

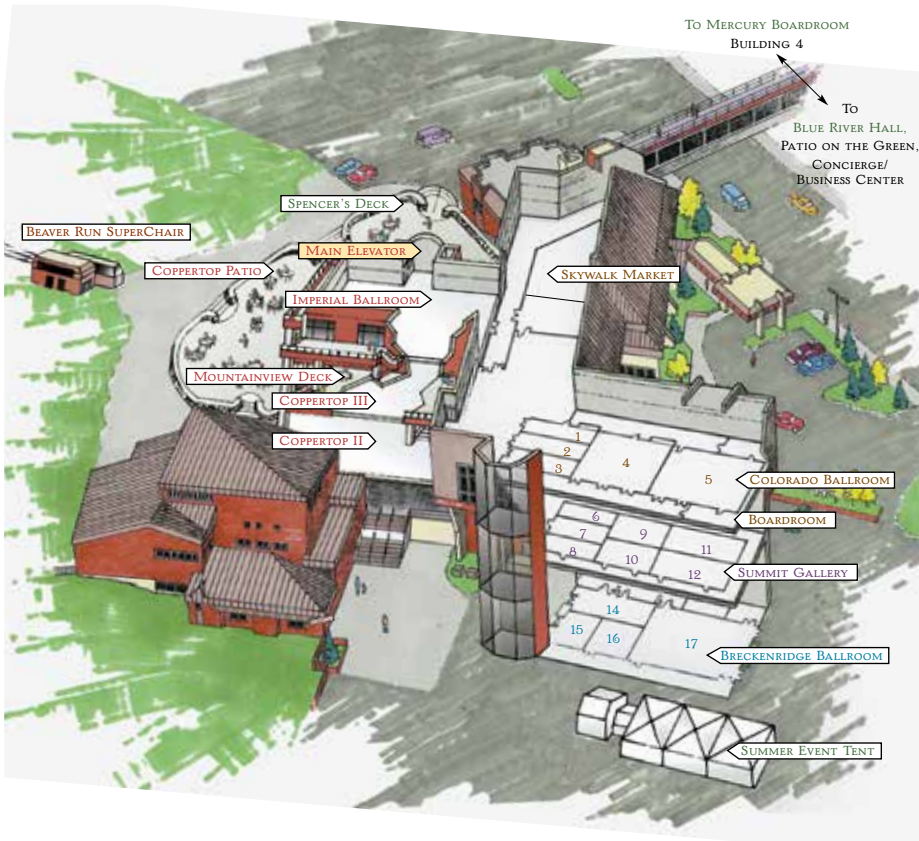
Open Space: Open to All

September 18-20, 2017

Beaver Run Resort
Breckenridge, Colorado



Beaver Run Resort
620 Village Road
Breckenridge, CO 80424



*Presenter bios can be viewed at
coloradoopenspace.org/registration*

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Monday, September 18

| | | Room |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|
| 8:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Registration & EXPO | 3rd Floor Foyer |
| 10:00 - 10:10 AM | Welcome - Eric Mamula, Mayor of Breckenridge | Peak 4-5 |
| 10:10 - 10:20 AM | COSA Updates | Peak 4-5 |
| 10:30 - 11:45 AM | SESSION 1 | see pg 12 |
| 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM | Lunch (plated) & Award Presentations | Peak 4-5 |
| 1:00 - 2:15 PM | SESSION 2 | see pg 12 |
| 2:30 - 3:45 PM | SESSION 3 | see pg 12 |
| 4:00 - 5:15 PM | SESSION 4 | see pg 12 |
| 5:30 - 6:30 PM | EXPO Social | 3rd Floor Foyer |
| | Dinner on Your Own | |

Tuesday, September 19

| | | Room |
|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| 6:30 - 7:30 AM | Yoga | Peak 1-3 |
| 7:15 - 8:00 AM | Breakfast | 3rd Floor Foyer |
| 7:30 - 8:30 AM | Registration & EXPO | 3rd Floor Foyer |
| 8:00 - 8:10 AM | Welcome - Dan Gibbs, Summit County Commissioner | Peak 4-5 |
| 8:15 - 9:00 AM | KEYNOTE ADDRESS - José Gonzalez - Yo Cuento: Leading through an Inclusive Narrative | Peak 4-5 |
| 9:15 - 10:15 AM | SESSION 5 | see pg 12 |
| 10:30 - 11:30 AM | SESSION 6 | see pg 13 |
| 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM | Boxed Lunch | |
| 12:30 - 4:30 PM | Field Trips - Meet in main parking lot below registration area | |
| 5:30 - 8:30 PM | COSA Annual Networking Dinner | Mi Casa Restaurant |
| | Mi Casa Restaurant (600 South Park Ave. in Breckenridge) is a 0.4-mile walk from Beaver Run Resort. Take Village Road downhill from the resort, go right on South Park Avenue and Mi Casa will be on your left-hand side. | |

Wednesday, September 20

| | | Room |
|------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 7:30 - 8:30 AM | Yoga | Peak 1-3 |
| 8:15 - 9:00 AM | Breakfast & Registration | 3rd Floor Foyer |
| 9:00 - 9:10 AM | Welcome | Peak 4-5 |
| 9:15 - 10:15 AM | KEYNOTE ADDRESS - Dr. Amy Lethbridge - The intersection of research, practice and reflection: One agency's journey to diversity and inclusion | Peak 4-5 |
| 10:30 - 11:45 AM | SESSION 7 | see pg 13 |
| 11:00 AM | Check-out (unless arranged with hotel) | |
| 12:00 PM | Conference concludes | <i>Please recycle your name tag.</i> |

KEYNOTE INFORMATION

Tuesday • 8:15 - 9:00 AM

José Gonzalez, Founder and Executive Director, Latino Outdoors: Yo Cuento: Leading through an Inclusive Narrative

Summary: The power of narrative frames so much of what is valued, supported and ultimately protected in the conservation landscape. That has affirmed some mainstream, or “normative”, views of what is the outdoors, who is it for, what is it for, and what leadership is present or presented as accepted decision-makers in the conservation landscape.

