEREAS, the CONTRACTOR has the expertise to provide forest practice services:  
and;

WHEREAS, the LANDOWNER desires to implement forest practices described in this Agreement, to develop a Forest Management Plan for Horsetooth Mountain Park, to develop forest management plans for other Larimer County parks in the CSFS Fort Collins District, to educate the public about forestry, to implement resource management practices including tree planting, revegetation, fuels reduction, prescribed fires, insect and disease control, and other projects as are deemed necessary and mutually agreed to by the CONTRACTOR and LANDOWNER.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed that:

1. LANDOWNER warrants that he/she is the owner of the property described as follows or has obtained authority from the owner of said property to grant all rights to the CONTRACTOR provided for in the agreement. The property is described as follows:
  - A. Horestooth Mountain Park, the boundaries of which are defined and identified by the LANDOWNER for the CONTRACTOR.
2. LANDOWNER grants to the CONTRACTOR the right of access to the above described property for the following purposes:
  - A. Development of a forest managment plan. CONTRACTOR will assist with stand delineation, inventory design, data analysis and ground checking inventory results, write stand prescriptions and produce one copy of Forest Management Plan.
  - B. LANDOWNER will obtain aerial photography, delineate forest stands, do field inventory data collection, input data into their computer and produce printouts,



assist with ground truthing of inventory results, data analysis, writing prescriptions, and production of Forest Management Plan.

3. CONTRACTOR agrees to provide the services specified in Paragraph 2 of this Agreement in consideration for:  
  
\$2,000.00.
4. It is understood between the LANDOWNER and the CONTRACTOR that this agreement shall begin on the date first written above and shall remain in force until December 31, 1998.
5. This agreement may be terminated by either party ten (10) days following written notice to the other party.
6. CONTRACTOR may assign the rights provided for in this agreement to a subcontractor of its choice upon approval of the LANDOWNER.
7. The CONTRACTOR shall maintain during the life of this Agreement such liability insurance as is required by state law.
8. This agreement shall be extended due to inability of the FOREST SERVICE to perform work due to circumstances beyond its control or as mutually agreed to by the LANDOWNER and the CONTRACTOR. All extensions will be written and become part of this Agreement.
9. Financial obligations of CSFS payable after the current fiscal year are contingent upon funds for that purpose being appropriated, budgeted and otherwise made available.
10. The CONTRACTOR agrees as part of this Agreement that it will comply with all applicable laws regarding discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, or handicap including but not limited to Executive Order 11246 as amended or as may be further amended hereafter.
11. The laws of the state of Colorado and rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto shall be applied in the interpretation, execution, and enforcement of this Agreement.
12. The signatories hereto aver that they are familiar with 18-8-301, et. Seq., (Bribery and Corrupt Influences) and 18-8-401, et. Seq., (Abuse of Public Office),



C.R.S. 1973, as amended, and that no violation of such provision is present.

13. The signatories aver that to their knowledge no CSFS employee has any personal or beneficial interest whatsoever in the services or property described herein.
14. To the extent authorized by law, the CONTRACTOR shall indemnify, save and hold harmless the LANDOWNER, its employees and agents against any and all claims, damages, liability and court awards including costs, expenses, and attorney fees as a result of any act or omission by the CONTRACTOR, or its employees, agents, subcontractors, or assignees pursuant to the terms of this contract.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have executed this Agreement of the day first written above.

LANDOWNER

*Jeff MacFarlane - Director*

CONTRACTOR

*Mike Babler*  
*District Forester*

Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Department



our copy  
original  
mailed  
[signature]



February 12, 1998

Foothills Campus  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-5075  
(970) 491-8660  
FAX: (970) 491-8645

Will Shafroth  
Great Outdoors Colorado  
303 East 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 900  
Denver, CO 80203

This is a letter of support for Larimer County Parks, Horsetooth Mountain Park Preserve Expansion Grant. Adding to the park will create more lands that Larimer County can manage to reduce the potential for wildland fire. As development continues along the front range, reduction of wildfire risk becomes increasingly important. Additionally the park can manage the forested lands to reduce incidence of insects and disease.

If I can provide additional comment please contact me.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Babler".

