

LARIMER COUNTY OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD

The mission of Larimer County Department of Natural Resources is to establish, protect and manage significant regional parks and open lands providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities and stewardship of natural resource values. We are committed to fostering a sense of community and appreciation for the natural and agricultural heritage of Larimer County for present and future generations.

Date: August 27, 2020

Time: 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Webinar. Public registration:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IK3QO8SFTlibrJxvjwTXog

Contact: Please contact Sidney at smichl@larimer.org or 970-619-4462 if you are unable to attend

AGENDA

Scheduled times are subject to change.

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - a. Natural Resources events for this month: larimer.org/naturalresources.
 - b. To sign up for Open Lands Advisory Board updates, go to apps.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm, enter your email, click “Subscribe,” and check the “Open Lands Advisory Board” box.
 - c. Estes Valley Open Space & Recreation Plan – [draft available online](#)
 - d. Improvements recently made to springs and entry sign at Eagle’s Nest Open Space – Steve Gibson
6. UPDATES & REPORTS
 - a. Quarterly report (April-June) – Daylan

- b. Requesting members to assist with the 2021 Small Grants for Community Partnering subcommittee – Zac

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Chimney Hollow Waterline and Fiber Easements Final Review
- b. Hawk Canyon Fee Final Review

9. OTHER BUSINESS

10. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: September 24, 2020 via Zoom Webinar

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a)) for discussion pertaining to the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real, personal or other property interest.

12. ADJOURN

Included in PDF:

- Agenda
- Sales Tax Revenue Distribution Report
- Q2 2020 Report
- Chimney Hollow Waterline and Fiber easement recommendation and map
- Hawk Canyon Final Review

Attached Separately:

- Minutes of last meeting
- News article

This meeting will be recorded and archived according to law. Votes require a quorum.

Public can view agenda and minutes at:

http://legacy.larimer.org/boards/minutes/openlands_advisory_board.cfm



OPEN SPACE SALES TAX ACTIVITY
June 2020 Distribution

REVENUES:

SALES TAX	\$	1,413,374.69
MV USE TAX	\$	89,477.29
BUILDING USE TAX	\$	64,222.88
INTEREST	\$	667.94
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	1,567,742.80

EXPENDITURES:

PERSONNEL & OPERATING	\$	5,739.48		\$	28,019.84
				\$	28,019.84
NET REVENUE:	\$	1,562,003.32			

% SALES TAX DISTRIBUTED TO INCORP. AREAS (USED AS A BASIS) 50%

DISTRIBUTION BASED ON POPULATION

2019 State of Colorado Statistics

	2018 <u>POPULATION</u>	<u>% OF INCORP AREA</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
FORT COLLINS	167,347	59.36	\$ 463,577.59
LOVELAND	77,226	27.39	\$ 213,928.20
ESTES PARK	6,301	2.23	\$ 17,454.76
BERTHOUD	7,632	2.71	\$ 21,141.84
WELLINGTON	9,894	3.51	\$ 27,407.94
WINDSOR	7,329	2.60	\$ 20,302.49
JOHNSTOWN	2,235	0.79	\$ 6,191.30
TIMNATH	3,970	1.41	\$ 10,997.53
TOTAL INCORP.	281,934	100.00	\$ 781,001.66

DISTRIBUTION BASED ON SALES TAX GENERATION

2019 Larimer County Statistics

	2018 <u>GENERATION</u>	<u>% OF INCORP AREA SALES TAX</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
FORT COLLINS	\$ 13,743,866	53.93	\$ 421,228.81
LOVELAND	\$ 7,720,582	30.29	\$ 236,580.35
ESTES PARK	\$ 1,539,645	6.04	\$ 47,179.06
BERTHOUD	\$ 263,974	1.04	\$ 8,088.89
WELLINGTON	\$ 232,991	0.91	\$ 7,139.50
WINDSOR	\$ 298,484	1.17	\$ 9,146.40
JOHNSTOWN	\$ 851,021	3.34	\$ 26,077.67
TIMNATH	\$ 836,707	3.28	\$ 25,639.06
TOTAL INCORP	\$ 25,487,271	100.00	\$ 781,079.76

DISTRIBUTION BASED ON HIGHEST YIELD TO INCORPORATED AREAS:

FORT COLLINS	\$ 463,577.59	53.41
LOVELAND	\$ 236,580.35	27.26
ESTES PARK	\$ 47,179.06	5.44
BERTHOUD	\$ 21,141.84	2.44
WELLINGTON	\$ 27,407.94	3.16
WINDSOR	\$ 20,302.49	2.34
JOHNSTOWN	\$ 26,077.67	3.00
TIMNATH	\$ 25,639.06	2.95
TOTAL INCORP	\$ 867,906.01	100.00

DISTRIBUTION FOR MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT:

		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>	<u>PAID TO DATE</u>
FORT COLLINS	\$ 417,159.08	\$ 2,133,289.71	\$ 87,092,604.25
LOVELAND	\$ 212,891.31	\$ 1,088,694.62	\$ 40,654,862.67
ESTES PARK	\$ 42,454.97	\$ 217,108.43	\$ 6,768,213.15
BERTHOUD	\$ 19,024.89	\$ 97,290.47	\$ 3,209,391.62
WELLINGTON	\$ 24,663.55	\$ 126,125.76	\$ 3,078,763.10
WINDSOR	\$ 18,269.58	\$ 93,427.91	\$ 1,760,568.46
JOHNSTOWN	\$ 23,466.49	\$ 120,004.14	\$ 1,219,122.68
TIMNATH	\$ 23,071.79	\$ 117,985.75	\$ 1,438,210.76
TOTAL INCORP	\$ 781,001.66	\$ 3,993,926.79	\$ 145,221,736.69
TOTAL UNINCORP	\$ 781,001.66	\$ 3,993,926.79	\$ 107,665,429.46
TOTAL	\$ 1,562,003.32	\$ 7,987,853.58	\$ 252,887,166.15
	\$ -		



2020

Larimer County Natural Resources

QUARTERLY BOARD REPORT
2ND QUARTER (APRIL MAY JUNE)



Unprecedented Visitation Requires Agile Response

Record visitation was noted this quarter at all DNR reservoir parks and open spaces as hordes of visitors sought the benefits of being outdoors during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through June 30, daily permit sales at the reservoir parks were 51% higher over the same period last year. Aquatic Nuisance Species boat inspectors are experiencing the same increased customer demand. In May 2020, 8,000 boat inspections were completed, which is more than double increase over 2019 (3,500 inspections). DNR staff worked to meet increased sanitation and enforcement loads, to shift annual permit sales online, while simultaneously increasing site signage and public messaging to meet customer demand. Additionally, the Weed District office adopted a curbside delivery system for herbicide sales to lessen in-person contacts. This nimble approach has proven effective - as herbicide sales revenue continues to be strong, surpassing 2019 figures by 73%.



Devil's Backbone Open Space parking lot and trailhead throughout this spring while residents looked to find reprieve from the stay at home order.

New Inspection Stations Coming to Reservoirs



Inspectors check a boat for aquatic nuisance species last summer.

Since 2008, the Department has been working in partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Bureau of Reclamation to inspect trailered boats to safeguard reservoirs from Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS). This spring, increased demands for water-based recreation have increased ANS inspections. The Department is currently preparing to construct four small inspection stations at Horsetooth and Carter Lake reservoirs that will provide dedicated inspector workspace and equipment storage. The project is currently in design and is expected to be permitted for construction this fall.

A Boost for Conservation in Laramie Foothills



Panoramic views reside throughout the Laramie Foothills region.

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) recently awarded Larimer County and the City of Fort Collins an \$822,475 Special Opportunity Open Space grant to help fund conservation of four working ranches, totaling 2,893-acres in the Laramie Foothills. These ranches provide significant buffers to Red Mountain Open Space and over 50,000 acres of other locally conserved lands in this ecologically and culturally rich region. Since 1992, GOCO has been an important and unprecedented funding partner to Larimer County Natural Resources, having awarded the Department with 64 grants, totaling \$28.1 million dollars!

Big Changes at River Bluffs Open Space Trailhead

The trailhead at River Bluffs Open Space has seen exciting changes. In early May, a new 1-mile, 10-foot concrete trail opened. DNR Planning staff worked with the Town of Windsor to design this connection to the Town of Windsor's Kyger Open Space, where Windsor has developed a trailhead and soft surface trail around Kyger Reservoir. Ultimately, this spur will connect to Windsor's regional trail system, providing incredible access to the regional Poudre River Trail. In coordination with the trail project, non-native Siberian elm trees were removed from the trailhead and replaced with native species. These improvements are already proving to be a valued asset to the communities they serve.