José will share some ways in which we “count” in the narratives of the outdoors and other conservation issues, especially in connection with cultural identity and a recognized need for more diversification in the conservation movement. How are we representative, and how do we represent ourselves? Whether you’ve thought of yourself as a conservationist/ environmentalist or simply enjoy the outdoors from different perspectives, there is room for inclusion and an expanded narrative of multiple identities – and the stories we tell, the storytellers we support and the narratives we weave.

Bio: José Gonzalez is the founder and executive director of Latino Outdoors. He is an experienced educator as a K-12 public education teacher, environmental education advisor, outdoor education instructor and coordinator, and university adjunct faculty. His commentary on diversity and environmental outreach has been featured by *High Country News*, *Outside*, *Earth Island Journal* and *Latino USA*, and he has been engaged in collaborations with the White House Council on Environmental Quality, U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service. He also represents Latino Outdoors in several coalitions, including the Latino Conservation Alliance and the Next 100 Coalition. He has been recognized with several honors, including by the National Wildlife Federation, *Grist Magazine* and The Murie Center. He received his B.A. at the University of California, Davis, and his M.S. at the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources & Environment.



KEYNOTE INFORMATION

Wednesday • 9:15 - 10:15 AM

Dr. Amy Lethbridge, Executive Director, Community Nature Connection: The intersection of research, practice and reflection: One agency’s journey to diversity and inclusion

Summary: Dr. Amy Lethbridge will tell the story of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority’s (MRCA) award-winning programs addressing barriers to open space for underserved audiences. The MRCA, a regional open space agency, has made a 25-year investment in innovative programming designed to address those barriers, including transportation, career programs and multigenerational interpretive programming. Lethbridge will speak to how these programs have evolved over time with the development of robust community partnerships and internal changes that maximize opportunities for success.

Bio: Dr. Amy Lethbridge grew up running wild through the creeks and forests of Northern California. A 1988 encounter with schoolchildren in Southern California who had never seen the ocean opened her eyes to the deficit of nature that many urban children experience and her life’s passion was found. Amy has worked for the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for 27 years and is a Deputy Executive Officer of that regional park agency. She serves as a pro bono Executive Director of Community Nature Connection as she did previously with the Mountains Education Program (MEP). Amy has a B.A. in Liberal Studies, a master’s in Organizational Management and a Ph.D. in Leadership and Change. She is the Past President of the National Association for Interpretation and is a Certified Interpretive Guide, Manager, and Trainer. She has trained tour guides and park/natural area managers in outdoor education and heritage interpretation in nine countries. Her very favorite thing is when she is sharing an outdoor activity with young people and they tell her, “I saw this once on TV.”



SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

SESSION 1 • Monday, 10:30 - 11:45 AM

1A—Ranger Program Standards: The Call for a National Dialogue (Coppertop III)

Ken Brink, Jr., Larimer County Department of Natural Resources

Ken's presentation was born from a full year of program review at Larimer County Department of Natural Resources. This process paired with Ken's personal experience working within Colorado's State Parks system led him to believe that we are in need of a national dialogue about the critically important role of rangers. Ken recently presented to the Parks Law Enforcement Association and is scheduled to present to the National Association of State Parks Directors this fall. This program focuses on history, roles, branding, and what makes rangers unique and important to the future of natural resource management.

1B—Volunteer Stewardship in Colorado: A Watershed Moment (Peak 6-8)

Ann Baker Easley, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado; Jason Bertolacci, Statewide Stewardship Initiative

With Colorado's rapidly growing population, booming recreational economy, changing climate and uncertain national political landscape, the need to care for and conserve our public lands heritage has never been greater. Join us to discuss \$1.2M dollars in new grant funding — and how local organizations and land managers can leverage the new Statewide Stewardship Initiative to promote effective volunteer engagement to steward and protect Colorado's lands and waters. Help shape stewardship efforts for years to come.

1C—There Goes the Neighborhood! Water Quality Challenges (Peak 11)

Anne Murphy, Town of Breckenridge Open Space; Jessica Doran, EcoMetrics

Cucumber Gulch, the crown jewel of the Town of Breckenridge's open space program, is the site of an extensive preservation and wetland restoration project. Located at the base of the popular Breckenridge Ski Resort and surrounded by mountain home and resort construction, the Gulch is experiencing significant water quality challenges from increasing sediment loads. This session will review the Town's adaptive management techniques to protect water quality and the numerous wildlife that live and breed in the Gulch.



1D—BEING eco-LOGICAL (Peak 1-3)

Rob Burdine, City of Lafayette Open Space; Martin Ogle, Entrepreneurial Earth LLC

This presentation will describe how Lafayette Open Space is practicing "community ecology" through an interdisciplinary/inclusive open space education program. We have provided a common ground in which we collaborate with other city, local and national entities to blend "traditional" environmental education with sustainability,

natural history, human history, the arts, youth, local agriculture and more. A significant part of this collaboration involves making connections between environmental literacy and careers through work with local and national organizations, summer Youth Corps programs and various local youth outlets.

