

LARIAT LOOP SCENIC & HISTORIC BYWAY

CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN



JUNE 2006

LARIAT LOOP SCENIC & HISTORIC BYWAY

CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN



JUNE 2006

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Colorado Byways Commission

Sally Pearce, Scenic Byways Program Coordinator

Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance

Sister Bernadette Casciano, Mother Cabrini Shrine
Greg Campbell, Friends of Red Rocks
Amy Cleveland Newman, Clear Creek History Park/Astor House
Bill Gould, Colorado Railroad Museum
Carol Lomand, City and Mountain Views
Cynthia Pougiales
Barbara Mills, Golden Pioneer Museum
Melanie Nuchols, Evergreen Chamber of Commerce
Cynthia Shaw-McLaughlin, Boettcher Mansion
Peggy Shaw, Humphrey Memorial Museum
Steve Stevens, Old Golden Cyclery
Peter Szilagyi, Golden Landmarks Association
Joe Tempel, Dinosaur Ridge
Sally White
Gary Wink, Golden Chamber of Commerce
Jerry Smith, Town of Morrison

Consultant Team

Tina Bishop, Mundus Bishop Design
Ryan Godderz, Mundus Bishop Design
Judy Walden, Walden Mills Group

A special thanks to the Colorado Scenic Byways Commission for their staff support and for their funding that made this Corridor Management Plan possible.

Thanks to staff representatives of the City and County of Denver (the Denver Mountain Parks Division of the Parks and Recreation Department and the Theaters and Arenas Division of the General Services Department), and Jefferson County Open Space for their assistance in providing information and education on the programs and policies of their agencies with regard to this and other Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance projects.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

June, 2006

Acknowledgements

Purpose of the Management Plan 1

- The Lariat Loop Heritage Area and Scenic and Historic Byway
- Purpose of the Plan
- Principles

Improvements Plan 3

- Improve Roads
- Improve Wayfinding
- Build Scenic Waysides

Strategic Plan 9

- Create a Sustainable Organization
- Pursue New Funding Partners and Opportunities
- Focus on the Essence of the Byway
- Preserve the Byway and Heritage Area through Education and Marketing
- Pursue Economic Benefits

Implementation Plan 23

- Implementation Matrix

Background 32

- Existing Conditions

Appendices

- A. Visioning Session Summary (05/02/2005)
 - Meeting Notes (10/21/2005)
 - Meeting Notes (12/17/2005)
- B. Existing Resources Summary
- C. Lariat Loop Interpretive Plan (2002)
- D. National Register of Historic Places along the Lariat Loop

PURPOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Lariat Loop Scenic & Historic Byway and Heritage Area

The Lariat Loop became a Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway in 2002. A few years earlier, in 2000 the Lariat Loop Mountain Gateway Heritage Area was officially recognized as a Colorado State Heritage Area by Governor Owens to preserve the history and culture of the area. The heritage area is more than “*150 square miles of scenic beauty, historic heritage, natural wonders, and delightful discoveries, with more than 25,000 acres of preserved open spaces and mountain parks and more than 30 museums and interpretive sites*” that tell the story of this foothills landscape.

Following the 40-mile route of the scenic and historic byway, a traveler can “*experience the thrill of foothills exploration*” in “*Colorado’s first gateway to the mountains*” with its “*sharp curves, winding roads, (and) spectacular views.*” A full list of sites and resources is provided in Appendix B: Existing Resources Summary.

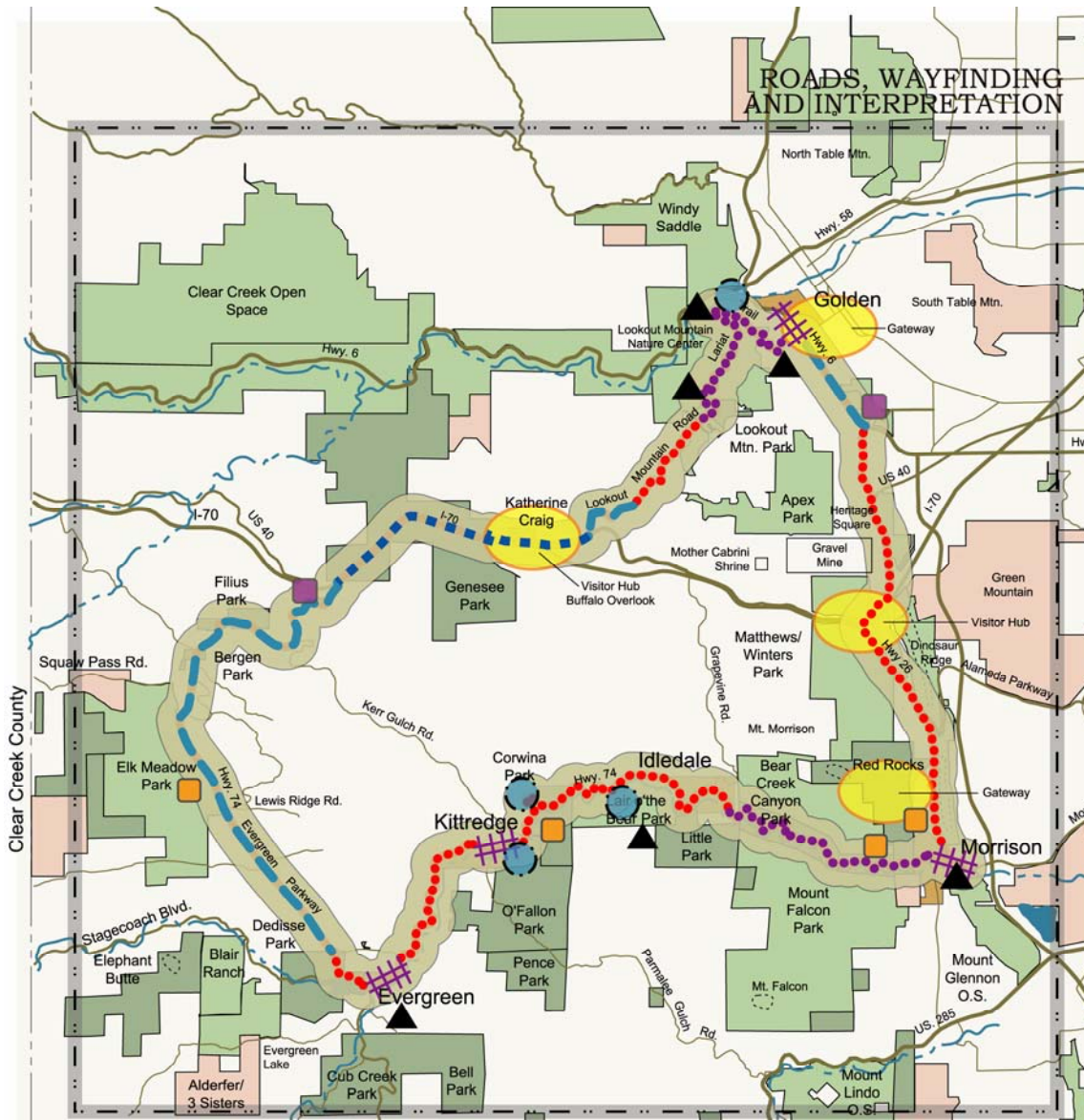
Purpose of the Plan

The Corridor Management Plan provides the framework that will assist in organizing and defining the Lariat Loop. It is the written document that will assist the LLHA in defining the goals, strategies, roles for conserving and enhancing the Lariat Loop’s unique qualities.

- The Plan defines the roles and responsibilities of the Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance and each of its partners and community members.
- It includes an analysis of the Lariat Loop’s existing condition including a summary of its road condition, documentation of adjacent properties, levels of traffic, potential safety considerations, visible utilities and other important physical characteristics.
- The Plan identifies improvements that will be necessary to maintain the Lariat Loop as an important cultural and natural resource that is visitor friendly.
- It defines strategies for the preservation and restoration of the Loop’s significant resources, and for the improved management and marketing of the heritage area.

Principles

- Create a balance between resident and visitor needs.
- Provide for memorable experiences where sites and programs come alive.
- Ensure that the Lariat Loop and its resources are authentic places of a high quality.
- Protect and preserve the social, historic and natural resources that combine to make the Lariat Loop a unique place.



IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

Introduction

The Lariat Loop Scenic Byway is a 40 mile route that is comprised of a diverse array of roads. Rural two lane roads connect to arterial commercial streets and merge with state and interstate highways. Two segments of the rural roads, the Lariat Trail Scenic Mountain Drive that climbs up Lookout Mountain Road and Bear Creek Canyon Scenic Mountain Drive, are historically significant scenic corridors and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In contrast, the center of the byway is connected by Interstate 70, the metropolitan area's primary route to the west.

A field reconnaissance of the Lariat Loop was conducted to observe the roadway facilities and their relationship to the attractions and destinations along the route. The primary concerns that were observed relate to the safety of access locations that occur at entrances to byway destinations, primarily along County Road (CR) 93. Overall, the Lariat Loop provides an enjoyable, diverse driving experience.

A few minor, but very important improvements to the scenic byway route are recommended to ensure that the byway experience is safe and available to a wide variety of travelers. Recommended improvements consist primarily of improving road access from key adjacent destinations, improving road edges and vehicle pull-offs in select locations and streamlining wayfinding.

Improve Roads

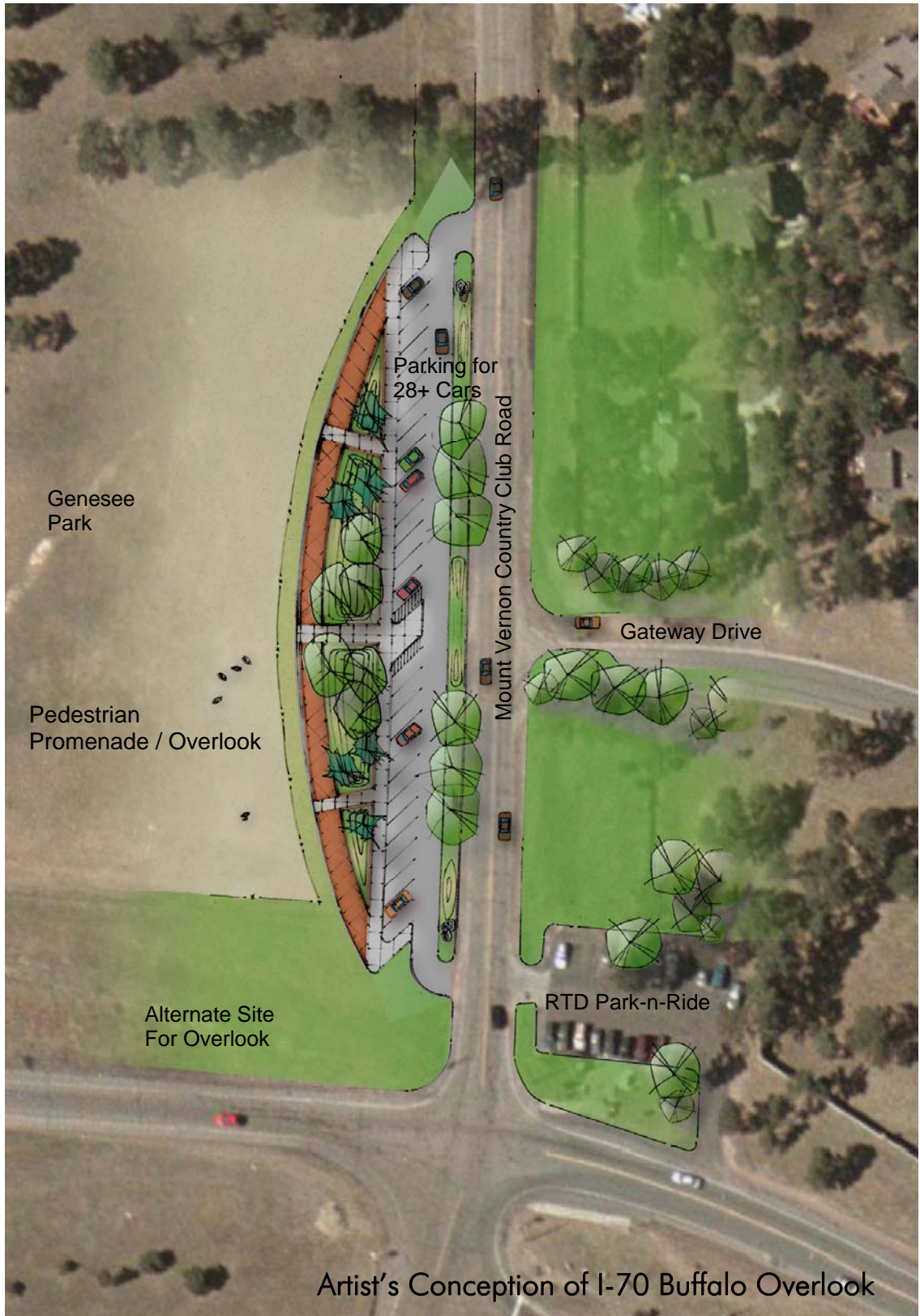
I-1. Lookout Mountain Road / Lariat Trail

From Golden, the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway climbs up Lookout Mountain Road (known as the historic Lariat Trail) along a curving, steep two lane road with numerous switchbacks. The historically significant Lariat Trail still follows its original 1912 alignment and is similar in width and character to the original roadway. A review of accident history from Jefferson County's website indicates that there have been very few accidents along this segment, but a few improvements are recommended.