The Kyger Trail will connect to Windsor's regional trail system.

Glade Park 2.0



The natural surface trail guides visitors to the river.

Once a mobile home community, Glade Park was transformed by catastrophic flooding of the Big Thompson River in 1976, and again in 2013. The 2013 floodwaters created a second, overflow channel where a parking lot and picnic area once stood. In spring of 2020, Glade Park reopened to the public following replacement of old barbwire fence with wildlife friendly fencing, creating nose-in parking spaces, and trails program staff formalizing a natural surface trail loop to the river. Following various assessments, a light approach to site restoration was recommended, primarily allowing natural processes to occur. This tactic has proved successful as both the instream and native riparian forest communities are now thriving, providing beneficial wildlife habitat.



Restoration of an old roadbed at Homestead Meadows Trail is filling in nicely with native plants. The trail realignment is visible to the right/uphill.

Habitat Restoration at Work

This May, DNR completed capital improvement projects to restore approximately 2 miles of unneeded roads at Red Mountain, River Bluffs and Hermit Park open spaces with the goals to decrease fragmentation, eliminate erosion, and restore native plant communities. Specifically, at Hermit Park Open Space, the Homestead Meadows Trail had been located within an old roadbed that also provided access to two cabins. As identified in the property management plan, these cabins will be relocated to a common "cabin loop" on-site, and an improved, single-track alignment for the Homestead Meadows Trail was constructed concurrent with the road being restored.

Accolade for Poudre River Restoration and Resilience Project

We are honored to receive a 2020 Starburst Award from the Colorado Lottery for the Poudre River Restoration and Resilience Project at River Bluffs Open Space. Earlier this spring, the 3/4-mile reach of the Poudre River was transformed into a healthy and resilient ecosystem by using innovative techniques to re-connect the river to its floodplain, create wetland and riparian habitat, improve flood resiliency, and promote natural river function. As noted by Zac Wiebe, Planning and Resource Manager, "It's an honor to be recognized for this project's ingenuity, broad stakeholder input and diverse funding partners. Special thanks to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and Great Outdoors Colorado for their financial partnerships."



Removal of an invasive exotic species, feral rye, at Devil's Backbone Open Space will allow more native species to thrive.

Taking Back the Grasslands

A grassland restoration project at the Devil's Backbone Open Space began this quarter. An invasive exotic species, feral rye (*Secale cereal*) has escaped cultivation and is outcompeting native species, thus altering the way the eco-system functions. In March, an aerial applicator was hired to treat 150 acres infested with feral rye with the goal of exhausting the seed bank and allowing native species to thrive. According to Amy Gilboy, Restoration and Stewardship Specialist, "Big changes are already noticeable! The absence of feral rye in the treatment area has led to more wildflowers, an abundance of insects, and more diverse species."

Financial Summary

Larimer County Natural Resources Department has five primary revenue sources including Colorado lottery proceeds, open spaces sales tax revenues, user fees on open space properties, user fees on reservoir park

properties, and weed district property tax revenues. Below are the April 1 through June 30 revenue summaries, annual and daily permit sales, and camping reservation nights compared to the same period the previous year.

Year to Date Revenue (through June 30th 2020)

	2019	2020	% Change
Colorado Lottery	\$456,273	\$335,927	-26%
Open Spaces Sales Tax	\$2,522,844	\$2,521,215	0%
Open Spaces Generated User Fees*	\$519,877	\$489,418	-6%
Reservoir Parks Generated User Fees*	\$2,126,029	\$2,585,231	+22%
Weed District Property Tax	\$614,143	\$717,633	+17%

*User fees include those for entrance, camping, special events, group use areas, and penalty assessments

Year to Date Number of Permit Sales (through June 30th 2020)

	2019	2020	% Change
Open Spaces			
Annual Permits	659	565	-14%
Daily Permits	25,889	31,014	+20%
Reservoir Parks			
Annual Permits	3,730	4,352	+17%
Daily Permits	50,497	76,181	+51%

Year to Date Camping Reservation Nights (through June 30th 2020)

	2019	2020	% Change
Open Spaces	2,444	2,521	+3%
Reservoir Parks	17,994	14,734	-18%



Larimer County
 Department of Natural Resources
 Quarterly Board Report
 Published: July 2020

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larimer.org/naturalresources



Recommendation to grant easements

The Board's recommendation is being sought for the County to grant two easements on the Chimney Hollow Open Space. One easement would be to Western Area Power Administration for an overhead fiber optic line, involving no ground disturbance on County property for a total of 0.1 acres, and partially within an existing overhead powerline easement. The second easement is part of the Windy Gap Firing Project and is for installing a buried 72" water line to be used for filling the Chimney Hollow Reservoir. This easement has been anticipated from the beginning of the project. Staff has worked with Northern Water to minimize impacts and to provide for erosion control and restoration of the surface.