1E—Investing in Colorado, Exploring Colorado's Return on Investments in Conservation Easements: Conservation Easement Tax Credit Program and Great Outdoors Colorado [repeated in session 7E] (Peak 12)

Michael Menefee, Colorado Natural Heritage Program

The State of Colorado has invested substantial financial resources assisting state agencies, local governments, and private nonprofit land trusts in the voluntary acquisition of conservation easements from willing landowners. Two of the State's principal efforts to incentivize the acquisition of conservation easements are the Conservation Easement Tax Credit program and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). Although these programs have funded acquisitions for over 22 years, there is little quantitative information about the benefits Colorado residents receive from the State's investments. A study examined the ecological and economic benefits to the public from the Conservation Easement Tax Credit program and GOCO-funded conservation easements. Come to this session to learn more about the exciting results of this study that show the citizens of Colorado reap at least \$4 for every dollar invested and enjoy the conservation benefits of hundreds of thousands of acres of conservation priorities being protected on private lands for current and future generations.

1F—Directors, Managers & Board Members (Peak 9-10)

Tom Hoby, Jeffco Open Space

Join your peers to discuss trends and issues that will affect land and visitor management in the near term and long term. Tom Hoby, Director of Jeffco Open Space, will seed the discussion with a short presentation covering: managing visitors and turning them into stewards; striking a balance between public access and protection; data driven decision making; and continuous conservation. After the presentation, we'll break into small groups for an exchange of ideas and more discussion.

SESSION 2 • Monday, 1:00 - 2:15 PM

2A—Trail Builder Roundtable (Peak 6-8)

Tony Overlock, Town of Breckenridge Open Space

This session offers trail building professionals a forum to share trends in trail design and construction, including innovative tools and equipment, bike park and pump track construction, user management and trail building lore. All participants are asked to arrive to the roundtable with one "would you believe?" story from trail design or construction.

2B—Working with Youth Volunteers in Outdoor Stewardship (Peak 11)

Dan Williams & Allison Bell, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado

This session will provide participants with skills and tools that actively engage youth in the outdoors. Participants will learn about successful youth engagement, appropriate outdoor stewardship activities, motivating youth, and more. The presentation will be interactive and participants will receive take home content to fill their working-with-youth "tool box."

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS continued

2C–Working with Oil & Gas Operators (Peak 12)

Chris Castilian, Great Outdoors Colorado

You've found that perfect open space parcel, you're ready to move forward on acquisition and then you find out the oil and gas companies are interested in the resources under "your" perfect property. Well, that kills that deal – or does it? Chris Castilian, Executive Director of Great Outdoors Colorado, brings a wealth of experience from the oil and gas industry and will help you find ways to work with the companies interested in the resources under the ground. Come with your questions and be ready to look at the oil and gas industry a little differently.

2D–Challenges and Impacts of Conservation Education in the Foothills of Mount Kenya (Coppertop III)

Bevin Carithers, Boulder County Parks and Open Space & Mount Kenya Conservation Education Initiative; Mary McCormac, Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Kristi Schaad, Legacy High School, Broomfield, CO; Tom Moe, Mount Kenya Conservation Education Initiative

During the summer of 2017, environmental educators from Colorado journeyed to a small village at the base of Mount Kenya to engage 60 young men and women in the conservation and protection of the amazing natural resources surrounding Mount Kenya National Park and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Armed with an undeniable passion for conservation, wildlife protection, and the outdoors, the volunteers set out to provide once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for Kenyan youth to experience the outdoors and discover conservation issues in their own community. Although grounded in the foothills of Mount Kenya, this powerful presentation will illustrate how environmental education, hands-on experience, and mentorship can have a dramatic impact on the lives of underserved youth in communities near and far.

2E–Diversity of Recreation Opportunities (Peak 9-10)

Ericka Pilcher, Mark Gershman & Deryn Wagner, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

Do you work for a public land agency with a mission to provide outdoor recreation opportunities? Recreation frameworks help managers and their partners define desired conditions for experiences, settings, and acceptable changes in resource conditions on public lands to provide a diverse range of recreational opportunities. This session includes breakout group discussions with other professionals about outdoor recreation frameworks, and your successes and challenges incorporating planning, management, and monitoring into daily business.

2F–Transcending Differences: How to Engage Underrepresented Communities (Peak 1-3)

Topher Downham, Juanita Echeverri & Casey Bries, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

Join City of Boulder's Open Space & Mountain Parks to learn about three successful programs that connect underrepresented communities to public lands. OSMP's Education & Outreach staff will share various strategies, partnerships, and tips on how to reach and engage persons with mobility impairments and memory loss, non-native English speakers, and the LGBTQ+ community. Following an overview of these three emphases, participants will break out into groups to further explore the topic of their choosing.

SESSION 3 • Monday, 2:30-3:45 PM

3A–Approaches to Procurement and Project Management for Your Trail Project (Peak 9-10)

Jason Meyer, El Paso County; David Deitemeyer, City of Colorado Springs; Greg Mazu, Single Track Trails

This panel discussion on procurement and project management will pull from previous experience and real-world examples to discuss common issues that come up in the field, and what to do to minimize scope creep and change orders in your procurement process. Bring your questions, what you're currently working on, examples of what's worked, and ideas to improve the process.

3B–Young Trail Blazers (Peak 11)

Deryn Wagner & Halice Ruppi, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks; Mara Mintzer, Growing Up Boulder & University of Colorado Boulder

Not only are young people future stewards of open space, they are citizens in their own right now, stakeholders who deserve a seat at the table just like anyone else. In Boulder, a unique partnership helped Open Space and Mountain Parks engage young people in a recent trail planning process. Staff and partners are excited to share lessons learned and explore remaining questions with your input.

