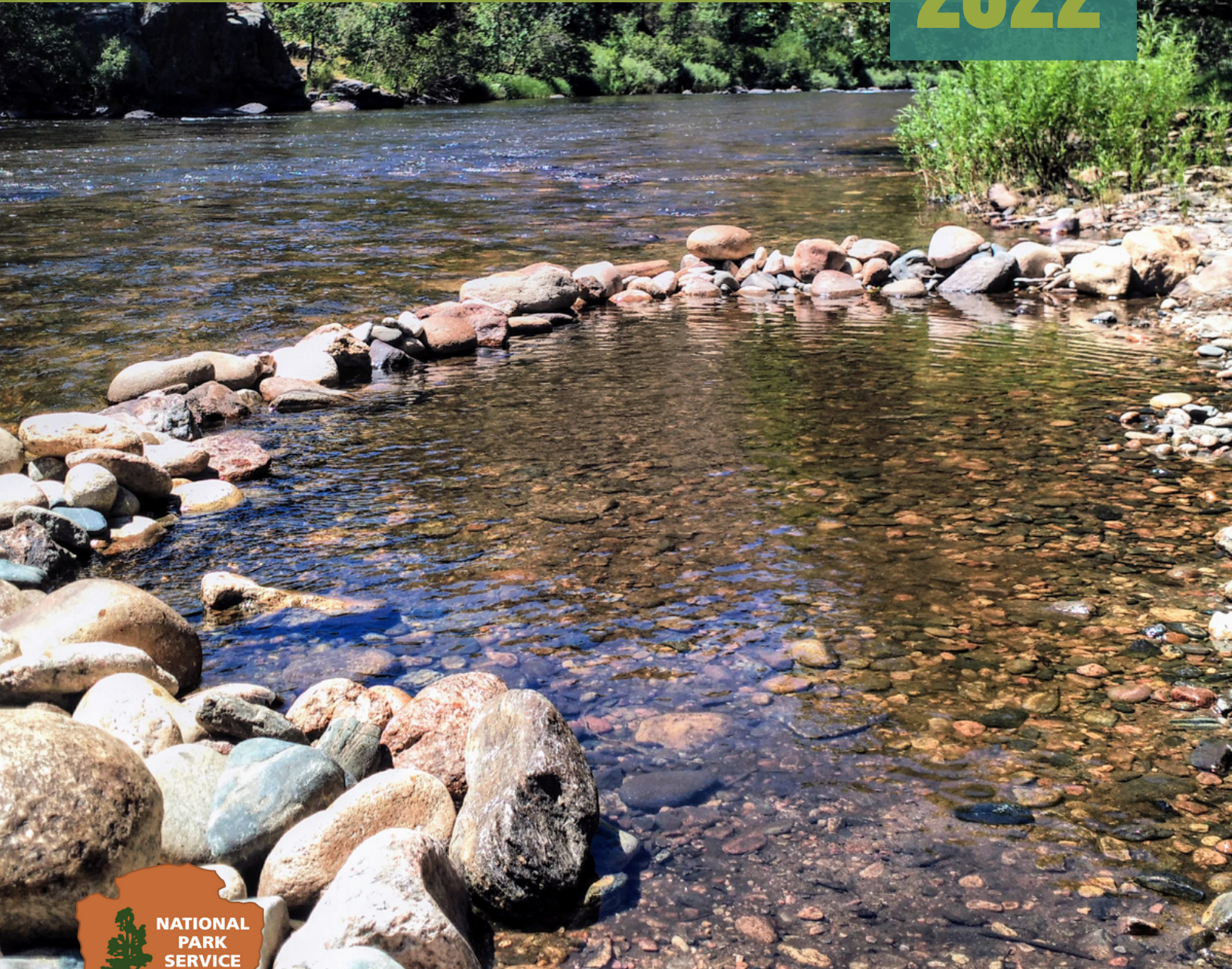


Cache la Poudre River
National Heritage Area

Year In Review

2022



   @Poudreheritage
www.poudreheritage.org

Letter from Our Leadership

Our hearts are filled with awe and gratitude for what can be accomplished in just one year. 2022 was a year of introspective work and a focus on Management Plan goal #1, Organizational Capacity. We built a team of five dedicated professionals, strengthened our accounting practices, and completed the Strategic Interpretive Plan, which began in 2020. Recommendations from the interpretive plan are being implemented with the development of the Cache Pass, a digital pass of curated tours, and being infused into our community grants program to support Management Plan Goal #2, Storytelling. An investment in an online grants management platform will allow us to scale our community grant giving with funds from donors and pass-through grants, create efficiencies for applicants and staff, and significantly improve our reporting capabilities.