- Eliminate unsafe pull-offs and formalize a select few, safe sites as pull-offs. Site these on the road shoulder, and ensure that they are of an adequate width and length to accommodate at least one car. Carefully site pull-offs outside of scenic views and vistas.
- Conduct a thorough investigation to define actual locations where safety improvements are necessary.
- In areas with limited sight distance, place restrictions (noted by signage) in specific areas to prevent or discourage use.
- Reconstruct the Historic Spring House and improve as a scenic wayside.
- Identify, with signage, the Lariat Trail and Bear Creek Canyon Scenic Corridors as National Register of Historic Places.

I-2. Buffalo Overlook

The City & County of Denver manages a buffalo herd at Genesee Park (bisected by I-70), and the buffalo are often in the open space on either side of I-70. Travelers frequently use the entrance ramp at the I-70 Exit 254 onto Mount Vernon Country Club Road as a pull-off to view and photograph the buffalo. This spot also affords the most spectacular view of the Continental Divide along the Lariat Loop. However, the pull-off intersects with the on-ramp and is not the best location for this use. Another area on the southeast side of this same interchange has a Colorado Historical Society (CHS) interpretive sign and an informal parking area, but it does not have any direct views to the buffalo herd, Genesee Park or the vista.



Artist's Conception of I-70 Buffalo Overlook

I-2. Buffalo Overlook, continued

- Create a formalized scenic overlook on the north-side of I-70 with parking for travelers, and pedestrian routes for viewing the buffalo and the mountain vistas. Provide amenities such as a shelter, interpretive information, and overlook.
- Work with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and Denver Mountain Parks to create a more desirable scenic overlook.
- Work with CHS to integrate their interpretive sign into the new scenic overlook.

I-3. Chief Hosa Campground and Lodge (I-70)

- Enhance and improve vehicular access into the Chief Hosa Campground and Lodge at the exit from I-70 and at the park entrance.

I-4. Bear Creek Canyon (SH 74)

Bear Creek Canyon is categorized as a winding arterial roadway. Due to its winding nature and two lane cross section it retains the feeling of a rural road and is a favorite route for travelers. Several areas have been newly improved with widened shoulders, resurfacing or guardrail upgrades. Bear Creek Canyon is historically significant and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bear Creek Canyon has several locations that have narrow shoulders and steep roadsides. The most critical issues along Bear Creek Canyon relate to the access locations into the entrances to the Denver Mountain Parks (Little, Corwina and O'Fallon Parks) and Jefferson County Open Space (Lair O'The Bear). Several access locations into these parks / open spaces are substandard in both adequate sight distance along the highway and in horizontal and vertical geometry.

- Realign the access into the entrance to Little Park to resolve its difficult horizontal geometry, especially when entering from or leaving to the west. This location may even require a three-point turn in its current configuration for a larger vehicle.
- Realign the access into the entrance to Lair O'The Bear to resolve its difficult horizontal geometry, especially when entering from or leaving to the west.
- Improve the access into the entrance to O'Fallon Park to bring it up to a minimum traffic engineering standard.
- Create a new access location to Corwina Park to improve the limited sight distance for pulling off and entering the roadway and the limited recovery area due to the guardrail on both sides of SH 74. Consider moving the park access downstream to a safer location. Coordinate improvements with the proposed scenic wayside (I-9, page 7 and refer to S-18, page 20).
- Design new improvements in keeping with the historical significance and integrity of Bear Creek Canyon that is generally expressed in the rustic naturalistic architecture of the Denver Mountain Parks shelters, buildings, and site design.

I-5. On-Going Improvements

Maintaining the scenic & historic byway as such will continue to require regular tasks such as repairing and replacing signage.

Improve Wayfinding

I-6. Interstate 70

This segment of the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway is relatively short, requiring visitors to exit approximately two miles (and two exits) after they enter the highway. Wayfinding along this route is critical since it is such a short distance and is traveled at a high rate of speed. There are currently only a few small signs on the access ramps that note the Lariat Loop. I-70 is also an important capture point at the Evergreen Parkway (252) exit.

- Work with CDOT to add signage on I-70 to note that the Evergreen Parkway and Mount Vernon Canyon exits are primary routes to access the scenic byway.
- Work with CDOT to add signage at the Evergreen Parkway (252) exit noting the entrance to the Byway.

I-7. Highway 6 and Heritage Road Intersection near Golden

This intersection more closely resembles a suburban condition than a foothills road. The geometry of the intersection does not allow for a clear reading of the Lariat Loop route and it is difficult to understand in which direction to proceed.

- Work with Jefferson County Transportation Department to add signage on both Highway 6 and Heritage Road to orient travelers to the Lariat Loop route.



Build Scenic Waysides

The Interpretive Plan, completed in 2002, recommended that five waysides be developed along the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway. The waysides are intended to be roadside pull-offs that are strategically located to allow travelers an opportunity to stop and experience important or special elements of the Lariat Loop. Waysides are recommended for Bear Creek Canyon (SH 74), near Elk Meadow Park on SH 74 in Evergreen and near Red Rocks Park on CR 93 in Morrison.

The scenic waysides should be small pull-offs that are sensitively sited to provide direct visual and physical connections to their resources. The waysides should be developed with good access control to provide for safe traffic operations. Interpretive and orientation information should be provided at each wayside, and should include general information on the scenic byway and heritage area.

I-8. Red Rocks Wayside

- Work with CDOT, Jefferson County Department of Transportation, the Town of Morrison, Denver Mountain Parks, and Jefferson County Open Space to create a scenic wayside on the west side of County Road (CR) 93 in an area that already has a small pull-off area.
- Orient interpretive information to Red Rocks Park, the Dakota Hogback and Dinosaur Ridge, their immediate pre-historic, historic and natural resources.

I-9. Bear Creek Canyon East and West Scenic Waysides

- Work with CDOT, Jefferson County Department of Transportation, the Town of Idledale, Jefferson County Open Space and Denver Mountain Parks to create two scenic waysides.

I-10. Corwina Park

- Work with CDOT, Jefferson County Department of Transportation and Denver Mountain Parks to create a scenic wayside at Corwina Park.
- Combine the development of the scenic wayside with the recommended road improvements (I-4, page 5).





STRATEGIC PLAN

Introduction

The Strategic Plan presents a series of strategies that are to be undertaken by the Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance and its partners to further the goals of the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway and the Lariat Loop Heritage Area.

The Strategic Plan is organized into five over-arching actions. These actions define a series of specific strategies that should be undertaken to successfully manage, promote and improve the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway and Heritage Area.

CREATE A SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATION

PURSUE NEW FUNDING PARTNERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

FOCUS ON THE ESSENCE OF THE BYWAY

PRESERVE THE BYWAY AND HERITAGE AREA THROUGH EDUCATION AND MARKETING

PURSUE ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Create a Sustainable Organization

The Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance (LLHA) is the primary organization that ‘manages’ the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway. It is “*a partnership of more than 25 organizations dedicated to the idea that this area is significant, special, and worthy of our efforts to share its rich heritage.*”

As a consortium of strong partners, the LLHA has been successful in promoting the scenic, natural and historic resources of the Lariat Loop through special projects, regular partner meetings and events. The majority of the work of the LLHA has been volunteer-based. In 2005, the LLHA benefited from the services of a part-time executive director, a position that has recently been cut due to lack of funding.

Goal:

Establish the LLHA as a vibrant, healthy organization that has the power to raise funds to support the organization, its activities and special projects.

Strategies:

S-1. Strengthen the Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance

Re-structure the LLHA organization to streamline decision-making and to attract new interest from members of the community who have not been involved.

- Consider methods to define specific roles and responsibilities of partners.
- Create a few small work groups (from the Board or appointed by the Board) to focus on specific individual issues. Rely on each work group to complete their tasks and to report to the full board or to a smaller committee with an oversight role.
- Establish an Executive Director position as a permanent staff member.

S-2. Make Education a Priority for the LLHA

Expand LLHA’s responsibilities to more actively protect the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway and Heritage Areas through an educational role.

- Identify and prioritize the types of activities and projects that the LLHA should engage in to fulfill this role.

S-3. LLHA Capacity Building Plan

Create a Capacity Building Plan to assist the LLHA in defining the organizational structure and to identify potential funding alternatives.

- Create the ability to raise funds as a non-profit organization.
- Pursue funding sources that can be used to create a capacity building plan.
- Once funding is secured enlist a professional to lead the development of the plan.

S-4. Pursue Operational Funding

Make operational funding a priority by actively pursuing funding that can be used for operations. Focus on funds that are unrestricted or that can be used to establish a staff member position.

- Identify priorities and concentrate on seeking funding based on the priorities.
- Continue seeking grant funding from the Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways program.
- Consider seeking grants or developing partnerships from funding sources that LLHA hasn't traditionally applied for and that offer unrestricted funds or funds for operations.
- Consider pursuing the following grants in the near-term (listed in order from best to worst probability).
 - National Scenic Byway – Consider seeking designation as a National Scenic Byway to become eligible for grants that provide up to \$25,000 for five years that can be used for operations.
 - Preserve America – Consider seeking designation as a Preserve America Community, which may require wider community participation, to become eligible for grant funding. Designation applications are available at www.preserveamerica.gov.
 - National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) – Monitor these two programs monthly as they constantly have new applications for programs.
 - Pursue Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) eligibility in the long-term.
- Actively monitor and evaluate current funding mechanisms.

S-5. Focus LLHA Programs

Evaluate the LLHA's role in developing and operating programs. Determine the type and extent of programs that should be offered by LLHA and those where the organization should offer assistance.

- Focus the LLHA efforts on programs that benefit the entire byway or heritage area, such as guided tours or lecture series.
- Focus LLHA's role in assisting the partners with their programs by lending support in marketing and promotion.
- Work with tour operators by providing information on LLHA sites and partners.

Pursue New Funding Partners and Opportunities

The wealth of scenic, natural and historic resources along the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway and within the Heritage Area offers an opportunity to expand the current base of grant funding and state and federal dollars that the LLHA has traditionally sought. Refer to the Background for a more in-depth description of various funding opportunities.

Goal:

Explore a diverse range of funding opportunities that encompass all aspects of the Lariat Loop and the activities and organizations associated with the LLHA.

Strategies:

S-6. National Scenic Byway Program

The National Scenic Byway's, a program of the U.S. Department of Transportation, will continue to be an important source of funding for the LLHA.