Both easements would be covered by the conservation easement on the property, held by the City of Loveland. Both the City and Great Outdoors Colorado have been asked to approve these actions, which are provided for in the conservation easement.



FINAL REVIEW: Hawk Canyon Ranch Fee

Date: August 27, 2020

Staff Assigned: Justin Core

Property Description:

Located between Red Mountain Open Space (RMOS) to the east and Colorado State University's (CSU) Maxwell Ranch to the west and included in the 2020 Laramie Foothills Expansion project grant application to Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), this project includes Larimer County's fee purchase of 1,091 acres and conveyance of a conservation easement on the land to the City of Fort Collins. The property will be managed as part of RMOS and has the potential to provide limited hunting and cattle grazing without increasing management costs significantly.

This stunning property includes part of the largest extent of CNHP-tracked (A-ranked/excellent condition) globally imperiled mountain mahogany shrubland communities and open ponderosa pine forests bisected by large ephemeral stream-carved canyons and hogback rock outcroppings as the property gradually climbs in elevation to the west. Maintained in excellent condition, the property provides an over 2-mile buffer and scenic backdrop to RMOS.

Priority Area:	Laramie Foothills
Short Legal:	Portions of Sections 11 and 14, Township 11 North, Range 70 West
Acreage:	1,091 acres
Current Zoning:	O - Open
Adjacent Zoning:	O - Open
Water Rights:	None
Mineral Rights:	Severed
Liens:	None

<i>Evaluation Criteria:</i>	<i>Staff Assessment</i>
Scenic Values	H
Buffer Values	H
Wetlands Values	M
Significant Plants/Natural Communities Values	H
Outdoor Recreation Values	M
Historical/Archaeological Values	N/A
Agricultural Values	M
Geological/Paleontological Values	N/A
Education Values	N/A
Context	H
Community Benefit	H
Partnerships/Cost-Value	H

Partnerships:

Great Outdoors Colorado
City of Fort Collins,
Friends of Larimer County

Description:

Funding partner; Will hold CE
Funding partner; Will hold CE

Property Interest for Larimer County: Fee-simple

Purchase Price: \$3,498,837.00

Financial Terms: Cash at closing

Funding Sources:

Amount:

Larimer County	\$1,980,769.00
Great Outdoors Colorado	\$450,000.00
City of Fort Collins	\$1,066,568.00
Friends of Larimer County	\$1,500.00

Closing Date:

September 18, 2020

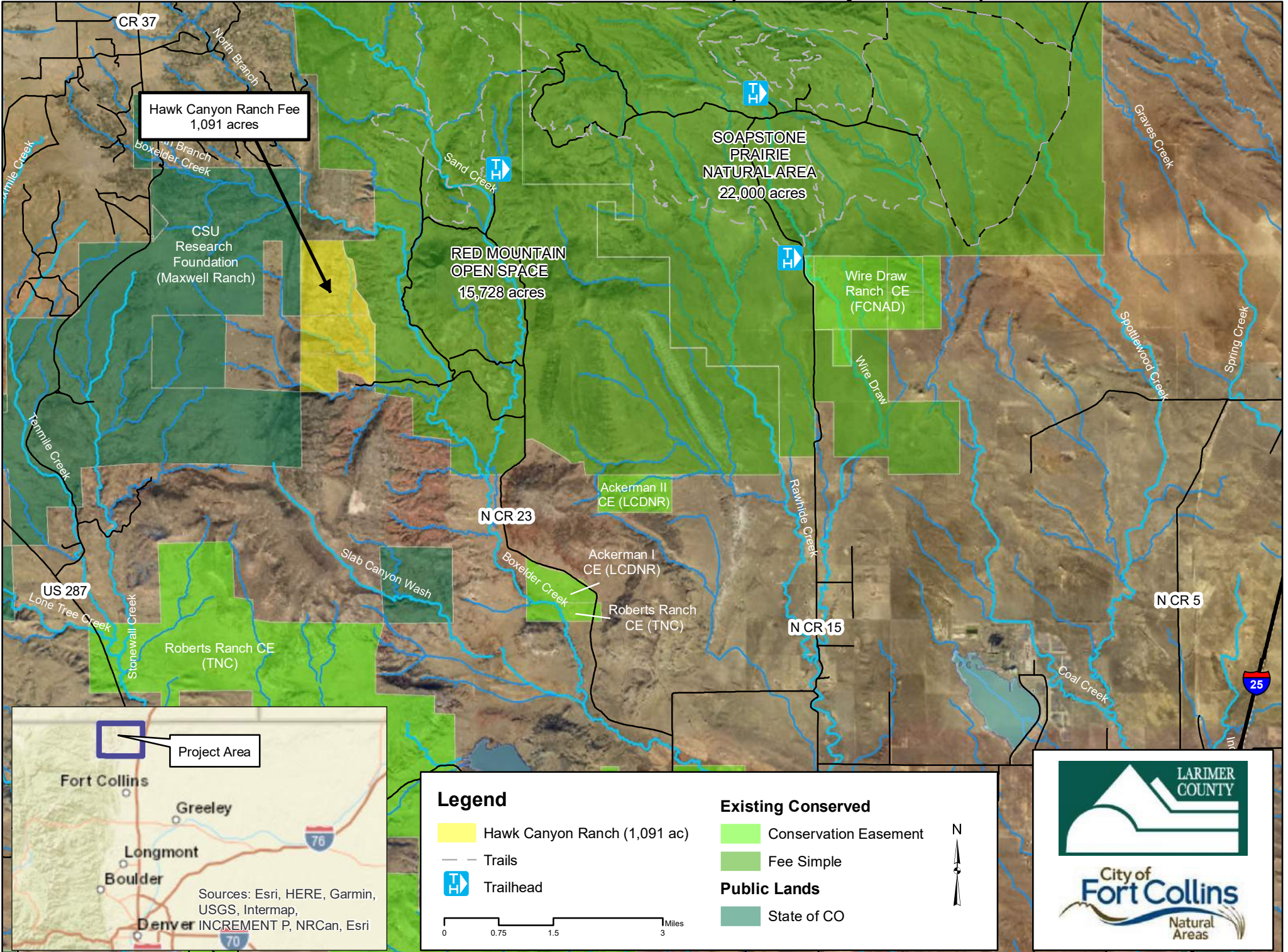
Open Lands Advisory Board Final Review Date:

August 27, 2020

Board of County Commissioners Final Review Date:

September 1, 2020

Laramie Foothills Mountains to Plains 2020 Expansion Project - Area Map



Hawk Canyon Ranch Fee
1,091 acres

SOAPSTONE
PRAIRIE
NATURAL AREA
22,000 acres

RED MOUNTAIN
OPEN SPACE
15,728 acres

CSU
Research
Foundation
(Maxwell Ranch)

Wire Draw
Ranch CE
(FCNAD)

Ackerman II
CE (LCDNR)

Ackerman I
CE (LCDNR)

Roberts Ranch
CE (TNC)

Roberts Ranch CE
(TNC)