The most significant accomplishment was securing reauthorization for the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage through S. 1942, The National Heritage Area Act. This act creates standard criteria for the funding, management, and designation of National Heritage Areas across the country and provides annual authorization for federal funding. We anticipate an estimated \$7,500,000 to \$10,000,000 in funding Cache NHA will bring to Northern Colorado. This effort is a testament to the tremendous collaborative work of National Heritage Areas across this country. We are profoundly grateful for the leadership and support from our bipartisan legislative champions, Congress, and local supporters who provided letters of support.

American playwright and author Thornton Wilder said it best, "We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures." Cache NHA is a treasure, and we are thrilled to have secured its future for an additional 15 years. The next 15 years are off to a strong start with the launch of a rebrand of the heritage area, a photo contest coming this spring, and a partnership with the Poudre Runs Through It action group to co-host the Poudre River Forum.

Again, we are filled with awe and gratitude for how you show up to support, fund, and participate in the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area. You are amazing, and we look forward to seeing you at the river this year!

Feeling alive and energized,

Sabrina



Sabrina Stoker
Executive Director



Cache la Poudre River

National Heritage Area

Board of Directors

Officers

Wade Willis, Chair
Town of Windsor

Bob Overbeck, Vice-Chair
At-large: Larimer County

Greg Dewey, Treasurer
Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District

Dan Biber, Secretary
City of Greeley

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City of Fort Collins

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Nick Haws
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Jared Orsi
Colorado State University

Eric Robinson
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Karen Scopel
At Large: Greeley Natural Areas

Candace Thomas
At Large: Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

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Weld County Extension

Ex-Officio

Lincoln Bramwell
U.S. Forest Service

Cheri Yost
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain National Park

Sharon Bywaters-Reyes
Chelsie Romulo
Jessica Salo
University of Northern Colorado

Staff

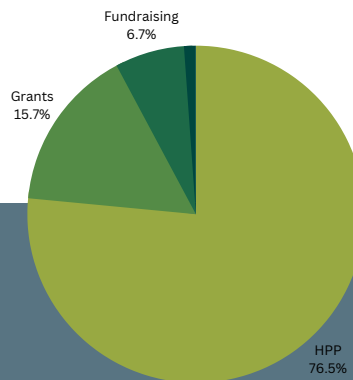
Sabrina Stoker
Executive Director

Beth Bullard
Assistant Director

Alexis Works
Communication Coordinator

Renee Tonnies
Office Manager

Darien Ellis
Projects & Education Coordinator



Heritage Partnership Funding

\$ 445,644

Financial Overview

Income	\$614,577
Expenses	<u>\$558,693</u>
Net income	\$55,884

Leveraged Dollars

\$557,832

*Figures represented are based on unaudited financials



Community Grants

Preserve, Engage, Inspire



New Solutions

Cache NHA has invested in a grants management software, Submittable, to manage our community grants program's application, review, and reporting process. Grants are distributed to support partner events and field trips for Learning In Our Watershed and for small and large-scale projects within the heritage area in alignment with our interpretive themes and management plan.

In 2022, Cache NHA distributed a total of \$25,639 in grant funds to 8 recipients for small and large-scale community projects and heritage area events. Below are some of the projects funded in 2022.



Watering the West

The Watering the West three-part documentary celebrates the Poudre River's past, present, and future as a valued center of Northern Colorado. It highlights the development of western water law and the river's hard-working history, present, and changing future. With stories from those who live and work on the Poudre, the film shows the intricacies of western water law, building a greater connection between the river and its diverse users through exploration of the river's wild and natural environment, recreational opportunities, and work life.

Cache NHA provided grant funding for film production. Additional funding was granted to show the film at the University of Northern Colorado and hosted a showing at the Lincoln Center.