3C–Do You Know Your Outfall from a Hole in the Ground? (Peak 6-8)

Jesse Clark & Paul Thomas, Stream Design

Many of the best urban open spaces are associated with natural drainage-ways, and are frequently on the receiving end of man-made structures (i.e. culvert outfalls) that convey storm water. When integrating drainage infrastructure into multi-purpose stream corridors/ponds, the details can really make the "place". This presentation will discuss the experiential and aesthetic benefits afforded by drainage infrastructure elements that have been designed to enhance the natural values of the open space – versus those which have paid little or no attention to context.

3D–Generation Wild (Peak 1-3)

Rosemary Dempsey, Great Outdoors Colorado

Generation Wild is an integrated, statewide marketing campaign created by Great Outdoors Colorado to reconnect kids with nature and get them to experience the incredible benefits that are right outside the front door. It features the list of 100 things to do before you're 12. Rosemary Dempsey, GOCO's Director of Communications, will be joined by a member of the creative team from Sukle Advertising to discuss research insights, concept development, production and early results. Because kids grow better outside.



3E–Empirically Understanding Visitors (Coppertop III)

Deonne VanderWoude & Colin Leslie, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

Empirically understanding who visitors are, when and where they go, and the experiences they have, is essential when planning and managing for inclusivity and diversity. This workshop will introduce participants to some of the scientific theories and methods employed by OSMP to empirically quantify visitation. Specific topics will include: sample design, survey and automated counter methodology, and analysis. Participants are invited to bring trail maps of their areas for use during group activities and discussions.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS continued

3F—Beyond the Traditional Field Trip (Peak 12)

Deborah Price & Jim Drew, Boulder County Parks & Open Space

Elementary field trips are a standard for most open space organizations, but what about middle school youth and homeschoolers? Hear how Boulder County Parks and Open Space has incorporated middle school STEM clubs and community clubs into citizen science projects, worked with older homeschool students and diverse school populations, and designed field trips especially for this age group. Engage in discussion about what other organizations are doing as well.

SESSION 4 • Monday, 4:00–5:15 PM

4A—CPW Statewide Online Trail Map (Peak 9-10)

Eric Drummond, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

The Colorado Trail System (CTS) mapping project endeavors to map every trail in the state of Colorado. The effort has made tremendous progress mapping ~40,000 miles of recreational trail by curating authoritative information from over 200 agencies. The first half of the COSA presentation will provide a high level overview of the project's accomplishments and shortcomings since its 2015 inception. The second half will be a structured Q & A session designed to gather input from attendees to guide how CTS can improve engagement with local open space agencies to better keep CTS data up-to-date and authoritative.



4B—Lessons in Climbing Management (Peak 11)

Eric Krause, Christine Hartman & Eric Holzman, Jeffco Open Space

Holding over 70 established climbing areas, and over 1,000 individual routes, Jefferson County Open Space sees significant rock climbing use, and all associated impacts. Over the past two years, we have undergone numerous proactive updates to the management of rock climbing for both existing and new areas. Throughout this process, we made mistakes, had successes, and learned a whole lot. We would like to pass this experience along to other organizations that may be facing similar challenges.

4C—Turning Risk into Reward: Hazard Risk Reduction (Peak 6-8)

Anne Miller, Colorado Department of Local Affairs; Anne Kuechenmeister, Michael Baker

By combining the efforts of the parks department, planning department, and elected officials, communities can develop effective strategies that both reduce risk to natural hazards and preserve open space. Session speakers will highlight several tools that leverage land use practices for hazard risk reduction with the acquisition and management of natural lands and parks, as well as spur discussion on how to communicate these multiple benefits to community members and park users.

4D—Culturally Modified Trees: Trees, Myths, Legends (Peak 1-3)

Ross Williams, El Paso County Parks; John Anderson, JW Anderson & Associates; Dr. James Jefferson, Southern Ute Reservation; Jimmy Arterberry, Comanche Nation

Learn more about culturally modified trees (CMTs), especially in regards to their presence on public- or privately-held lands and open space. Panelists will cover tribal per-

spectives, public policy and best practices, public education and outreach, and tree documentation and data collection. Presentations will be followed by Q&A with the panelists.

4E—Principles for Advancing Outdoor Recreation and Conservation (Coppertop III)

Dan Zimmerer & Jody Kennedy, Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Luis Benitez, Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office; Heidi Sherk, The Nature Conservancy

Colorado is the first state to adopt the "Principles for Advancing Outdoor Recreation and Conservation." These seven principles aim to guide collaboration among outdoor recreationists, conservationists, and public land managers and serve as a starting point for collective, strategic conversations and actions to conserve our lands, waters and wildlife. Learn about the Principles, how organizations are applying them now and how you can use them to support your work and Colorado's open space.

4F—Self Defense for Park Visitors (Peak 12)

Mary Ann Bonnell & Shaun Howard, Jeffco Open Space

Our program was created to fulfill the requests of park visitors who wanted to feel safe on the trails. We will teach you how to create and implement a safety and self-defense program for the public. While physical self-defense is important, avoiding the situation is better. This training incorporates both psychological and physical techniques to help people feel and be safer in their daily lives.