- Continue applying to the Colorado Scenic Byway program for funding of LLHA projects and programs.
- Solicit funding from the Colorado Scenic Byway program for operations.

S-7. Heritage Tourism

Heritage tourism in Colorado continues to grow in travel and spending. In 2003, 38% of pleasure trips to the state were related to heritage tourism, accounting for approximately 10 million trips. For overnight visits, heritage tourism spending accounted for \$2.5 billion of the state's overall \$5.5 billion spending.

- Submit a proposal to the Colorado Tourism Office for a Heritage Tourism Pilot Project. Funded by a grant from the State Historical Fund, the goal is to develop and direct regional heritage tourism pilot projects that are intended to build on the state's emerging strategic plan-*A Strategic Plan for Colorado Heritage Tourism Enhancement* (currently in draft form), advance regional heritage tourism efforts, and provide a framework for broad public-private partnerships. Proposals are due in December/January.
- Consider submitting a proposal to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's competitive grants program entitled Share Your Heritage that provides training in cultural heritage tourism for 30 stakeholders within a given region. Four grants are awarded per year.
- Consider working with the Community Development Center at the University of Colorado at Denver for primary research on visitation along the Lariat Loop. The program provides graduate students to design and conduct research in the areas of architecture, planning and tourism.

S-8. Historic Preservation Funds

- Consider pursuing grant funding from the Colorado State Historical Society's State Historical Fund for projects related to interpretation.
- Work with the LLHA partners to assist in securing SHF funds for specific restoration and rehabilitation projects for historic sites and buildings along the Lariat Loop.

S-9. Natural Resource Funds

The Colorado Division of Wildlife has several programs that offer funding for wildlife projects developed or led by outside personnel or groups. Areas that may relate to the Lariat Loop include those that focus on improving habitat conditions and that assists groups in improving fishing opportunities, or in reducing conflicts with big game. Focus areas, eligibility requirements, matching fund requirements and other aspects vary for each program.

- Consider pursuing funding from one or more of CDOW's programs such as the Colorado Species Conservation Partnership, Colorado Wildlife Conservation Program, Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation, Cooperative Habitat Improvement Program, and/or Fishing is Fun Program.
- S-10. Community Development and other Agency Funding
- The U.S Forest Service offers Rural Community Development grants that accept a wide array of community initiated projects.
 - The Colorado Department of Transportation offers enhancement funds for projects along the state's highways that address multiple use, including biking and pedestrian issues. The funds are administered through the Denver Regional Council of Governments. Betsy Jacobson is the bicycle coordinator for the CDOT.
- S-11. Non-traditional Funding
- Consider working with the Colorado Restaurant Association, currently under the direction of Pete Meersman who also chairs the Board of the Colorado Tourism Office, to create special projects related to food and travel. His organization works closely with the Colorado Chefs Association who may provide technical assistance to regional chefs, and have worked on special regional projects in the past.
- S-12. Great Outdoors Colorado
- Work with the local agencies including Jefferson County Open Space and Denver Mountain Parks to pursue funding for parks and open space funding.
- S-13. Private Funding
- Consider pursuing funding from one or more private foundations including the Gates Foundation, Morrison Foundation, Boettcher Foundation, El Pomar Foundation, and Coors Foundation.



Focus on the Essence of the Byway

Goal:

Promote the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway and Heritage Area with a consistent and clear message that focuses on telling the story of the Lariat Loop. The essence of the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway and Heritage Area is:

Lariat Loop is a scenic circle of heritage treasures linking Golden, Evergreen and Morrison minutes from downtown Denver. See the spectacular mountain scenery and protected open space of Denver Mountain Parks and Jefferson County Open Space. Come experience dinosaurs, Buffalo Bill and rock stars along the Loop!

Strategies:

- S-14. Use the essence as the core reference for all interpretive, wayfinding and marketing products.
- Include a statement that part of the mission is to protect the spirit of place.
 - Describe the driving experience itself as an essential part of the experience in all materials.
 - Establish that the authenticity of the byway is inherent with the foothills mountain landscape and the original idea of offering a mountain travel experience that is easily accessed.
- S-15. Elevate the visitor experience to a higher standard of quality. Begin with improvements at the more highly visited sites and those that are currently attracting a significant number of visitors.
- Buffalo Bill's Grave - Develop a Museum Master Plan for the Buffalo Bill Museum, its site, building, collection, exhibits and Lookout Mountain Park that elevates this unique resource to a state of the art interpretive center.
 - Consider establishing a relationship with the sister museum in Cody, Wyoming that owns a significant collection of Buffalo Bill artifacts and that has a reputation for quality that draws annual high numbers of international and domestic travelers.
 - Dinosaur Ridge – Continue to create a cohesive visitor experience. Place signage that connects the visitor center to the interpretive sites with the visitor center being the first point of contact. Frequently there are "road closed" signs when approaching the interpretive sites from the west. It is unclear whether the site can still be accessed when these signs are displayed.
 - Feature existing high-quality restaurants in marketing materials; provide technical assistance to those that need upgrading.



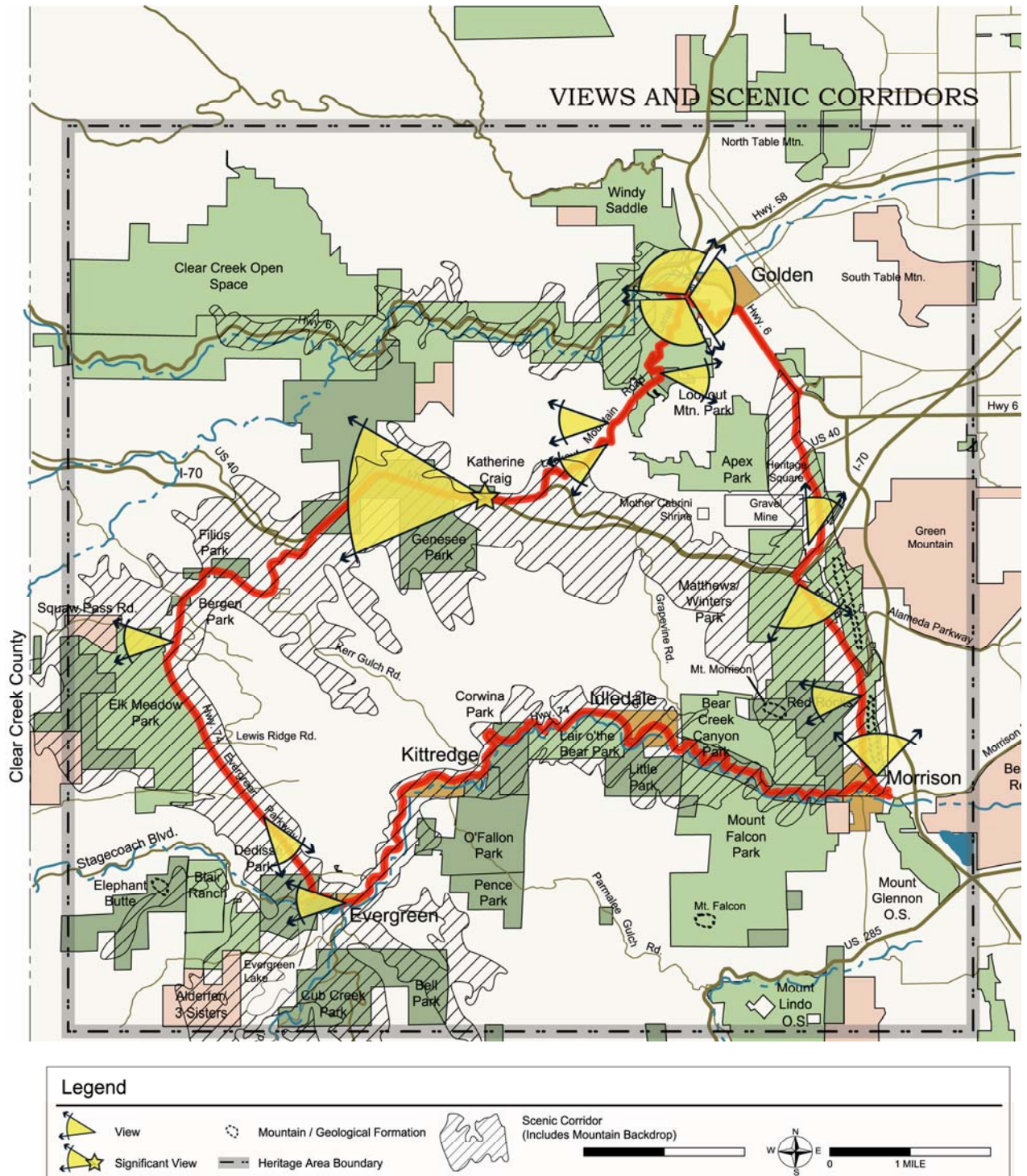
- S-16. Promote and market the driving experience of the Lariat Loop including its points of access and choice of routes.
- Identify and promote four gateways (I-70/Mt. Vernon, Golden, Morrison, 1-70/Genesee with three distinct driving experiences (winding through canyons, straight and fast, mountain switchbacks).
 - Define how to plan access to the mountains by specifying both distance and time.
 - Upgrade marketing pieces to clearly define these routes as a mountain experience. Spell out the pleasures of the road.
- S-17. Promote the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway and Heritage Area through its ‘unique’ partners, especially Red Rocks Park.
- Work with Denver Theaters and Arenas, Denver Mountain Parks and the Colorado Welcome Center at Red Rocks Park to actively include the Lariat Loop as a key component of the Red Rocks Visitor Center. Consider including a wall map, exhibit and distribution of marketing materials.
 - Utilize the Red Rocks Visitor Center as a primary source of information and visitor amenities.
 - Promote the relationship between the Lariat Loop and Red Rocks in LLHA materials. Identify Red Rocks as a unique asset with a national reputation and the Lariat Loop as the way to best experience this world class venue.
 - Offer Colorado Welcome Center volunteers and travel counselors periodic orientation tours of the Byway and its attractions.
- S-18. Educate businesses and services in the value of the Lariat Loop and its opportunities for unique experiences.
- Create an on-going training program. Consider working with Colorado Grassroots Training Program to create a program that can be delivered with a minimum time commitment by individual businesses.
 - Train front-line employees who directly influence the visitor experience, including periodic orientation tours of the Byway.



S-19. Continue to implement the Interpretive Plan (Appendix D).

- Complete the wayfinding system.
 - Develop the orientation or ‘hubs’ at Evergreen/I-70, the Buffalo Overlook, in Morrison and in Golden where wayfinding, interpretive and introductory information regarding the Lariat Loop is available.
 - Work with Red Rocks Park to include the Lariat Loop as a key component of their visitor center.
 - Complete the scenic waysides or roadside pull-offs that will allow visitors to stop and experience important or special elements. The waysides include three in Bear Creek Canyon including one at Corwina Park, along Highway 74 at Elk Meadow Park and along CR 93 near Red Rocks Park.
- Create the Little Loops.
 - Develop the side routes that showcase partners and unique sites.
 - Develop the route to Mother Cabrini Shrine along Highway 40, and strengthen the connection to Golden through signage and marketing.
- Work with partner museums to create exhibits to showcase the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway and Heritage Area.