Mike Babler  
District Forester



# Larimer County Parks

1800 S. County Road  
Loveland, Colorado 80537  
(970) 679-4570 - Main Office - South Region (Carter Lake)  
(970) 679-4574 - FAX  
(970) 226-4517 - North Region (Horsetooth Reservoir)  
(970) 498-7985 - FAX

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** January 23, 1998

**TO:** Supporters of the Horsetooth Mountain Park Preserve Expansion Project

**FROM:** Daryl Burkhard - Larimer County Parks and Open Lands

**SUBJECT:** Support Letters for Open Lands Grant

**REMARKS:** Enclosed are two pages of information concerning the value of the grant and directions for writing the letters and sending them to us. *These letters are critical to the success of this application* and all contributions you can make are greatly appreciated. Thank you very much for your time and interest.

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	1/23	# of pages	3
To	Mike Baker	From	Daryl B		
Co./Dept.		Co.			
Phone #		Phone #	679-4576		
Fax #	491-8645	Fax #			



1800 S. County Road  
Loveland, Colorado 80537  
(970) 679-4570 - Main Office - South Region (Carter Lake)  
(970) 679-4574 - FAX  
(970) 226-4517 - North Region (Horsetooth Reservoir)  
(970) 498-7985 - FAX

## Larimer County Parks

January 20, 1998

Dear Supporter:

Thank you for your interest in the Horsetooth Mountain Park Preserve Expansion Grant. This Open Lands Conservation Grant project will enable Larimer County to expand Horsetooth Mountain Park by several hundred acres, providing critical buffers to the park from encroaching development while preserving significant natural areas and scenic vistas. The expansion of the park may also provide some additional trail opportunities.

Letters of support from potential users are both *beneficial and critical* to winning grants of this nature. ***The letters of support that have the greatest impact on Great Outdoors Colorado are those that come from the heart and address the specific benefits of this project.*** Letters should identify a need for and/or urgency of the project and the project's benefits. It is important that letters of support be written *in your own words*. To assist you in drafting your own personalized letter of support, we have provided a sample list of needs and benefits below.

### Needs/Benefits:

- Residential development has been encroaching on Horsetooth Mountain Park gradually restricting and limiting the natural processes in the park and impacting wildlife. Buffers to the park are essential for maintaining the ecological integrity of the park.
- Horsetooth Mountain Park supports populations of several rare butterflies and is contained within a Conservation Site delineated by the Colorado Natural Heritage Programs. To protect these butterflies, additional buffers to the park and protection of lands contained within the site have been recommended.
- Horsetooth Mountain Park's scenic vistas are slowly disappearing due to encroaching development.
- Encroaching development around Horsetooth Mountain Park impairs the ability of the park to address fire control and hazards. Buffers, particularly along the steep slopes and ridges of the mountain is essential for fire safety and control.
- The dramatically increasing population along the northern Front Range is creating an increased demand for hiking, biking, and horseback riding trails, putting significant pressure on existing trail systems in the park. Expansion of the park will enable a few additional trails to be added to the trail system, alleviating some of the current trail congestion.

Other useful information that you may wish to use for your letters include:

- The Horsetooth Mountain Park Preserve Expansion grant includes the proposed acquisition of the Soderberg property, the last remaining acreage of the original Soderberg ranch that was purchased to create the Mountain Park.
- The Park provides habitat for 126 bird species including bald eagles and golden eagles, a large variety of mammals such as mountain lions, mule deer, coyotes, black bears, elk, white-tail deer, red fox, Abert's squirrel, bobcat, chipmunks, skunks, and rabbits, and several rare butterflies including a globally imperiled species.

We hope this information is helpful in developing your letter. Please feel free to call Daryl Burkhard at 679-4576 (FAX 679-4574) if you have any questions. Please note that in order to be incorporated into the grant, letters should be **mailed or faxed no later than February 11, 1998.**

Please address your letters to:

Will Shafroth  
Great Outdoors Colorado  
303 East 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 900  
Denver, CO 80203

**But mail them to:**

Daryl R. Burkhard  
Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Dept.  
1800 South County Road 31  
Loveland, CO 80537

This is so that the letters can be included in the actual grant application.