SESSION 5 • Tuesday, 9:15–10:15 AM

5A—E-bikes and Trails: Measuring Impact and Acceptance (Coppertop III)

Mary Ann Bonnell & Neil McNutt, Jeffco Open Space

No longer an emerging trend and technology, e-bikes are an increasingly common sight on trails, particularly urban commuter trails. By law, many jurisdictions ban e-bikes on trails as they are considered a motorized vehicle. In practice, many park visitors and trail commuters are currently utilizing e-bikes with and without incident. We have two goals for our study. One is to compare human attitudes and beliefs about the impact of e-bikes before and after an e-bike demo. The second is to measure visitor perceptions of e-bikes and e-bike impacts on visitor experience.

5B—Creative Solutions for Managing Canada Geese in an Urban Environment (Peak 11)

Vicki Vargas-Madrid & Kelly Uhing, Denver Parks and Recreation

Denver Parks (DPR) has been managing Canada geese on a local level for many years. Because Canada geese are a protected species under the Federal Migratory Bird Act, options for managing populations are limited. Some citizens of the Denver area are asking for a more aggressive approach to goose control in Denver Parks. Learn what DPR is doing to manage geese in an attempt to meet a healthy balance between natural resource management and concerns of the community, and share your ideas and strategies for managing goose populations in your park, open space or wildlife area.

Session Descriptions continue on page 14

SESSION 1 • Monday, 10:30-11:45 AM**ROOM**

| | |
|--|---------------|
| 1A Ranger Program Standards: The Call for a National Dialogue | Coppertop III |
| 1B Volunteer Stewardship in Colorado: A Watershed Moment | 6-8 |
| 1C There Goes the Neighborhood! Water Quality Challenges | 11 |
| 1D BEING eco-LOGICAL | 1-3 |
| 1E Investing in Colorado, Exploring Colorado's Return on Investments in Conservation Easements: Conservation Easement Tax Credit Program and Great Outdoors Colorado | 12 |
| 1F Directors, Managers & Board Members | 9-10 |

SESSION 2 • Monday, 1:00-2:15 PM**ROOM**

| | |
|---|---------------|
| 2A Trail Builder Roundtable | 6-8 |
| 2B Working with Youth Volunteers in Outdoor Stewardship | 11 |
| 2C Working with Oil & Gas Operators | 12 |
| 2D Challenges and Impacts of Conservation Education in the Foothills of Mount Kenya | Coppertop III |
| 2E Diversity of Recreation Opportunities | 9-10 |
| 2F Transcending Differences: How to Engage Underrepresented Communities | 1-3 |

SESSION 3 • Monday, 2:30-3:45 PM**ROOM**

| | |
|--|---------------|
| 3A Approaches to Procurement and Project Management for Your Trail Project | 9-10 |
| 3B Young Trail Blazers | 11 |
| 3C Do You Know Your Outfall from a Hole in the Ground? | 6-8 |
| 3D Generation Wild | 1-3 |
| 3E Empirically Understanding Visitors | Coppertop III |
| 3F Beyond the Traditional Field Trip | 12 |

SESSION 4 • Monday, 4:00-5:15 PM**ROOM**

| | |
|---|---------------|
| 4A CPW Statewide Online Trail Map | 9-10 |
| 4B Lessons in Climbing Management | 11 |
| 4C Turning Risk into Reward: Hazard Risk Reduction | 6-8 |
| 4D Culturally Modified Trees: Trees, Myths, Legends | 1-3 |
| 4E Principles for Advancing Outdoor Recreation and Conservation | Coppertop III |
| 4F Self Defense for Park Visitors | 12 |

SESSION 5 • Tuesday, 9:15-10:15 AM**ROOM**

| | |
|---|---------------|
| 5A E-bikes and Trails: Measuring Impact and Acceptance | Coppertop III |
| 5B Creative Solutions for Managing Canada Geese in an Urban Environment | 11 |
| 5C Drones: Land Conservation from 400 Feet AGL | 1-3 |
| 5D Dredges, Flumes, and Adits: How History Shapes Open Spaces | 9-10 |
| 5E Acquisition Roundtable: Magnificent Plains | 12 |
| 5F Lessons from Inspire: Part I | 6-8 |

SESSION 6 • Tuesday, 10:30-11:30 AM**ROOM**

| | |
|--|---------------|
| 6A Predator, Prey, and People: Big Game Hunting on Jefferson County Open Space | 9-10 |
| 6B Track Chairs: Making Our State Park Trails Accessible for All | 11 |
| 6C Good News: Raptor Recovery | 1-3 |
| 6D Mines to Open Space | 12 |
| 6E Issuing Permits and Capacity: Where to Draw the Line? | Coppertop III |
| 6F Lessons from Inspire: Part II | 6-8 |

FIELD TRIPS • Tuesday, 12:30-4:30 PM *(capacity noted in parenthesis)**All field trips meet in the main parking lot below the registration area.*

| | |
|--|------|
| FT 1 Wheels and Water with the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center | (12) |
| FT 2 Historical Walk through Mining Country | (25) |
| FT 3 Blue River and Swan River Restoration Projects | (25) |
| FT 4 Summit County Recpath Tour | (40) |
| FT 5 Fly Fishing on the Blue River | (16) |
| FT 6 River Trail Mountain Bike Ride (easy) | (15) |
| FT 7 Sallie Barber Mountain Bike Ride (intermediate) | (15) |
| FT 8 Aspen Alley Mountain Bike Ride (advanced) | (15) |
| FT 9 Black Powder Pass Hike | (20) |
| FT 10 Mohawk Lakes Hike | (30) |
| FT 11 Wetlands and Wildlife of Cucumber Gulch | (14) |
| FT 12 Trail Mix: Art and Open Space | (15) |