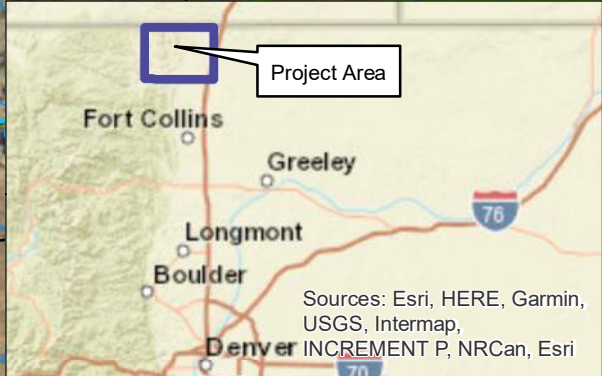


Legend

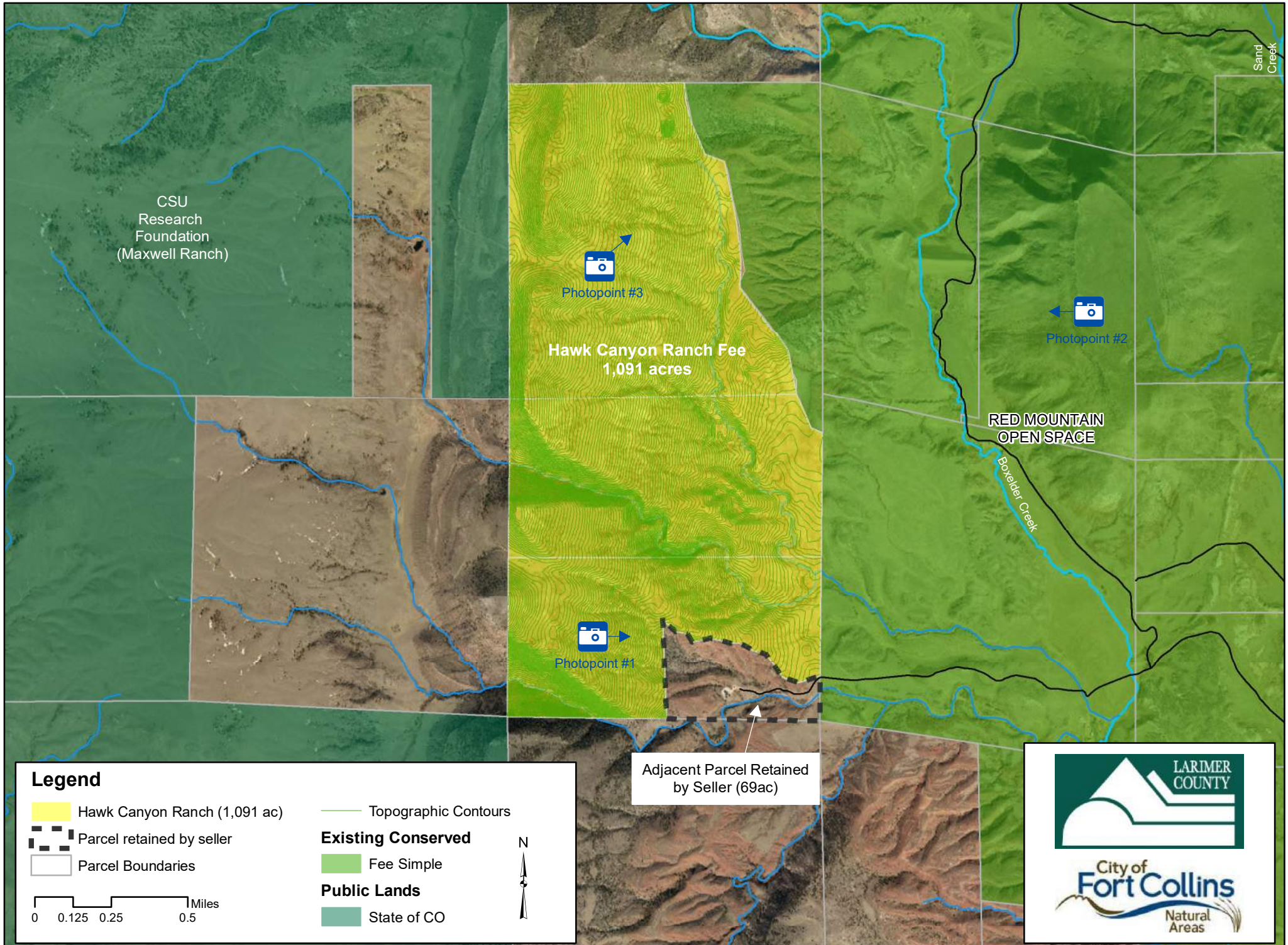
- Hawk Canyon Ranch (1,091 ac)
- Trails
- T
H Trailhead
- Existing Conserved
 - Conservation Easement
 - Fee Simple
- Public Lands
 - State of CO

0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

N

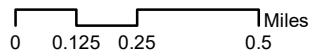


Laramie Foothills Mountains to Plains 2020 Expansion Project - Hawk Canyon Ranch Site Map



Legend

- Hawk Canyon Ranch (1,091 ac)
- Parcel retained by seller
- Parcel Boundaries
- Topographic Contours
- Existing Conserved**
- Fee Simple
- Public Lands**
- State of CO



Adjacent Parcel Retained by Seller (69ac)