River Tunnel Experience

The river tunnel experience allows participants to step into an immersive journey along the Cache la Poudre River. The 30' x 10' tunnel allows you to learn about each section of the river, from Headwaters to the Lower Watershed. See the wildlife and habitat along the way, smell the scents of nature, and hear the sounds of the outdoors. The Poudre River Experience is a traveling exhibit built for the Poudre River Fest.

Poudre Basin Website

The Poudre Basin Website is a cross-jurisdictional informational website for the Poudre Basin developed by the Open Water Foundation. The site serves as a regional complex water issue resource for educational and decision-making purposes. It is an open-source community site that comprehensively promotes past, present, and future water issues.



Projects In Progress

✓ Island Grove Trailhead Signage

Community Partner: City of Greeley Natural Areas

Interpretive Theme: River of Life

Estimated Total Project Cost \$20,265

Estimated Completion Date: Spring 2023

Grant award from Cache NHA: \$6,080

This new interpretive signage with central themes of local wildlife, plants, and history incorporates the following best practices as outlined in the Strategic Interpretive Plan: offers shade, is placed where people congregate, is bilingual, offers a simplified map noting visitor location, as well as offers 3 seconds, 30 seconds, and 3-minute messages.



✓ The Five States of Colorado Documentary

Community Partner: Colorado Humanities

Interpretive Theme: New Roots

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$433,950

Estimated Completion Date: May 2023

Grant award from Cache NHA: \$15,000



✓ B.H. Eaton Nature Center Historic Rehabilitation

Community Partner: Town of Windsor History Museum

Grant Type: Historic Preservation

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$280,000

Estimated Completion Date: TBD 2024

Grant award from Cache NHA: \$20,000



✓ Poudre River Community Mural

Community Partner: Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed

Interpretive Theme: New Roots

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$23,260

Estimated Completion Date: October 2023

Grant award from Cache NHA: \$3,000

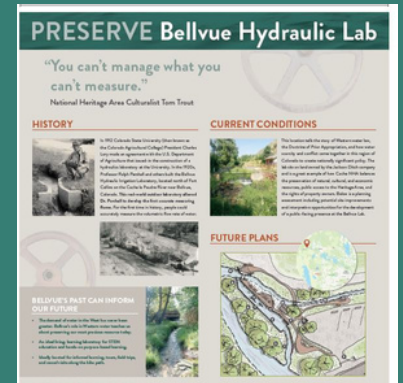
The Poudre River Mural Project will engage students from Greeley-Evans Weld County School District 6 with a mural development in conjunction with a Poudre watershed-focused curriculum. The student-led design process will provide education and reflection on the importance of the Poudre River to our way of life in Northern Colorado. It celebrates the diverse community that has depended on the river for thousands of years. Input from students and the community will guide a professional artist's vision for the final mural design, which will be removable to create a traveling exhibition throughout the lower watershed.

Strategic Interpretive Plan

OVERVIEW & RECOMMENDATIONS

REFOCUS CURRENT SYSTEMS TO REFINE THEIR PURPOSE, QUALITY, AND IMPACT TO FURTHER OVERALL PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.

- Support a coordinated and cohesive, but not identical, approach to interpretation across the NHA.
- Support partner's site-specific interpretation through grants, while focusing attention on promoting Cache NHA as a whole.
- Reconsider the use of iconography, QR codes, and the concept of gateways. Simplify maps.
- Grant criteria for interpretive signage could include projects that move from static generic signage toward free-standing interpretive signage with interchangeable content, that communicates stories in areas and spaces where people naturally congregate with consideration for immediate proximity explorations rather than thematic locations and stations that offer shade, seating, bilingual and tactile elements.
- Preserve and develop interpretation at the Bellvue Hydraulic Lab.
- Commission a study of wayfinding throughout the heritage area.



BECOME A CHAMPION FOR INTERPRETATION, RESOURCES, AND COORDINATION BY CREATING SPACE FOR LIKE-MINDED PROFESSIONALS TO GATHER

- Serve partners with varying levels of capacity building and through grants that focus on interpretation and providing on-site recommendations.
- Diversify partnerships that broaden interpretation and sub-themes.
- Create a staff-level interpreter to work with partners on interpretive efforts.
- Create a space for dialogue sessions while supporting collaborative partnerships across Cache NHA.



OVERHAUL THE WEBSITE, "MY-TOUR", AND VIRTUAL OFFERINGS TO BETTER FOCUS ON REAL-WORLD VISITATION STRATEGIES.