Preserve the Byway and Heritage Area through Education and Marketing

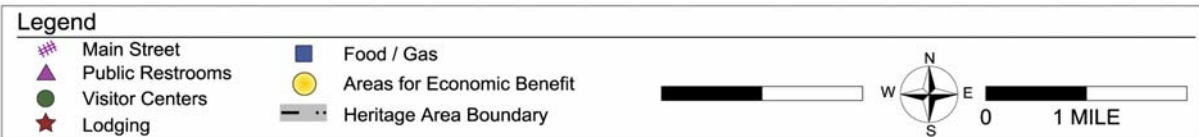
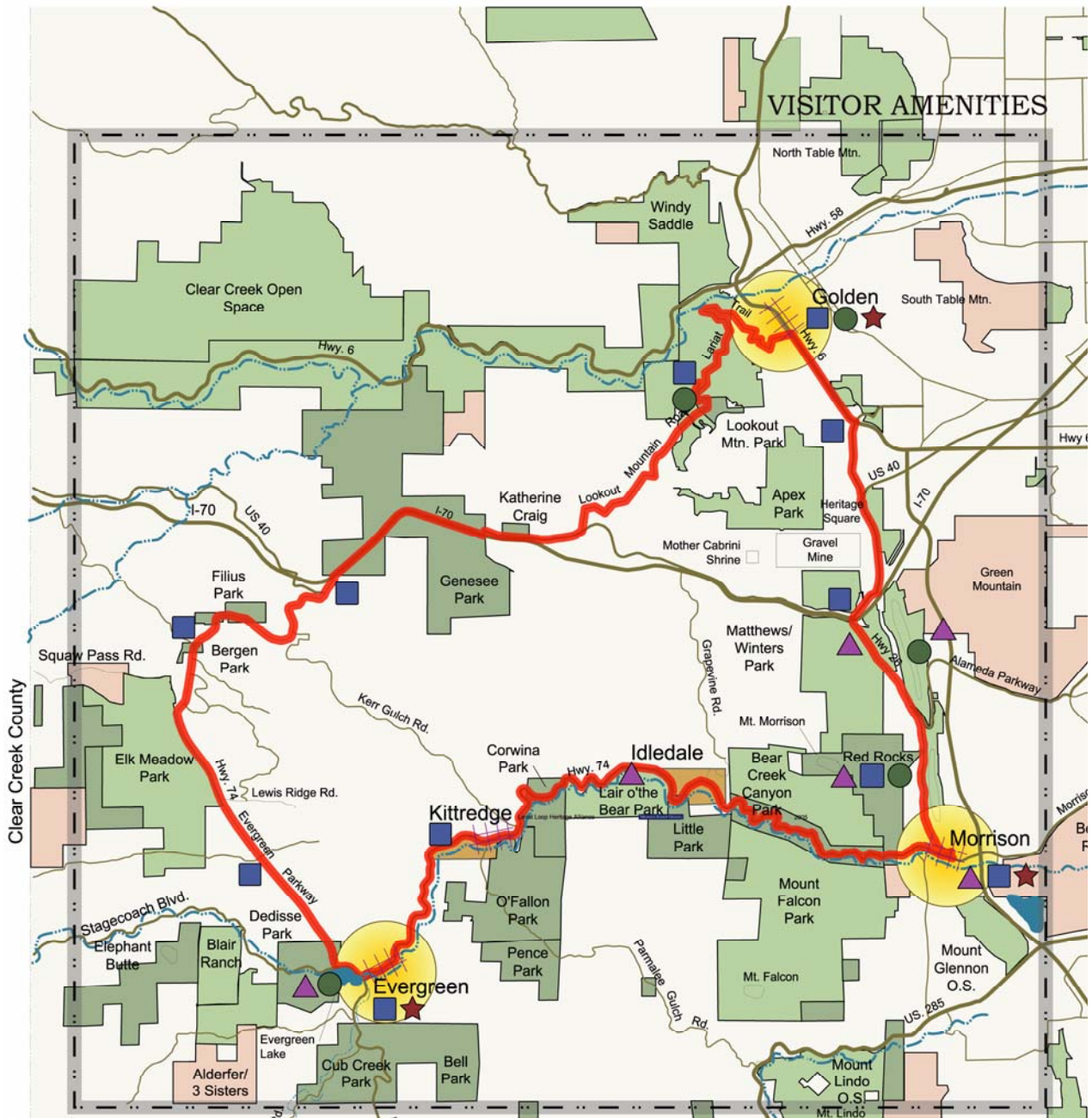
Goal:

Partner with government agencies and the local community to promote, preserve and enhance the natural, cultural, scenic and historic qualities that make the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway and Heritage Area unique.

Strategies:

- S-20. Work with the appropriate government agencies to protect the unique scenic, natural and historic character that makes the Loop an important scenic byway and heritage area.
- Invite a staff member from the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department to participate in the LLHA to assist in the management of the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway. Consider inviting staff that are responsible for long range planning and current planning.
 - Participate in the stakeholder group led by Jefferson County Open Space and Denver Mountain Parks that works together to improve the area's open space and parks.
 - Support the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department in implementing their community plans, particularly the following.
 - Historic Character - Identify historic resources such as trails, sites, features, and structures through mappings, contact with historical agencies, cultural resource inventories, and site visits. Promote land uses that support the preservation and maintenance of the historic resources.
 - Visual Character – Identify important visual resources such as mountain backdrop/foreground, view corridors, meadows, ridges, hillsides, waterways, Evergreen Lake, vistas, unique vegetation, historic structures, valleys, rock outcroppings, and the night sky. Promote development that either protects or complements the visual resources in the area.
 - Natural Character – Identify the systems that constitute the natural character adjacent to the Lariat Loop (for example: ecosystems, wildlife, habitat, water). Preserve and enhance these resources through education of Lariat Loop residents and visitors and proactively support programs that ensure the vitality of these resources.





- S-21. Support the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department in implementing applicable sections of the three community plans to protect the scenic, historic and natural character of the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway.
- Visual Character – Protect areas designated on the Visual Resources Map, through changes to the *Zoning Resolution* and the *Land Development Regulation*. Perform environmental studies of visual impact for transportation improvement projects, include potential mitigation measures. Protect visual resources through: a) purchase by Jefferson County Open Space b) purchase by private land conservancies c) transfer of densities to other developable areas d) downzoning e) conservation/scenic easements f) tax incentives.

Screen new developments using the following mitigation techniques: a) use dark, receding colors b) use architecture with low contrast that does not dominate the site c) low level of site disturbance and high level of natural screening. Fencing and signage should not be obtrusive, rather should blend with the landscape. Locate buildings to avoid silhouettes on a ridge.
 - Historic Character – Use mapping to serve as an initial indicator of historic resources in the area, additional sites may be added. Promote land uses that support preservation and maintenance of historic resources. Encourage cultural resource inventories in advance of specific development policies.

When a historic resource is identified: 1) preserve the resource 2) reuse/integrate into a development 3) relocate or extract the resource 4) explain why the resource cannot be protected and document the resource. Preserve historic resources through innovative techniques such as, public and private purchase, tax incentives and conservation zoning, etc.
 - Reference the Design Guidelines in the *Evergreen Area Community Plan*, *Central Plains Community Plan*, and the Design Criteria in the *Central Mountains Community Plan*.
 - Work with Planning and Zoning Department in determining the character of the proposed neighborhood centers to ensure that new uses and construction is compatible with the Lariat Loop.
- S-22. Protect the character of the county roads along the scenic corridors.
- Work with the Jefferson County Highways and Transportation Department on methods to protect the specific qualities of each road.
 - Consider implementing special road classifications, design guidelines or special county designations for roads along the scenic corridors.
- S-23. Continue to lead the regional effort in increasing awareness of the value of the Lariat Loop's unique scenic, natural and historic resources.
- Increase the public's awareness of the Lariat Loop's National Natural Landmark site - Morrison Fossil Area (Dinosaur Ridge).
 - Pursue designation for certain corridors as Colorado State Natural Areas.
 - Increase awareness of scenic drives that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

- S-24. Work with appropriate government agencies to implement projects that enrich the scenic byway.
- Assist Jefferson County Open Space and Denver Mountain Parks in implementing the ‘scenic circle’ for hiking and biking that emulates the original scenic driving route of 1914.
 - Encourage the Jefferson County Highways and Transportation Department to improve the accesses into entrances to major Lariat Loop sites and attractions particularly those along Bear Creek Canyon (SH 74) and on the Lariat Trail as described in the Improvements section of this Plan.



PURSUE ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Goal:

Establish the Lariat Loop as the premiere close-in authentic mountain experience within the Denver metropolitan region, while ensuring that the community reaps multiple benefits including economic gain and protection of resources.

Strategies:

- S-25. Target the international and national heritage traveler who is interested in the mountain experience.
- Acknowledge that the Byway and Heritage Area has many extraordinary sites, but that it's the unique sites such as Red Rocks Park and Buffalo Bill Museum that draw these travelers. Use these sites as hubs to direct visitors to lesser known sites.
 - Provide a balanced experience with authentic and high quality excursions, great food and comfortable accommodations.
 - Identify the current visitor. Conduct research, such as a visitor survey to understand the characteristics of the current visitor and to establish a baseline against which evaluations can be made for future programming.
 - Identify current user groups who could become greater supporters, such as the bicyclists who frequent the Lariat Trail.
 - Strategize to establish repeat visitation.
- S-26. Draw heritage travelers by orienting marketing materials towards the Lariat Loop's competitive advantages, such as its easy access to targeted travelers, experiences that can be gained in a short time frame, and mild winters that allow for outdoor activities.
- Target the Denver-based day-tripper, focusing on short viable trips with clearly defined routes (and times or lengths).
 - Better define the visitor experience. Update the website (last update November 2004) and other marketing materials.
 - Offer proof of authenticity. Use LLHA marketing materials to tie together the relevant relationships such as: the rustic era in which buildings were constructed and the relationship of the Byway to the structures, towns, and Mountain Park system.
 - Describe the quality of assets and experiences the traveler can expect.
 - Describe the visitor amenities along byway including places to eat, shopping and places with out-of-the-ordinary accommodations.
- S-27. Create economic benefit for existing businesses in all areas along the Lariat Loop. Affirm that economic development objectives will be actively pursued, but never at the expense of authenticity or quality.
- Bring business people, especially those who benefit directly from travelers, into the LLHA.
 - Develop an economic strategy in association with local businesses to promote the goals of heritage tourism.
- S-28. Work closely with the new Colorado State Tourism Office (CTO) Heritage Initiative to further develop the potential of the Lariat Loop in cultural heritage tourism.
- Identify joint projects or funding opportunities including the pilot programs that are being funded for 2006. Refer to *Pursue New Funding Partners and Opportunities* in this section.



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Implementation Plan presents a prioritization of the strategies that are to be undertaken by the Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance and its partners to further the goals of the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway and the Lariat Loop Heritage Area.

The Implementation Plan is organized into two sections (that follow the text of the document) – Improvements Plan and Strategic Plan.