SESSION 7 • Wednesday, 10:30-11:45 AM**ROOM**

| | |
|--|---------------|
| 7A Bark! How Jeffco Deals With Dogs and Their Humans | Coppertop II |
| 7B Lessons from the Old and the Young: 100 and 1 Years of Managing a Mountain Park | Coppertop III |
| 7C Soil Health: Stop Treating Soil Like Dirt! | 9-10 |
| 7D CAFÉ: Diversity | 11 |
| 7E Investing in Colorado, Exploring Colorado's Return on Investments in Conservation Easements: Conservation Easement Tax Credit Program and Great Outdoors Colorado | 6-8 |
| 7F GOCO 101: A Grant-Writing Workshop & Input Session | 12 |



SESSION DESCRIPTIONS continued

5C–Drones: Land Conservation from 400 Feet AGL (Peak 1-3)

Rick Bachand, City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department

Drones or Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) are poised to revolutionize the practice of Land Conservation and Management. Emerging Drone technology is in its infancy and promises a plethora of applications to modernize how conservation professionals inventory baseline conditions, conduct annual monitoring, and manage data through an integrated iPad system! This session takes a three-fold approach: providing an overview of the legislative basis and provisions of the FAA's Part 107 ruling; describing important technological considerations; and presenting case studies that highlight the range of applications to the Open Space community.

5D–Dredges, Flumes, and Adits: How History Shapes Open Spaces (Peak 9-10)

Anne Murphy, Town of Breckenridge Open Space; Larissa O'Neil, Breckenridge Heritage Alliance

The Town of Breckenridge owes its history to the intrepid miners who sought gold in its hills. This rich mining history shaped the Town's open space program: flumes are an integral feature of the trail network, dredge boats provide interpretative viewpoints along trails and open space, and mine adits that once fueled the local economy are protected landscapes. This session will focus on the intersection of history on an open space program in partnership with the local historical alliance.

5E–Acquisition Roundtable: Magnificent Plains (Peak 12)

Justin Spring, Trust for Public Land; Alex Castino, Larimer County Department of Natural Resources; Josh Tenneson, Arapahoe County Open Spaces

Land conservation in Colorado is larger than the Rocky Mountains. Come learn about specific conservation activities that are taking place across the state's magnificent plains. Presenters will also discuss lessons learned from a recent water sharing deal that Larimer County just concluded. Have interesting acquisitions that you would like to share? We'll build in plenty of time to discuss your creative approaches to acquisition.

5F–Lessons from Inspire: Part I (Peak 6-8)

Jackie Miller, Great Outdoors Colorado

GOCO's Inspire Initiative was conceived to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in the outdoors through community leadership. This first of two sessions on GOCO's Inspire Initiative will provide an in-depth look at work being done in two programs: Leadville's promatora model, and Westminster's "unlikely" partnership with Growing Home – a community based organization that serves underrepresented youth and families.

SESSION 6 • Tuesday, 10:30-11:30 AM

6A–Predator, Prey, and People: Big Game Hunting on Jefferson County Open Space (Peak 9-10)

Ben Stanley & John Queen, Jeffco Open Space

With the loss of large predators and urban sprawl reaching further into the foothills, the population of elk and mule deer in Jefferson County has soared beyond the healthy carrying capacity defined by CPW. JCOS has successfully provided hunting opportuni-

ties at Centennial Cone Park for elk and mule deer since 2001. The hunting program has encouraged healthy game distribution while engaging a visitor base not typical at Centennial Cone.

6B–Track Chairs: Making Our State Park Trails Accessible for All (Peak 11)

Zach Taylor, Staunton State Park

The concrete jungle can be wild and untamed but wilderness is always calling. This breakout will focus on how accessibility for disabled visitors to Staunton State Park went from an idea to a reality in less than 1 year. The non-profit group Friends of Staunton State Park will discuss, along with Park Manager Zach Taylor, how their partnership has been able to form relationships with the community, sponsors and donors and how they can now provide disabled visitors the chance to "hike" at the state park.

6C–Good News: Raptor Recovery (Peak 1-3)

Will Keeley, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks; Kevin Grady, Heil Valley Ranch; Karen Blaugrund, Boulder County Parks and Open Space

Landscape changes, conservation efforts, research, adaptive management, volunteer efforts and federal regulations have contributed to some successes in raptor populations in Boulder County: Cliff-Nesting Raptors, Bald Eagles, and Forest Raptors. Join this session to learn more about the programs and methods and be treated to some fantastic photos!

6D–Mines to Open Space (Peak 12)

Jason Lederer & Brian Lorch, Summit County Open Space and Trails

Summit County has a long and storied mining history, but today's major economic driver is outdoor recreation. The region's mining legacy left behind a scarred landscape, contaminated streams, and toxic sites. Largely abandoned following the mining bust, Summit County's recreation boom started with ski area expansion in the 1960's and was a catalyst for a new recreation driven economy. This session focuses on efforts to transform mine-impacted lands into recreationally viable public open space.

6E–Issuing Permits and Capacity: Where to Draw the Line? (Coppertop III)

Moderator: Michelle Vattano, City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department; Therese Glowacki, Boulder County Parks and Open Space; Alicia Alexander, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks; Steve Gibson, Larimer County Department of Natural Resources

Panelists from Boulder County, City of Boulder, and Larimer County will discuss the pros and cons of issuing permits within our open spaces: capacity issues, and increasing requests for research, recreation and educational activities. Audience participation will provide feedback from other programs and help identify options for restrictions and limits when issuing permits.