- Develop curated tours.
- Frame visits as half-day or full-day within the NHA.
- Curate lists with consideration of mobility.
- Blend visits to historical places with every day needs such as dining and shopping to match how visitors engage in places.

*full text available online

NEW INTERPRETIVE SUB-THEMES

HOMELANDS

Northern Colorado is the ancestral homeland of the Ute and later the Arapaho people, as well as other historic tribes such as the Cheyenne, Comanche, Apache, and Kiowa. Indigenous understanding of the environment and of native plants and animals offers a different way of knowing the Poudre.

**"Water is sacred and we respect that. Without water there is no life."
-Crawford White, Arapaho Elder**

FOLLOWING THE WATER

Fur trappers and traders, including diverse people of many cultures who traveled with them, hunted beaver and game animals along the Poudre's banks, leaving behind their multicultural stories and legacy.

COLLABORATION & COMPROMISE

Water from the Poudre ends up in Northern Colorado's taps, produce, beer, and more. Animals, plants, and competing interests share the river today. In addition to agricultural and industrial use, the Poudre offers a place of recreation, reflection, and observation. Collaboration and compromise ensure the Poudre's health and a sustainable quality of life and future for Northern Colorado.

ANCIENT VOICES

People have been drawn to the life-sustaining waters of the river for over 12,000 years. Before it was known as the Poudre, Paleoindians and Folsom people called this river basin home. The Kaplan-Hoover Bison Kill Site—one of the largest bison kill sites ever found—provides a compelling local story.



NEW ROOTS

Germans, Russians, Hispanics, African Americans and others settled in the Poudre River basin to farm or work in the sugar beet factories and fields, establishing communities and bringing new cultural and religious traditions.



RETHINKING COLORADO WATER LAW

Early disagreements over the Poudre River led to the establishment of Western water law and the notion of "First in Time, First in Right." As demand on the Poudre increases—combined with a hotter, drier climate—it is time to rethink this historical precedent.

RIVER OF LIFE

Colorado's rivers comprise less than 2% of the state's ecosystems but the majority of Colorado's birds, fish and wildlife depend on riparian habitat. The Poudre River watershed is key to the ecological health of Northern Colorado and is critical for biodiversity.





PROMOTE

a variety of historical and cultural opportunities

42 Volunteers
provided 894 hours
of service

✓ Poudre Runs Through It

PRTI is a diverse group of regional leaders and experts who reflect the various values of those who live and work in the communities along the Cache la Poudre River. Some members value the river as a working river for agriculture, municipality, and industrial needs. In contrast, others value recreation and ecological attributes. The group works together to balance the many competing uses for the river. Participating in this group helps us implement management plan goal # 3, Striking a Balance.

As the coordinating entity, we coordinate meeting logistics and manage the group's finances. We are also co-hosting the Poudre River Forum in 2023, which is an initiative of PRTI. The forum is a conference on water history, issues, and water use and conservation practices.

✓ Heritage Culturalist Volunteers

The Heritage Culturalist Program educates volunteers about the Cache's rich history and recreational opportunities and trains volunteers to interpret and share that information. Once trained, volunteers provide interpretation and expertise to the public for programs and events.

Pedaling the Poudre & Trail Sessions

Cache NHA heritage culturalists provided guided bike and walking tours. Riders/walkers see locations where significant early water development occurred and where current water facilities operate. Participants gain a better understanding of how water is distributed among various users and why the appropriations system is the law of the river. Participants also learn about the history and heritage of the people who first settled in Northern Colorado. In 2022, 98 people participated in this program.

Front Range Forum

The Front Range Forum provides lifelong learning opportunities for senior citizens. This year, Cache NHA staff and heritage culturalists gave a presentation on the NHA to 40 participants.

People's Choice Sponsored by:



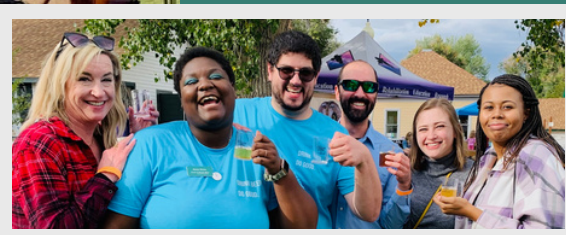
NORTHERN
ENGINEERING



✓ Poudre Pour

The 5th annual Poudre Pour was held at the Town of Windsor Museums, with over 350 in attendance. Thirteen educational partners came out to provide hands-on learning experiences about the history of the Poudre River and its ecosystem. Guests toured the historic cabins and experienced what life was like for early settlers. Live music entertained the crowds between visits to the exhibitors, food trucks, and beer tents.