IMPROVEMENTS PLAN			
IMPROVE ROADS			
	Lead	Estimated Cost / Funding Resource	Priority ✦ Immediate ● Mid-Term ■ Long-Term
I-1. Lookout Mountain Road / Lariat Trail Scenic Drive			
– Eliminate unsafe pull-offs and formalize a select few, safe sites as pull-offs. Site these on the road shoulder and ensure that they are of an adequate width and length to accommodate at least one car. The pull-offs should be carefully sited outside of scenic views and vistas.			■ Long-Term
– Conduct a thorough investigation to define actual locations where safety improvements are necessary.			● Mid-Term
– In areas with limited sight distance, place restrictions (noted by signage) in specific areas to prevent or discourage use.			✦ Immediate
– Reconstruct the Historic Spring House and improve as a scenic wayside.			
– Identify, with signage, the Lariat Trail and Bear Creek Canyon Scenic Corridors as National Register of Historic Places.			
I-2. Buffalo Overlook			
– Create a formalized scenic overlook on the north-side of I-70 with parking and routes and amenities such as a shelter, interpretive information, and an overlook.	LLHA		✦ Early Action (for design) ● Mid-Term (construction)
– Work with CDOT and Denver Mountain Parks to create a more desirable scenic overlook.			✦ Immediate
– Work with CHS to integrate their interpretive sign into the new scenic overlook.			✦ Immediate
I-3. Chief Hosa Exit (I-70)			
– Enhance and improve access into the Chief Hosa Campground and Lodge.	DMP CDOT Jeffco Trans		■ Long-Term
I-4. Bear Creek Canyon (SH 74)			
– Realign the access into Little Park.	Jeffco Trans		■ Long-Term
– Realign the access into Lair O’The Bear.	Jeffco Trans		■ Long-Term
– Improve the access into O’Fallon Park to bring it up to a minimum standard.	Jeffco Trans		■ Long-Term

IMPROVE WAYFINDING			
	Lead	Estimated Cost / Funding Resources	Priority ✦ Immediate ● Mid-Term ■ Long-Term
I-5. Ongoing Improvement			
– Regular Maintenance	LLHA		
– Create a new access location and edge to Corwina Park. Consider moving the park access downstream.	Jeffco Trans		■ Long-Term
– Design new improvements in keeping with the historical significance and integrity.	DMP		■ Long-Term
I-6. Interstate 70			
– Work with CDOT to add signage on I-70 to note that the Evergreen Parkway and Mount Vernon Canyon exits are the primary exits to access the Byway.			✦ Immediate
– Work with CDOT to add signage at the Evergreen Parkway (252) exit noting the entrance to the Byway.			✦ Immediate
I-7. Highway 6 and Heritage Road Intersection near Golden			
– Work with Jefferson County Transportation Department to add signage on each road to orient travelers to the Lariat Loop route.	LLHA		✦ Immediate
BUILD SCENIC WAYSIDES			
I-8. Red Rocks Wayside			
– Work with CDOT, Jefferson County Department of Transportation, the Town of Morrison, Denver Mountain Parks, and Jefferson County Open Space to create a scenic wayside on the west side of CR 93.			■ Long-Term
– Orient interpretive information to Red Rocks Park, the Dakota Hogback, and Dinosaur Ridge, their immediate resources.			■ Long-Term
I-9. Bear Creek Canyon East and West Scenic Waysides			
– Work with CDOT, Jefferson County Department of Transportation, the Town of Idledale, Jefferson County Open Space and Denver Mountain Parks to create two scenic waysides.			■ Long-Term
I-10. Corwina Park			
– Work with CDOT, Jefferson County Department of Transportation and Denver Mountain Parks to create a scenic wayside at Corwina Park.			■ Long-Term
– Combine the development of the scenic wayside with the recommended road improvements (I-4).			■ Long-Term

STRATEGIC PLAN			
CREATE A SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATION			
Goal:	Lead	Estimated Cost / Funding Resources	Priority
Establish the LLHA as a vibrant, healthy organization that has the power to raise funds to support the organization, and its activities and special projects.			✦ Immediate ● Mid-Term ■ Long-Term
Strategies:			
S-1. Strengthen the Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance	LLHA		
– Consider methods to define specific roles and responsibilities of partners.			✦ Immediate
– Create a few small work groups (from the Board or appointed by the Board) to focus on specific individual issues. Rely on each work group to complete their tasks and to report to the full board or to a smaller committee with an oversight role.			✦ Immediate
– Establish an Executive Director position.			● Mid-Term
S-2. Make Education a Priority for the LLHA.	LLHA		
– Identify and prioritize the types of activities and projects that the LLHA should engage in to fulfill this role.			✦ Immediate
S-3. LLHA Capacity Building Plan	LLHA		
– Create the ability to raise funds as nonprofit.			✦ Immediate
– Pursue funding sources.			✦ Immediate
– Enlist a professional to assist in development of the plan.			✦ Immediate
S-4. Pursue Operational Funding	LLHA		
– Identify priorities and concentrate on seeking funding based on the priorities.			✦ Immediate
– Continue seeking grant funding from The Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways program.			✦ Immediate
– Consider seeking grants or developing partnerships from alternative funding sources (those that LLHA hasn't traditionally tapped) that offer unrestricted funds or funds for operations.			✦ Immediate
– Consider pursuing the following grants in the near term: National Scenic Byway, Preserve America, and NEA/NEH			● Mid-Term
– Pursue SCFD eligibility in the long-term.			
– Actively monitor and evaluate current funding mechanisms			✦ Immediate
S-5. Focus LLHA Programs	LLHA		
– Focus the LLHA efforts on programs that benefit the entire byway or heritage area, such as guided tours or lecture series.			✦ Immediate
– Focus LLHA's role in assisting the partners with their programs by lending support in marketing and promotion.			✦ Immediate
– Work with tour operators by providing information on LLHA sites and partners.			

PURSUE NEW FUNDING PARTNERS AND OPPORTUNITIES			
Goal:	Lead	Estimated Cost / Funding Resources	Priority
Explore a diverse range of funding opportunities that encompass all aspects of the Lariat Loop and the activities and organizations associated with the LLHA.			✦ Immediate ● Mid-Term ■ Long-Term
Strategies:			
S-6. National Scenic Byway Program			
– Continue applying to the Colorado Scenic Byway program for funding of LLHA projects and programs.	LLHA		Complete
– Solicit funding from the Colorado Scenic Byway program for operations.			✦ Immediate
S-7. Heritage Tourism	LLHA		
– Submit a proposal to the Colorado Tourism Office for a Heritage Tourism Pilot Project.			Complete
– Consider submitting a proposal to the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s competitive grants program entitled Share Your Heritage.			● Mid-Term
– Consider working with the Community Development Center at the University of Colorado at Denver for primary research on visitation along the Lariat Loop.			● Mid-Term
S-8. Historic Preservation Funds	LLHA		
– Consider pursuing grant funding from the SHF for interpretation projects.			● Mid-Term
– Work with the LLHA partners to assist in securing SHF funds for specific restoration and rehabilitation projects for historic sites and buildings along the Lariat Loop.			■ Long-Term
S-9. Natural Resource Funds			
– Consider pursuing funding from one or more of CDOW’s programs.			■ Long-Term
S-10. Community Development and other Agency Funding			
– Consider pursuing the U.S Forest Service offers Rural Community Development grants.			■ Long-Term
– Consider pursuing Colorado Department of Transportation’s enhancement funds.			✦ Immediate
S-11. Non-traditional Funding	LLHA		
– Consider working with the Colorado Restaurant Association.			● Mid-Term
S-12. Great Outdoors Colorado			
– Work with the local agencies including Jefferson County Open Space and Denver Mountain parks to pursue funding for parks and open space funding.			■ Long-Term
S-13. Private Funding			
– Consider pursuing funding from one of more private foundations.			● Mid-Term

FOCUS ON THE ESSENCE OF THE BYWAY			
<i>Lariat Loop is a scenic circle of heritage treasures linking Golden, Evergreen and Morrison minutes from downtown Denver. See spectacular mountain scenery and protected open space managed by Denver Mountain Parks and Jefferson County Open Space. Come experience dinosaurs, Buffalo Bill and rock stars along the Loop!</i>			
Goal: Promote the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway and Heritage Area with a consistent and clear message that focuses on telling the story of the Lariat Loop.	Lead	Estimated Cost / Funding Resources	Priority ◆ Immediate ● Mid-Term ■ Long-Term
Strategies:			
S-14. Use the 'essence' as the core referent for all interpretive, wayfinding and marketing products.			
– Include a statement that part of the mission is to protect the spirit of place.			◆ Immediate
– Describe the driving experience itself as an essential part of the experience in all materials.			◆ Immediate
– Establish that the authenticity of the byway is inherent with the foothills landscape and the original idea of offering a mountain travel experience that is easily accessed.			◆ Immediate
S-15. Elevate the visitor experience to a higher standard of quality.			
– Buffalo Bill's Grave - Develop a Museum Master Plan for the Buffalo Bill Museum, its site, building, collection, exhibits and Lookout Mountain Park.			■ Long-Term
– Consider establishing a relationship with the sister museum in Cody, Wyoming.			■ Long-Term
– Dinosaur Ridge – Continue to create a cohesive visitor experience with signage and a first point of contact located at the visitor center.			◆ Immediate
– Feature existing high-quality restaurants in marketing materials.			◆ Immediate
S-16. Promote and market the driving experience of the Lariat Loop including its points of access and choice of routes.			
– Identify and promote four gateways with three distinct driving experiences (winding through canyons, straight and fast, mountain switchbacks).			◆ Immediate
– Define how to plan to access to the mountains by specifying both distance and time.			◆ Immediate
– Update marketing pieces to clearly define these routes as a mountain experience.			◆ Immediate

FOCUS ON THE ESSENCE OF THE BYWAY , CONTINUED			
	Lead	Estimated Cost / Funding Resources	Priority ✦ Immediate ● Mid-Term ■ Long-Term
S-17. Promote the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway and Heritage Area through its 'unique' partners, especially Red Rocks Park.	LLHA		
– Work with Denver Theaters and Arenas, Denver Mountain Parks and the Colorado Welcome Center to actively include the Lariat Loop as a key component of the Red Rocks Visitor Center.	Denver		✦ Immediate
– Utilize the Visitor Center as a primary source of information and visitor amenities.			✦ Immediate
– Promote the relationship between the Lariat Loop and Red Rocks in LLHA materials.			✦ Immediate
– Offer volunteers orientation tours of the Byway as training.			
S-18. Educate businesses and services in the value of the Lariat Loop and its opportunities for unique experiences.			
– Create an on-going training program. Consider working with Colorado Grassroots Training Program.			● Mid-Term
– Train front-line employees who directly influence the visitor experience.			● Mid-Term
S-19. Continue to implement the Interpretive Plan (Appendix D).			
– Complete the wayfinding system.	LLHA		
• Develop the orientation or 'hubs' at Evergreen/I-70, the Buffalo Overlook, in Morrison, Evergreen, and in Golden where wayfinding, interpretive and introductory information regarding the Lariat Loop is available.		\$600,000 Scenic Byways	✦ Immediate
• Work with Red Rocks Park to include the Lariat Loop as a key component of their visitor center.			✦ Immediate
• Complete the scenic waysides or roadside pull-offs that will allow visitors to stop and experience important or special elements.			■ Long-Term
– Create the Little Loops.			
• Develop the side routes that showcase partners and unique sites.			● Mid-Term
• Develop the route to Mother Cabrini Shrine along Highway 40, and strengthen the connection to Golden through signage and marketing.			● Mid-Term
– Work with partner museums to create exhibits to showcase the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway and Heritage Area.			✦ Immediate

PRESERVE THE BYWAY AND HERITAGE AREA THROUGH EDUCATION AND MARKETING			
Goal:	Lead	Estimated Cost / Funding Resources	Priority ♦ Immediate ● Mid-Term ■ Long-Term
Work with government agencies and local community to promote, preserve and enhance the natural, cultural, scenic and historic qualities of the Scenic Byway and Heritage Area.			
Strategies:			
S-20. Work with the appropriate government agencies to protect the unique scenic, natural and historic character of the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway.			
– Invite a staff member from the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department to participate in the LLHA to assist in the management of the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway. Consider inviting staff that are responsible for long range planning and current planning.			♦ Immediate
– Consider participating in the stakeholder group lead by Jefferson County Open Space and Denver Mountain Parks.	LLHA		♦ Immediate
– Support the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department in implementing their community plans.			On-Going
S-21. Work the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department in implementing applicable sections of the three community plans to protect the Lariat Loop.			On-Going
– Work with Planning and Zoning Department to ensure that new uses and construction of the proposed neighborhood centers is compatible with the Lariat Loop character.			On-Going
S-22. Protect the character of the county roads along the scenic corridors.			
– Work with the Jefferson County Highways and Transportation department to protect each road.			● Mid-Term
– Consider implementing special road classifications or design guidelines for roads along scenic corridors.			● Mid-Term
S-23. Continue to lead the regional effort in increasing awareness of the value of the Lariat Loop's unique resources.			
– Increase the public's awareness of the Lariat Loop's National Natural Landmark sites (Dinosaur Ridge).			♦ Immediate
– Pursue designation for certain corridors as Colorado State Natural Areas.			■ Long-Term
– Increase awareness of scenic drives that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.			♦ Immediate
S-24. Work with appropriate government agencies to implement projects that enrich the scenic byway.			
– Assist Jefferson County Open Space and Denver Mountain Parks in implementing the 'scenic circle' (hiking and biking).			● Mid-Term
– Encourage Jefferson County Highways and Transportation to improve entrances to major Lariat Loop sites. Refer to Improvement Plan section.			■ Long-Term