6F–Lessons from Inspire: Part II (Peak 6-8)

Jackie Miller, Great Outdoors Colorado; Heather Young, Larimer County Department of Natural Resources

This second of two sessions on GOCO's Inspire Initiative will delve into culturally relevant nature play parks, and Fort Collins' GOCO Inspire Initiative. Discover the successes and challenges of "Project Outdoors: Plug in to Nature in Northwest Fort Collins", including the youth and community-driven planning process, the extensive community engagement, and the plan that resulted for places, programs, and career pathways.



FIELD TRIPS • Tuesday, 12:30-4:30 PM (capacity noted in parenthesis)

FT 1—Wheels and Water with the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center (12)

Join the BOEC for a walking, wheeling, hiking, and paddling tour of our Wilderness Site and get a better understanding of hiking and paddling with a disability and the necessities for making trails and water accessible. Participants will get to experience using wheelchairs and other assistive devices on the accessible trail around the reservoir. We will also have a variety of boats and adaptive devices to try out for a paddle on the reservoir.



FT 2—Historical Walk through Mining Country (25)

The trails of French Gulch east of Breckenridge pass through Breckenridge's fabled "Golden Horseshoe," one of Colorado's most fertile mining regions. The initial strikes here in 1859 gave birth to Breckenridge and contributed to the town's fortunes over the next century. In partnership with the Breckenridge Heritage Alliance, numerous mine structures have been preserved and interpreted. Hike to visit several mining remains, including a gold dredge boat, and hear about local historic preservation efforts in French Gulch. Bring water and wear comfortable hiking shoes.



FT 3—Blue River and Swan River Restoration Projects (25)

Summit County and Breckenridge staff will lead a tour of the nearby Swan and Blue River restoration sites showcasing the value in restoring mine-scarred landscapes to functional open space, techniques and challenges faced during the restoration process, and the importance of strong partnerships to realize common goals. Participants have the option to conclude at Broken Compass Brewery in Breckenridge, or return to the conference site. The Breckenridge 'Free Ride' bus service is available for transport back to town from the brewery. Trip difficulty: easy.



FT 4—Summit County Recpath Tour (40)

Summit County Open Space & Trails staff will lead a tour of the Recpath highlighting the diverse management issues of this 55+ mile network of off-highway pathways that connects the towns, resorts, trailheads, and other attractions around the county. Participants have the option to conclude at Broken Compass Brewery in Breckenridge, or return to the conference site. The Breckenridge 'Free Ride' bus service is available for transport back to town from the brewery. Mileage: 32. Trip difficulty: strenuous.



FT 5—Fly Fishing on the Blue River (16 total - 2 groups of 8)

Come join the Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission for fly-fishing on the Blue River! We will be accessing the river and navigating it via the River Trail and recpath just outside of town. Fly-fishing experience is highly recommended to maximize your enjoyment of this trip. Please be equipped with your fly-rod, flies, waders, and drinking water. We look forward to hitting the water with you!



FT 6—River Trail Mountain Bike Ride (easy) (15)

Breckenridge staff will lead an easy 6.5 mile loop that combines The Town of Breckenridge Gold Level Bicycle Friendly roads, recreation path and the River Trail paralleling the scenic Blue River. Highlights of the tour include Oxbow Park, a nature based park adjacent to a new workforce housing project to be completed in 2018, the recently completed reconstruction of the Blue River north of Coyne Valley Road and an optional stop at one of the Town's favorite local breweries, Broken Compass.

Stats: 3 Miles Paved Surfaces, 3.5 Miles Easy Singletrack, Elevation Gain 400 Feet



FT 7—Sallie Barber Mountain Bike Ride (intermediate) (15)

Breckenridge staff will lead a 12 mile historic mountain bike tour traversing through French Gulch up to Sallie Barber Mine and descending back to town on the Barney Ford trail. Highlights of the tour include the recently completed Wellington Trail, Wellington Bike Park and multiple interpretative sites highlighting the rich mining history of Breckenridge, and Breckenridge Brewery.

Stats: 3 Miles Paved Surfaces, 2.5 Miles Dirt Road, 8.5 Miles Moderate Singletrack, Elevation Gain 1,500 Feet

FIELD TRIPS continued *(capacity noted in parenthesis)*

FT 8–Aspen Alley Mountain Bike Ride (advanced) (15)

Breckenridge Open Space staff will lead a 16 mile advanced mountain bike tour crossing through the historic French Gulch and climbing to tree line on Baldy Mountain before descending into Town. This strenuous ride will cross over Town, County and USFS properties highlighting their partnerships. Other highlights include the new Wellington Trail, Wellington Bike Park and descending the recently completed Aspen Alley Trail, and Breckenridge Brewery.

Stats: 2 Miles Paved Surface, 1.5 Miles Dirt Road, 12.5 Miles Moderate Singletrack, Elevation Gain 2,000 Feet

FT 9–Black Powder Pass Hike (20)

The hike to Black Powder Pass starts with a 6-mile scenic auto tour along Boreas Pass Road, formerly the South Park and Pacific Railroad bed, to the top of Boreas Pass on the Continental Divide at 11,499 feet. From the trailhead on Boreas Pass Road, the hike begins with an easy grade passing through high alpine forest and above treeline to an elevation of 12,159 feet, with spectacular views of the Blue River Valley and majestic Tenmile Range. Paul Semmer, White River National Forest Dillon Ranger District, will discuss challenges with complex landownership patterns and partnerships with local and national open space and trail groups. The 2-mile round trip hike will end back at Boreas Pass and continue the auto tour back down to Breckenridge with an optional stop for a cold one at the Breckenridge Brewery.