Thirteen breweries provided samples and competed for the day's top prize- People's Choice. Congratulations to Climb Hard Cider for winning the People's Choice award in 2022. Other breweries participating included: Horse & Dragon Brewing, Purpose Brewing & Cellars, WeldWerks Brewing, Timnath Beerwerks, High Hops Brewery, Mash Lab Brewing & Kitchen, Odell Brewing Co., Zwei Brewing, Sweetwater Brewing Company, Green Brewing Company, Tightknit Brewing, Knuckle Puck, and Sky Bear Brewery & Pub.



2,359 people participated in heritage area events and activities



Engage

people in their river corridor

Cache NHA attends and supports events and activities throughout the heritage area. We find this is a great way to collaborate with our partners, engage the community in the heritage area, and connect the public to programs that promote and inspire. Here's a look at a few of the community events we supported this year:



Bike to Work Day

250 people attended bike to work day. Cache NHA co-hosted a station with the Coalition for the Poudre Watershed and NoCO Velo at the Fort Collins Water Park, a site we helped to fund in past years.



Poudre River Fest

The Poudre River Fest is a free, family-friendly festival that celebrates the Poudre River, promotes restoration, and educates attendees about our river corridor, an essential natural resource for our community. Cache NHA planned the event with five other river partners, hosted a booth, and helped to fund the immersive river tunnel experience. 1,500 people attended in 2022.



Ditch #2 Grand Opening

The Town of Windsor celebrated the completion of the #2 Ditch trail, a 6-mile trail tying to the Poudre Trail on the West end and the Great Western Trail on the East end of Windsor. This event took participants to 15 stations with a multiple-choice trivia question focusing on the local habitat, history, and community. Participants earned prizes by answering trivia questions. 60 people participated. Cache NHA helped fund the historical trivia.



Party for the Poudre

The event, hosted by the Poudre River Trail Corridor, unveiled the master plan which featured amenities for the Red Barn at Signature Bluffs in Greeley. Also showcased was the Cycling Without Age program. CWA offers FREE trishaw rides to those who would like to visit the Poudre River Trail Corridor but can't ride a bike on their own.



Cache Pass

The Cache Pass is a digital pass with four distinct curated tours that allow pass holders to explore history, connect with nature, and explore all that Northern Colorado has to offer. The pass is available for a year from the purchase date. The \$10 pass fee includes over \$160 in discounts and deals offered by merchant partners. Pass holders can save on admission fees, food, meals, and experiences.

This project was made possible by funding from the Colorado Tourism Office and began as a scavenger hunt for the Colorado Heritage Journey. By implementing recommendations from the Strategic Interpretive plan, we have blended historical and everyday needs, such as dining and shopping options, to mirror how visitors realistically engage in places.

Ads within the pass are used to thank CTO for funding the projects development and to direct pass holders to explore two nearby NHAs, Sangre de Cristo and South Park. In the future, ads within the pass could be sold to support its evergreen status.

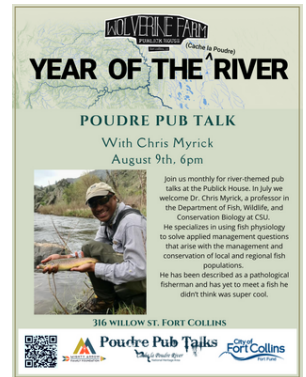
The Cache Pass is a great example of Management Plan Goal #4, Planning for Tourism.

2,018 people participated in heritage area educational programs



Inspire

Learning, preservation, and stewardship



01 Learning In Our Watershed

Learning in Our Watershed™ (LIOW) was designed to help youth understand the Cache la Poudre River and their water heritage while inspiring the next generation of river stewards. Designed by educators, students experience the following lesson objectives:

- Connect students to their river corridor
- Immerse students in their local heritage, cultures, and landscapes
- Help students develop critical thinking skills including interpreting maps and signs
- Encourage students to reflect on human-environment interactions within their watershed region

In 2022, 1,853 students participated in LIOW field trips within the national heritage area.