PURSUE ECONOMIC BENEFITS			
Goal:	Lead	Estimated Cost / Funding Resources	Priority
Establish the Lariat Loop as the premiere close-in authentic mountain experience within the Denver metropolitan region, while ensuring that the community reaps multiple benefits including economic gain and protection of resources.			♦ Immediate ● Mid-Term ■ Long-Term
Strategies:			
S-25. Target the international and national heritage traveler who is interested in the mountain experience.			
– Acknowledge that it is the unique sites (Red Rocks Park and Buffalo Bill Museum) that draw these travelers. Use these sites as hubs to direct visitors to lesser known sites.			♦ Immediate
– Provide a balanced experience with authentic and high quality excursions, great food and comfortable accommodations.			♦ Immediate
– Identify the current visitor. Conduct research, such as a visitor survey to understand the characteristics of the current visitor and to establish a baseline against which evaluations can be made for future programming.			♦ Immediate
– Identify current user groups who could become greater supporters, such as bicyclists who frequent the Lariat Trail.			♦ Immediate
– Strategize to establish repeat visitation.			
S-26. Draw heritage travelers by marketing activities and materials towards the Lariat Loop's competitive advantages.			
– Target the Denver-based day-tripper, focusing on short viable trips with clearly defined routes (and times or lengths).			♦ Immediate
– Better define the visitor experience by updating LLHA marketing materials.			● Mid-Term
– Offer proof of authenticity by tying together historical and geographical relationships along the byway.			♦ Immediate
– Describe the quality of assets and experiences the traveler can expect.			♦ Immediate
– Describe the amenities along byway including places to eat, shopping and places with interesting accommodations.			♦ Immediate
S-27. Create economic benefit for existing businesses in all areas along the Lariat Loop. Affirm that economic development objectives will be actively pursued, but never at the expense of authenticity or quality.			
– Bring business people, especially those who benefit directly from travelers, into the LLHA.			♦ Immediate
– Develop an economic strategy in association with local businesses to promote the goals of heritage tourism.			♦ Immediate
S-28. Work closely with the new Colorado State Tourism Heritage Initiative to further develop the potential of the Lariat Loop in cultural heritage tourism.			
– Identify joint projects or funding opportunities in 2006.			♦ Immediate

BACKGROUND

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ROAD SUMMARY AND WAYFINDING

The Lariat Loop Scenic Byway follows a 40 mile route that includes two lane roads, arterial streets, state highways, and an interstate highway. The route primarily follows Jefferson County roadways and Colorado State highways. In general, the byway route appears sufficient to accommodate the existing needs of the scenic byway such as bus and car traffic, and on occasion, road bicycling. The primary issues observed in the field relate to the safety of the access onto the main route from side destinations such as Little Park and Lair O'The Bear Park.

From Golden, the Lariat Loop climbs up Lookout Mountain Road, also known as the Lariat Trail, along a curving, steep two lane road with numerous switchbacks. The Lariat Trail follows its historic 1912 alignment and is generally similar in width to the original roadway. A review of accident history from the Jefferson County website indicates that there have been very few accidents along this segment. The Lariat Trail is one of two historically significant scenic corridors along the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Lariat Trail ends on the top of Lookout Mountain at Lookout Mountain Park, and from this point, Lookout Mountain Road continues to the west, connecting with a short segment of US 40 and then I-70. Lookout Mountain Road is also two lanes but has fewer switchbacks and fewer steep segments than the Lariat Trail. The upper portion of Lookout Mountain Road slopes slightly downhill towards the west, and cumulates with a long, relatively steep decline along its western end at US 40. The Lariat Loop turns towards the west to connect with I-70 at the Mount Vernon on-ramp.

Interstate 70 connects the northern and southern segments of the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway. The interstate highway is generally three lanes in each direction with a speed of 65 miles per hour, and follows a somewhat curving route. This segment is relatively short, requiring visitors to exit approximately two miles (and two exits) after they enter the highway. Wayfinding along this route is critical with such a short distance at higher speeds, and is limited to only few signs noting the Lariat Loop.

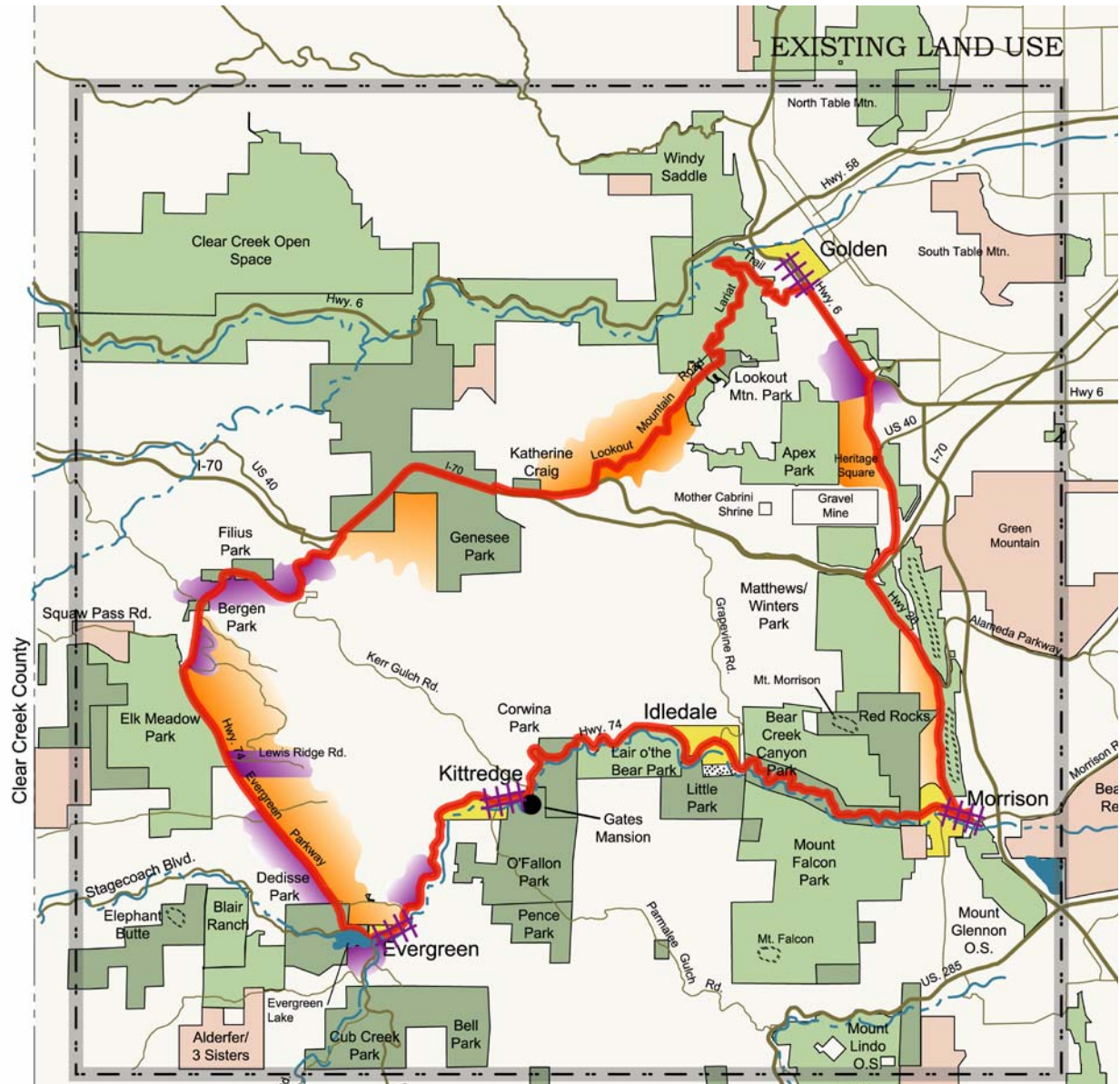
EXISTING AND FUTURE LAND USE

The Lariat Loop Scenic Byway is located within Jefferson County. The majority of the Lariat Loop route is noted as being scenic routes in the community plans. More than half of the adjacent land use is parks and open space that consist primarily of lands owned by either Denver Mountain Parks or Jefferson County Open Space. In some areas, such as along Bear Creek Canyon, both sides of the byway are lined by the parks and open spaces that are generally natural areas that express the foothills environment. Bear Creek Canyon is has small pockets of residential land use and commercial and retail use in its small towns including Morrison, Kittredge and Evergreen. A few recent homes have been or in the process of being developed on ridges that overlook the scenic byway, and in some cases dramatically interrupt the visual character of the byway.

Many areas of the Lariat Loop are lined with residential land use. The majority of this use is compatible with the foothills environment, however there are a few areas where the extent or quality of residential development impacts the visual character of the byway, including the area just north of Lewis Ridge Road in Evergreen and the area just north of I-70 from the Lookout Mountain exit to the Genesee Park exit.

Planning and zoning issues including long-term and current planning fall under the responsibility of the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department. Along with the county's zoning ordinances, there are currently three community plans that influence the land use along the Lariat Loop including the Evergreen Area Community Plan, Central Plains Community Plan and the Central Mountains Community Plan.

LARIAT LOOP SCENIC & HISTORIC BYWAY ✦ CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN



Legend

- Residential Area
- Commercial Area
- Main Street
- Mountain / Geological Formation
- Ridgeline Development
- Heritage Area Boundary

The Central Mountains plan supports developing the buffalo overlook (page 50). One of the more important sections of the plan is the Mountain Site Design Criteria (as an appendix) that outlines a series of design guidelines that support the goals of preserving the unique foothills character that is the backbone of the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway and Heritage Area. The Evergreen Area Community Plan also provides a Design Guidelines section (as an appendix) that covers site planning and architecture.

Neighborhood centers appear as a planning idea in the Central Mountains Community Plan as areas where future commercial growth is anticipated, and perhaps encouraged. The centers are located in areas that currently have limited commercial uses. Four of the five proposed neighborhood centers are located along the Lariat Loop, including the top of Lookout Mountain, the Mount Vernon area, the area at the intersection of I-70 and Hwy 40, and in the Town of Idledale. The character or extent of anticipated development of these proposed centers is not discussed.

JEFFERSON COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING RECOMMENDATIONS

Scenic corridors are addressed in two of the plans – the Evergreen Area Community Plan and the Central Mountains Community Plan – with recommendations for methods to protect the visual and scenic qualities of the roads that comprise the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway. Both the Evergreen Area and Central Mountains plans explicitly support the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway designation and the preservation of scenic and historic resources.

The Evergreen Area plan recommends the protection of “*views along area highways*” (page 103) and the Central Mountains plan recommends to “*(s)afeguard scenic corridors and the mountain community character*” (page 47). The Evergreen Area Community Plan also provides a visibility study and recommends the preservation of “*landscapes that have special visual qualities and are seen frequently by people*” (page 16), states that “*scenic corridors should be established along Bear Creek. . .development should be limited and carefully designed to preserve the scenic qualities of these areas*” (page 102) and recommends in their implementation section that “*the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Division should consider completing a Scenic Corridor Study*” (page 105).

EXISTING VISITOR AMENITIES

Visitor amenities along the Lariat Loop are quite varied in their extent of services, quality of products, experience and distribution (or location along the byway), and are usually a reflection of where they are located. As expected, a wider array of services and amenities exist along the Loop’s main streets or downtowns such as Morrison, Golden and Evergreen where there are generally several choices of restaurants, shops, accommodations and even gas stations. The merchants tend to be small, local business owners focused on specific merchandise or services, and there are few chain or franchised shops.

In the more suburban areas such as those areas just southeast of Golden, individual service stations and large shopping centers provide basic amenities such as snack foods, water, gas and restrooms. A large portion of the Lariat Loop is rural in character, offering a narrower selection of amenities.