FT 10–Mohawk Lakes Hike (30)

Join the Friends of the Dillon Ranger District for a 6.8-mile hike to Mohawk Lakes. The lakes sit at and slightly above treeline along Mt Helen with spectacular views of the Ten Mile Range. This out-and-back moderate-strenuous hike has an elevation gain of approximately 1,680 feet and passes through rich fields of wildflowers, waterfalls, and relics of the mining era. Bring water and sunscreen, and wear hiking boots.



FT 11–Wetlands and Wildlife of Cucumber Gulch (14 total - 2 groups of 7)

Cucumber Gulch Preserve, the crown jewel of the Town of Breckenridge's open space program, is the site of an extensive preservation and wetland restoration project. Located at the base of the popular Breckenridge Ski Resort and surrounded by mountain home and resort construction, the Gulch is experiencing challenges from water quality to trespassing during trail closures. This easy walking tour will highlight the Town's adaptive management techniques to protect water quality, wildlife habitat, and the numerous wildlife that live and breed in the Gulch.

FT 12–Trail Mix: Art and Open Space (15)

Join "Breck Create" for a Trail Mix tour, a series of art installations along Town of Breckenridge open spaces and trails. In celebrating mountain culture and the environment, this annual art and open space installation kicks off during the Breckenridge International Festival of Arts and features unique exhibits throughout the local trail system, providing bikers and hikers with an unexpected arts experience. Highlighting its recognition as the #1 arts vibrant small town in America, this tour will also take in several of the art installations throughout downtown Breckenridge and its arts district.



SESSION DESCRIPTIONS continued

SESSION 7 • Wednesday, 10:30-11:45 AM

7A–Bark! How Jeffco Deals With Dogs and Their Humans (Coppertop II)

Shaun Howard & Shaina Young, Jeffco Open Space

As with any visitor group, dogs and their owners can present unique challenges to land managers. Explore how one organization meets these challenges by striking a balance between the welfare of K9s, their humans, wildlife and open space. Through integrative community programs like Bark Rangers and #LetsDooIt! that foster positive change and stewardship behavior, agencies big and small can adopt a more inclusive management and enforcement approach.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS continued

7B—Lessons from the Old and the Young: 100 and 1 Years of Managing a Mountain Park (Coppertop III)

Brad Eckert, Denver Mountain Parks; Brad Jensen, Draper City Parks and Trails

More than any other type of open space property, mountain parks are being loved to death. Not unlike National Parks, they face challenges of statewide visitation; deferred maintenance; user conflicts; inadequate enforcement; highly sensitive resources at the wildland/urban interface; a shift from peak seasons to year-round seasons, with corresponding year-round complaints from once seasonal vacation homes; and either a lack of devoted advocates or just the opposite – too many opposing activists. And too often they attempt to be too inclusive: offering something for everyone and are quickly overrun.

7C—Soil Health: Stop Treating Soil Like Dirt! (Peak 9-10)

Sylvia Hickenlooper, USDA-NRCS

In partnership with the NRCS, Boulder County Parks & Open Space has monitored soil health on Boulder County open space croplands for four years. This three-phase project includes assessment, awareness and implementation of soil health management systems. Sylvia will discuss: What is soil health? How is soil health being monitored on open space? And why is this resource management movement sweeping the nation?

7D—CAFÉ: Diversity (Peak 11)

Dr. Amy Lethbridge, Community Nature Connection; Linda Strand

Café Diversity will offer conference participants a chance to both wrap up what they learned during the conference and set a course for addressing open space diversity issues in their agency and as a State. Amy Lethbridge will coordinate roundtable discussions about diversity with open space systems statewide. Bring your questions, your comments and your ideas for the future. We'll record your ideas and share them with all COSA members.



7E—Investing in Colorado, Exploring Colorado's Return on Investments in Conservation Easements: Conservation Easement Tax Credit Program and Great Outdoors Colorado [repeated from session 1E] (Peak 6-8)

Andrew Seidl, Colorado State University

The State of Colorado has invested substantial financial resources assisting state agencies, local governments, and private nonprofit land trusts in the voluntary acquisition of conservation easements from willing landowners. Two of the State's principal efforts to incentivize the acquisition of conservation easements are the Conservation Easement Tax Credit program and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). Although these programs have funded acquisitions for over 22 years, there is little quantitative information about the benefits Colorado residents receive from the State's investments. A study examined the ecological and economic benefits to the public from the Conservation Easement Tax Credit program and GOCO-funded conservation easements. Come to this session to

learn more about the exciting results of this study that show the citizens of Colorado reap at least \$4 for every dollar invested and enjoy the conservation benefits of hundreds of thousands of acres of conservation priorities being protected on private lands for current and future generations.

7F—GOCO 101: A Grant-Writing Workshop & Input Session (Peak 12)

Michele Frishman, Amanda Hill & Chris Yual-Farrell, Great Outdoors Colorado

GOCO open space staff will discuss the grant programs we make available annually to land trusts and local governments. Additionally, we will provide tips on writing successful applications and planning enjoyable, informative site visits. We will conclude with a follow-up to our 2016 customer satisfaction survey by asking for feedback on our programs and processes. This session will be particularly valuable for new employees of grantees and those who do not regularly apply to GOCO.



Thank you to this year's sponsors! Please show them your support.

GOLD SPONSORS

THE
TRUST
FOR
PUBLIC
LAND



SILVER SPONSORS

stream
landscape architecture • design



EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED™



BRONZE SPONSORS



SE GROUP

RRC
ASSOCIATES