Thank you for your support,  
LARIMER COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN LANDS



February 2, 1998



Larimer County Parks  
1800 S. County Road 31  
Loveland, CO 80537

Foothills Campus  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-5075  
(970) 491-8660  
FAX: (970) 491-8645

Attn.: Daryl Burkhard

I have reviewed the draft Horsetooth Mountain Park Management Plan. I have a couple of comments on the plan. Lory State Park has chosen not to update their forest management plan at this time. You may want to modify section 4.1.1, page 4-2, to reflect that Lory is considering an update and you would work with them in the future if they begin implementation. For your information we have agreed to do a forest health demonstration project at Lory in the area along and south of the Arthurs Rock trail. The project will involve removals, thinning, pruning and prescribed fire emphasizing fuel reduction and wildlife habitat modification. The project will come close to Horsetooth Mountain Park but will not get to the common boundary.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the plan. I am looking forward to working with all involved to develop the forest management plan. Please keep me informed of any planning needs, time lines, etc., that will impact my part of the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Babler".

Mike Babler  
District Forester

*Same copy of plan.*

October 29, 1999

Larimer County  
Parks and Open Space Department  
1800 South County Road 31  
Loveland, CO 80537

Fort Collins District  
Foothills Campus, Building 1052  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-5075  
(970) 491-8660  
FAX: (970) 491-8645

Attn: Megan Flannigan

Dear Megan,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on the Hughey property resource management plan. Not having seen the property myself, I am basing my comments on the document.


One point that needs further attention is the comment on old growth trees. Old growth has very specific meaning. I question if the stand is old growth with an average stand age of 40-50 years. It would be better to state that there are older trees in the Bathtub Spring ravine, unless the stand meets the specific criteria of old growth. If it is old growth then it should become a separate unit as another stand, or compartment within stand 5, and managed separately.

Mountain pine beetle trees have been identified. As you know this insect can kill trees rapidly. This area needs to have currently infected trees treated before next summers beetle flight. The entire Horsetooth Park should be surveyed for beetles and treated. Unless the beetles are controlled they will continue to kill increasing numbers of trees every year.

The document references fuel loading concerns. With heavy mistletoe infection, dense and overstocked stands of trees and large amounts of dead and down materials, the area should be managed to reduce hazard and improve forest health. I encourage you to actively manage the property by using the best practices appropriate based on existing conditions. This can include timber harvests and forest product production to prescribed fire. I am willing to visit the property with you, Bobby, Mike or others, to review options and incorporate this property into the overall forest management of Horsetooth Mountain Park.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. Let me know when we can do a site visit and discuss management on the ground. Sounds like a very nice addition to the Horsetooth Park area.

Sincerely,



Mike Babler  
District Forester





Foothills Campus  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-5075  
(970) 491-8660  
FAX: (970) 491-8645

December 7, 1998

Mike Fleming  
Larimer County Parks Department  
1800 S County Road 31  
Loveland, CO 80537

Dear Mike;

I took one of our prescribed fire experts to look at the dwarf mistletoe infected areas in Horsetooth Mountain Park that you wondered about burning. After looking at the current situation we agreed that the small fuels component needed to adequately carry fire is missing. To effectively burn the area fire burning conditions would need to be severe, unless more fuels are made available on the ground. I recommend the county mechanically thin the trees, scatter limbs and debris on the ground. Allow this to cure for several months and then burn at a later time. Once these branches and needles have dried, a prescribed fire with the right wind, temperature, and humidity would be an effective way to reduce disease and fire danger. I suggest you define the area to treat, mark it and thin it. Lop and scatter limbs and unmerchantable materials. Mountain Pine Beetle infecting Ponderosa pine trees in the park typically fly to new host trees in August. Trees should not be cut between July 1 and October 1 to minimize risk of attracting beetles into the area. There is a high percent of Douglas-fir on the north facing slope. Marking should favor trees other than Douglas-fir and reduce ladder fuels. However do not deliberately leave defective or other undesirable trees.

Prior to burning you need to develop a plan, file for appropriate permits etc. Because of high visibility, this project would be an excellent education opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of prescribed fire to the public. Under the wrong conditions a fire in this area would be impossible to control. Allowing dwarf mistletoe to continue to infect trees will only increase problems. I encourage you to treat this area to reduce the amount of disease in the stand and to reduce fire danger.

I hope this information is helpful. Let me know how we can continue helping with management of Horsetooth Mountain Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Babler".

Mike Babler  
District Forester