Visitor Centers

- Buffalo Bill’s Museum and Grave
Pahaska Tepee
- Evergreen Lake House at Evergreen Lake
- Red Rocks Amphitheatre & Trading Post
- Dinosaur Ridge
- NREL

LARIAT LOOP SCENIC & HISTORIC BYWAY ✦ CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN



Legend	
	Main Street
	Public Restrooms
	Visitor Centers
	Lodging
	Food / Gas
	Areas for Economic Benefit
	Heritage Area Boundary

N
W E
S 0 1 MILE

Gift Shop

- Astor House Museum Gift Shop
- Colorado Railroad Museum Gift Shop and Bookstore (on railroad books)
- Dinosaur Ridge
- Golden Pioneer Museum
- Foothills Art Center
- Lookout Mountain Nature Center
- Morrison Natural History Museum
- Mother Cabrini Shrine
- Red Rocks Trading Post
- Red Rocks Amphitheater and Visitor Center

Public Restrooms

- Downtown Morrison
- Downtown Golden
- Evergreen Lake House at Evergreen Lake
- Jefferson County Open Space – Matthew Winters Park, Lair O'the Bear Park, Elk Meadow Park, Apex Park
- Denver Mountain Parks – Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Little Park, Corwina Park, O'Fallon Park, Dedisse Park, Genesse Park, Lookout Mountain Park
- Buffalo Bill's Museum and Grave
- Dinosaur Ridge

Food

- Restaurants – downtown Morrison, Kittredge, Evergreen, Golden, Red Rocks Amphitheatre
- Fast Food – downtown Golden, Evergreen, Exit 252, Intersection of Hwy 6 with US 40/Heritage Road

Gas

- Generally on highway or road exits – I-70 at Red Rocks exit, Evergreen Parkway, intersection of Hwy 6 with US 40/Heritage Road
- Downtown Morrison, Kittredge, Town of Evergreen (several along Highway 74), downtown Golden

Shopping

- Downtown Morrison, Kittredge, downtown Evergreen, downtown Golden

EXISTING PROGRAMS

The Lariat Loop supports a wide array of educational and interpretive programs including public programs that are managed by the Jefferson County Open Space department and numerous programs that are components of the byway's private and non-profit entities. The programs vary in focus as well, covering topics as diverse as the area's geologic formations and resultant resources to the byway's history as a scenic tourist route.

Programs are available as self-guided or naturalist-guided tours, group programs that are pre-scheduled, and as special events. The guided tours and group programs generally require pre-registration and a small fee to participate. Self-guided tours are usually free of charge. Special events include presentations on specific topics, exhibits, and living history programs. Many sites along the Lariat Loop are museums or have a strong museum component in addition to their programs. Most require an admission fee.

Publicly Funded and Operated

The majority of the publicly funded and operated programs within the Lariat Loop Heritage Area are those that are provided by Jefferson County Open Space. The most comprehensive set of programs occur at the Lookout Mountain Nature Center whose mission is to “. . .create awareness, understanding, and conservation of Jefferson County's open spaces through year-round educational programs and

exhibits,”¹ and at the Hiwan Homestead Museum who “maintains active craft and interpretive school programs as well as changing exhibitions, which are sponsored by the Jefferson County Historical Society.”²

Buffalo Bill’s Museum and Grave, owned and operated by the City & County of Denver in Lookout Mountain Park, offers monthly programs that have an educational focus. While most focus on the Museum’s mission where its “3000 sq. ft. of exhibit space focus(es) on the life, times, and legacy of William “Buffalo Bill” Cody,”³ a few programs are social events.

Private or Non-Profit Entities

A great many of the existing programs in the Lariat Loop Heritage Area are those that are operated by one of the Loop’s many non-profit entities. These organizations vary in focus and complexity and most fill specialized niches that relate to the cultural and natural resources in the Lariat Loop (see table below).

Program Focus

The following table outlines the wide array of existing programs and exhibits that are currently offered in the Lariat Loop Heritage Area. The programs are organized by primary topic and focus, although many programs cover more than one category.

Location	Natural Resources	Heritage Resources	Social / Cultural
<u>Publicly Funded and Operated</u>			
<i>* examples of programs **unique type of program, event or resource</i>			
Lookout Mountain Nature Center self-guided tours naturalist tours changing exhibits	<i>Noble Natives Migratory Bird Walk Mule Deer in Colorado Search the Night Sky Ralston Buttes Special Access*</i>		
Hiwan Homestead Museum programs exhibits		<i>Local History Programs After School Programs</i>	<i>Valentine’s Day Tea Discovery Days(Day Camps) Art Show in the Grove A Tour Through the 50s with Lucy*</i>
Buffalo Bill’s Museum and Grave exhibits programs social events		<i>Buffalo Bill’s Birthday Bash Western Heritage Day and Burial Commemoration Buffalo Bill’s Life: A Time Line</i>	<i>Mountain Melodies: A Day of Family Bluegrass Music</i>
Evergreen Lake House at Evergreen Lake recreation programs facility rentals			<i>Outdoor Concerts Ice Skating Boating</i>
Genesee Park	<i>Buffalo Herd**</i>		
Morrison Natural History Museum exhibits guided tours video tour**	<i>Exhibits: The Return of the Native* Morrison: Birthplace of the Jurassic Giants*</i>		

Location	Natural Resources	Heritage Resources	Social / Cultural
<p>Morrison Heritage Museum</p> <p>limited hours online exhibits**</p>		<p><i>Online Exhibits: Civilian Conservation Corps History of Morrison</i></p>	
<p>Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre: Visitor Center, Trading Post</p> <p>gift shop guided tours self-guided tours special events exhibits multimedia online shopping facility rentals</p>	<p><i>Exhibits on geology and dinosaurs</i></p>	<p><i>Documentary films on Red Rocks, CCC and Denver Mountain Parks</i></p> <p><i>Interactive Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame</i></p>	<p>Concerts</p>
<p><u>Non-Profits</u></p> <p><i>* examples of programs **unique type of program, event or resource</i></p>			
<p>Astor House Museum & Clear Creek History Park</p> <p>living history** children's summer programs self-guided tours</p>		<p><i>Hands-On History Summer Session for ages 6-10**</i></p> <p><i>Tea Time at the Astor House Educational Series 2005</i></p> <p><i>Friends Events</i></p>	<p><i>Tea Time at the Astor House Educational Series 2005</i></p> <p><i>Friends Events: workshops, concerts, events</i></p>
<p>Colorado Railroad Museum</p> <p>Robert W. Richardson Railroad Library** virtual tour** guided tours exhibits</p>		<p><i>Railroad Indoor & Outdoor Exhibits</i></p> <p><i>Denver Garden Railway Society G-Scale Exhibit</i></p> <p><i>Denver HO Model Railroad Club, Inc.**</i></p>	<p><i>Narrow Gauge Train Rides**</i></p>
<p>Dinosaur Ridge</p> <p>gift shop guided tours self-guided tours virtual tour** special events outreach presentations & teacher trunks** multimedia** teacher training** online shopping**</p>	<p><i>Dinosaur Discovery Days</i></p> <p><i>Fireside Chats</i></p>		

Location	Natural Resources	Heritage Resources	Social / Cultural
Humphrey Memorial Park and Museum gift shop house museum guided tours decorative arts collection**		<i>Historic Site</i> <i>House Museum</i> <i>Colorado Ranching</i> <i>Humphrey Family History</i>	
Golden Pioneer Museum guided tours exhibits virtual library** changing exhibits link to online bookstore** genealogical research**		<i>Preservation Workshops</i> <i>Fine Arts Festival / Holiday House Tour</i> <i>Native American Exhibit</i> <i>Coors Ceramics*</i>	<i>Mommy & Me Valentine Workshop*</i> <i>Mystery History Tour*</i>
Foothills Art Center exhibits changing exhibits classes (youth and adult and disabled), events & lectures** facility rentals** studio space** teacher resources**			<i>Exhibits:</i> <i>ROLLING THUNDER: Art from the Plains*</i> <i>Community ArtSpace**:</i> <i>Holiday Art Market</i> <i>Art classes</i>
International Bell Museum			
Mother Cabrini Shrine church sacred grounds gift shop		<i>Mother Cabrini</i>	

* examples of programs **unique type of program, event or resource

Analysis of Existing Programs

The wide array of programs relate well to the heritage area’s natural resources with a good mix of focus on its natural, historic and pre-historic qualities. Ancillary programs such as art related programs would benefit the mix of offerings. Only a few sites, such as the Foothills Art Center in Golden currently offer art related programs.

The programs offer many choices for travelers, school age children and return visitors. Several sites including the Foothills Arts Center and Lookout Mountain Nature Center provide outreach, teacher presentations and teacher training. Many sites complement their program offerings with on-line shopping catalogs with everything from DVD’s, multimedia and books to site specific sales items such as Dinosaur Ridge’s scale dinosaur figures to hats and t-shirts. A few sites provide video introductions or virtual tours such as the Morrison Museum’s video tour of Dinosaur Ridge and the Colorado Railroad Museum’s tour, effectively reaching visitors (including the disabled or elderly) who might not experience the site first-hand. There are a few unique program experiences such as the narrow gauge train ride offered by the Colorado Railroad Museum as a part of museum admission.

EXISTING RESOURCES

Refer to Appendix C

EXISTING MARKETING AND HERITAGE TOURISM

Marketing

The existing tools used by the LLHA include the Lariat Loop Interpretive Plan, the Lariat Loop logo, the scenic byway signs, the organizational structure of the LLHA and several partners, and the brochure. New marketing materials in development include an audio-tour and new interpretive waysides.

Websites

The Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance, its partners and several other sites along the Lariat Loop utilize websites to attract new travelers and to update returning visitors. The content of these websites generally focuses on the mission of each entity, outlines their programs, and notes special events. Some sites have merchandise for sale as well. Many sites offer links to other attractions along the Lariat Loop such as the Denver Mountain Parks website that links to Dinosaur Ridge. Some provide website links to attractions that relate to their mission such as the Morrison Natural History Museum's link to the Morrison Research Institute, and the Astor House Museum link to Buffalo Bill and Golden Pioneer Museum. The Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance website provides in-depth information on the activities of the organization and current events related to the scenic byway and heritage area and provides links to its partners websites.

Special Lariat Loop Products

A few of the Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance partners provide custom products that relate their missions and that are unique to their facility. The Foothills Art Center carries a custom line of t-shirts, sweatshirts, tiles, and totes that are emblazoned with the "Iris Window," an architectural detail of a stained glass by artist Caroline K. Jensen. Dinosaur Ridge carries hats and t-shirts that carry the logo and imagery of the site. Several years ago, the LLHA produced placemats that depicted the Lariat Loop, which were distributed to area restaurants.

Auxiliary Marketing

Several sites along the Lariat Loop are already famous or are becoming more well-known in their own right. Red Rocks Park and Buffalo Bill Museum are probably the best known sites and are regularly noted in travel and other national publications. Other sites also receive press from special interest magazines such as GORP, a web-based magazine, that mentions Dinosaur Ridge, Lookout Nature Center and the Morrison Natural History Museum on their website.

Potential Funding Sources

Colorado Division of Wildlife

The Colorado Division of Wildlife has several programs that help fund wildlife projects developed or led by outside personnel or groups. Areas that may relate to the Lariat Loop include those that focus on improving habitat conditions and that assists groups in improving fishing opportunities, or in reducing conflicts with big game. Focus areas, eligibility requirements, matching fund requirements and other aspects vary for each program.

- Colorado Species Conservation Partnership - The Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund (GOCO), in partnership with the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW), private landowners, and non-governmental organizations throughout the state have developed a far-reaching species protection program along with the U.S. Department of Interior. Their goal is to prevent the further decline of Colorado's wildlife species.
- Colorado Wildlife Conservation Program - The Colorado Division of Wildlife has set aside \$200,000 for a competitive grants program to support projects to conserve, restore or enhance Colorado's threatened, endangered or declining wildlife resources. The intent is to spread the funding among several projects from different areas throughout the state.
- Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation - The mission of the Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation is to ensure a wildlife legacy for Colorado today and tomorrow by securing and managing funds for wildlife projects. It is an enhanced foundation that actively searches for funding sources that benefit the wildlife projects submitted to them by their partners and online applicants.