02 Pub Talks

Pub Talks are a series of free adult educational presentations that cover a wide range of topics from water law, water usage, and conservation. In 2022, a grant was given to Wolverine Farm Publiik House to host Pub Talks. Sixty-seven participants learned about the following topics: Impacts on the Watershed from Wildfires, Freshwater ecosystems and challenges with climate change, Forms the river takes based on interactions with human communities, Plant walk, as well as Management and conservation of local and regional fish populations.

03 Oral Histories

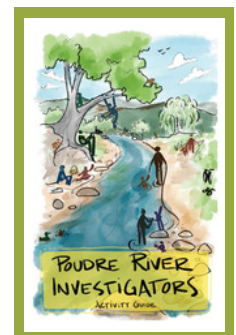
Water Legacy: This project included recording oral histories of water leaders from across the state of Colorado by interviewing individuals who are nearing retirement or have recently retired. The goal was to capture their knowledge and experience for future generations. Cache NHA collaborated with the Colorado State University Water Resources Archives to seek funding and participate in selecting interviewees and content development. Four interviews were completed in 2022, bringing the collection total to thirteen.

Women in Water: Women in Water is a new digital educational project that focuses on telling the stories of women in the field of water, an underrepresented group in an often male-dominated industry. The project includes an oral history video and a social media post annually on 4-6 women.

04 Investigators Guide

The Poudre River Investigators activity guide connects youth and families to the river corridor through hands-on, minds-on activities. The guide serves as an outdoor education resource and can be used throughout the river corridor. Thank you to the partners who made this guide possible: Colorado State University Environmental Learning Center, Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area, Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, Colorado State University, Natural Sciences Education & Outreach Center.

Thank you to Bohemian Foundation and Colorado Water Center for funding project development and to the National Parks Foundation for funding the printing.



Coming Soon

✓ Rebranding

The Colorado Tourism Office awarded Cache NHA \$10,925 in marketing grant funds to support rebranding efforts. The rebrand includes a new logo and website design. The project aims to modernize our digital presence while creating a cohesive but not identical look and feel among the three Colorado Heritage Areas. We want to create a more intuitive user experience with the site navigation of the new website. The project also includes updates to the Colorado Heritage Journey website.



✓ Cache NHA Photo Contest

Coming April 2023, Cache NHA will host its first photo contest. Categories may include People, Places, and Recreation of the river for professionals and amateurs. Winners will receive cash prizes, and the Cache NHA's new website and marketing collateral will feature selected images. Stay tuned for more details!



8th Annual POUFRE River Forum

Relationships with Water
Continuing conversations in support of a healthy working river

Friday, March 3rd, 2023
UNC's Grand Ballroom
Greeley, CO
8:00am - 4:30pm

Tickets on sale NOW!

www.PoudreHeritage.org

Co-Hosted by:

Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area

The POUFRE Water Through It. Ready? Action. Work. Done!

City of Fort Collins, Greeley, Northern Water, Greeley Tribune, City of Thornton, City of Fort Collins, openwater FOUNDATION, Platte River Power Authority, NORTHERN ENGINEERING

✓ 8th Annual Poudre River Forum

Relationships with Water

Continuing conversations in Supporting a Healthy Working River

When: Friday March 3rd, 2023 8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Where: University of Northern Colorado

Keynote Speaker: Becky Mitchell, Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board

Topics Include:

Affordable housing, Water & the Poudre River Basin Panel
Poudre Pioneer Awards: MaryLou Smith & Reagan Waskom
Agriculture & Water Panel

Watershed & River Recovery update presentation

Networking reception sponsored by Odell Brewing Company

Cache la Poudre River
National Heritage Area

3745 E. Prospect Road
Suite 205
Fort Collins, CO 80525



The poster features a green background with several circular images: a hand holding three beer glasses, children at a table, a vintage car, and a group of people in blue shirts. The text is centered and includes the event name, date, location, and website.

Cache la Poudre River
National Heritage Area

6TH ANNUAL

Poudre Pour

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023
WINDSOR HISTORY MUSEUM 100 N 5TH ST., WINDSOR, CO

www.poudrepour.com

Proceeds support programs of the Poudre Heritage Alliance 501(c)(3)