- Cooperative Habitat Improvement Program - The Cooperative Habitat Improvement Program (CHIP) is designed to assist landowners who wish to develop or improve wildlife habitat. CHIP is a flexible program that offers landowners several options to create habitat for a specific species. A few examples of habitat projects eligible for this program are small woody plantings, grass plantings, wetland enhancements, and stream improvements.
- Fishing is Fun Program – This unique program involves local communities in a three-way partnership with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Federal Sportfish Restoration Act

NEH Public Programs: Interpreting America's Historic Places

NEH provides grants for programs that have the “*power to connect people to the past and to impress upon us the deeper lessons of our history,*” and that “*exploit the evocative power of historic places to address themes and issues central to American history.*” The grants are for exhibits, interpretive materials, heritage tourism partnerships, or other strategies that help the public to learn more about historic places. The grants are provided through *Interpreting America's Historic Places*, a newly established grant line within the NEH's Division of Public Programs and include **Consultation Grants and Planning Grants, and Implementation Grants** (due February 6, 2006). For guidelines and further information visit www.neh.fed.us/grants/guidelines/historicplaces.html or to speak with a program officer call 202-606-8269 or send an e-mail to publicpgms@neh.gov.

Colorado Tourism Office

Funding for Heritage Tourism Pilot Projects: Anticipated RFP Release Date

In collaboration with the Colorado Historical Society, the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) will provide three to four grants in 2006 to local communities to develop and direct regional heritage tourism pilot projects. Building on the state's emerging strategic plan-*A Strategic Plan for Colorado Heritage Tourism Enhancement*-(currently in draft form), the pilot projects are intended to advance regional heritage tourism efforts, and provide a framework for broad public-private partnerships. The pilot projects are funded by a State Historical Fund grant (\$220,000 is dedicated to pilot project development), thus the site-based projects will be chosen through a competitive selection process administered by the Colorado Tourism Office.

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs has indicated support for cultural heritage programs. Recently, they matched a grant awarded by Preserve America to the Southeast Colorado Cultural Heritage Tourism Initiative. This source of funding is anticipated to remain high as long as gas and oil activity is in a boom period.

It is expected that the RFP will be issued the third week of February, and that proposals will be due two months later. For guidelines and further information contact Scott Campbell at scott.campbell@state.co.us or 303-892-3885.

Information on the Energy Impact Grant funding cycles can be obtained from the Department of Local Affairs, (DOLA) State of Colorado

Appendix A

Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance

Mundus Bishop Design, Inc.

May 2, 2005

Visioning Session

1. Reaffirm LLHA goals and objectives – protect significant resources, special character of the heritage area, communication forum,

- *The Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance is a non-profit group formed by area partners and stakeholders interested in sustaining the integrity and special character of the regions character. The Alliance is operated by a working committee comprised of a board of directors, officers and an executive committee.*

The Alliance's primary roles are to provides a communication forum for all partners, to enable cooperation on joint projects and to assist in raising funds not available to individual partners including the development of public-private partnerships.

- Existing tools – Interpretive Plan; LLHA organization; partners; marketing materials – logo, will have an updated map / brochure, will have an audio-tour, scenic byway signs and support; interp waysides;
- #### **2. Reaffirm the purpose of the Management Plan and present preliminary schedule.**
- Framework to organize the Lariat Loop – define roles of LLHA, partners & community members – define existing condition – identify necessary improvements - create strategies for preservation / restoration, management and marketing

3. What is Heritage Tourism and Who is Involved in Heritage Tourism

- Will relate to byway management – compatible ideas

4. Visioning Working Session (3 tasks)

- ***Balance Between Resident and Visitor Needs***

Work in threes and list those issues that are most relevant (i.e., providing bathrooms, having peace and quiet, protecting the views, wayfinding, etc.)

Use note cards to list and I'll put them into categories as I read them out loud

Categories are circulation, quality of life, basics (restrooms, etc.), amenities, buffers,

- ***Define Attractions, Programs and Visitor Services***

Work in threes – 1/3 of group defines obvious and not so obvious attractions and most important or least known

1/3 of group defines programs, 1/3 of group defines visitor services

Member of each group has red or blue dots (based on task) and they put them on the board as they present to the group

List what's missing as a group activity

- ***Organization, Marketing and Financing***

Work in threes – identify goals of heritage tourism

Possibilities: restoration and protection, interpretation, financial viability, build support (for what), reaching new markets, encourage support tourist facilities (hotels, shops, restaurants); know your visitation (count visitors, measure money they spend) –

Discuss role of LLHA in attaining goals

5. Heritage Tourism Principles for the Lariat Loop

- ***List those principles that relate to Lariat Loop***

Could include the ones from the board – 1) balance between resident and visitor needs; 2) Memorable experiences (make sites and programs come alive); 3) Authentic places; 4) Places of Quality; 5) Protecting the resources

Monitor progress

Make adjustments

M E E T I N G S U M M A R Y

Project: Lariat Loop Corridor Management Plan **Project Number:** 0502
Issue Date: December 17, 2005 **Meeting Date:** October 21, 2005
Present: Judy Walden, Joe Tempel, Amy Newman, Jean Schwartz, Cyd Pougiales, Millie Roeder, Sally White, Jerry, Barbara Boyer, Mark Swanson, Steve Friesen, Cynthia Shaw-McLaughlin, Tim Sandsmark, Ryan Godderz, Ron Garrison, AJ Tripp-Addison, Bart, Tina Bishop and Ryan Godderz (Mundus Bishop Design, Inc.), Larry Sandberg
From: Ryan Godderz **Phone :** 303-477-5244
Fax: 303-477-5146
Re: Work Session #3 **cc:**

1. Introduction - Tina gave an overview of the purpose of the meeting, which was to review and comment on the proposed strategies for the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway. She organized topics according to the proposed recommendations for the Strategic Plan (a section of the Corridor Management Plan). The topics to be discussed were:

- o Create a sustainable organization
- o Focus on the essence of the byway
- o Preserve and protect the byway and heritage area
- o Pursue economic development

2. Create a Sustainable Organization – The following comments were discussed.

Steve Freisen:

- o This organization (LLHA) may compete with everyone else’s organizations (the partner organizations) for funding.
- o Does not favor an executive director position because it costs too much money and doesn’t support sustainability. He doesn’t believe that the membership can support employee operations.

Sally White: A consortium (such as the LLHA) has a better chance of obtaining grant money that may be otherwise unavailable.

Judy Walden: National Scenic Byway provides operational funding (seed grants) of \$25,000 per year for 5 years. This year, two roadways in Colorado attained national byway status and qualify for this money, the Headwaters Byway, and Legends Byway.

Jean Schwartz: Is the process is working now? It is good to have one point of contact for the organization.

Barbara Boyer: A group identity through one person is needed to keep projects and communication unbiased. The amount of hours were tracked for the executive director position (now obsolete) was approximately 250 hours since February 2005.

- Cyd Pougiales: The director position could be determined at a later date. The goal of a great scenic byway comes first. Time is also tracked for grant applications.

3. Focus on the Essence of the Byway - Tina described how the heritage area was viewed historically as a foothills landscape and how it is viewed today as a mountain lifestyle and experience. She asked everyone to find the essence in the Loop from the driving experience to the visitor experience to unique experiences such as Buffalo Bill's grave, Dinosaur Ridge, and Red Rocks.

Barbara: What's the quality of the experiences in the three downtown areas?

Ron Garrison: Sustainable operating income comes from these (downtown areas).

AJ Tripp-Addison: How can we get the business to support this organization?

General: "Pay to play" advertising was discussed. Judy stressed that food is pivotal and essential to a heritage tourism experience. There is a difference between including those businesses that provide high quality (a tenant of the heritage tourism experience) - "good vs. fair." Not all establishments are equal and good should be promoted through such means as having a food critic give suggestions or recommendations on places to visit. This would promote quality within the Loop and also has a public relation value.

Steve: The Lariat Loop needs to be the total package because typically one destination is not the draw. But this would cause a cooperative/competitive tension.

Judy: Think about the 'essence' of the Loop. Everyone should look at the byway as a single organism that is more than the sum of its parts. Some of those parts being, mountain driving, food, historic essence, and the mountain getaway.

Joe Tempel and Ron: The role of the automobile in the development of these areas is huge. The Lariat Loop is the 'hit' or the 'fix' for many conventioners from Denver.

Jean Schwartz: The Loop is like a big stomach.

Cynthia: Have bus tours had been considered instead of individual driving experiences.

Ron: Red Rocks is a 'jumping off' point for the Loop.

4. Pursue Economic Benefits - Tina provided an overview of a series of strategies that are recommended as part of the Strategic Plan.

Steve: The Loop is been viewed inwardly (from the LLHA perspective) and outwardly (from visitors and the public). The idea began with a preservation and protection mindset and now has transitioned to more of a destination/tourism role.

Barbara and Ron: Noted that there is high demand for the Lariat Loop brochures at different kiosks and sales points.

Cyd: Noted the LLHA's recent shift from preserve and protect to education to marketing/business.

Judy brought up the topic of 'high value travelers' self selecting themselves through the marketing materials.

5. Preserve and Protect the Byway and Heritage Area - Tina mentioned the topic of design guidelines as far as the scenic corridors are concerned. She proposed considering a set of Lariat Loop design guidelines in handbook format. One example was for the sake of the country roads. She also made mention of the "Scenic Circle" by Jefferson County and Denver Mountain Parks which is a hiking and biking trail following some of the original park experiences.

A general discussion involved the topic of design guidelines and how they are applied not only to the Lariat Loop but in an advocacy role for other organizations. How much time should be spent on these issues and how can the people and their respective organizations keep political distance?

Cyd: As members of this group, we are stewards of the original Olmsted plan and vision.

Another general discussion arose about, who the representative serving in the advocate role would be, what discussions they would be involved in, how much time should be spent and what is the level of involvement. The individuals in the room are already representatives but the spokesperson should be dedicated. There was a concern about the amount and timing of participation, the overlap of influence or scope, and the level of involvement.

6. Buffalo Overlook Concept - Tina present a very preliminary idea of a concept for the Buffalo Overlook. Currently there are about 12 parking spots available, but people also park along the on-ramp to I-70. As drawn the plan would accommodated about 30 spaces. The site would house both learning and interpretive information.

Cyd: One study showed that there are tens of thousands of people in traffic that are possible people to consider the Lariat Loop.

Options for the site and the immediate area are to move the RTD station to the south which would open up the possibility to have the parking for the overlook on the old RTD site. RTD may but an informational kiosk for the Lariat Loop at the park and ride.

7. Audio Tour -Larry Sandburg provided a status of where the audio tour project. The goal is to have a one hour CD with up to 46 tracks for different areas of the loop. The current source of information would be the Lariat Loop brochure. Each site would get 1 to 1.5 minutes which equates to 1 to 1.25 pages of double spaced copy.

The group encouraged Larry to find the essence in the places being described, as if you were eavesdropping on a piece of history.

Music and sound effects would add to the production costs and may not fit into the budget.

Questions that arose are: Is this a marketing tool? How much to charge for the CD? What is the format? Could it be an MP3 or downloaded from the internet? Where is it available?

A small group will convene to assist in developing the 'essence' of the Lariat Loop and will provide this information to Larry.

7. Conclusion/Recap

The LLHA role's in program development should focus on programs or events that support the whole Lariat Loop.

Essence - Judy and Tina will capture and record the 'essence' and forward it to Joe. The 'essence' should trickle down through all aspects of various projects such as the audio tour CD, when one is speaking of the Lariat Loop, etc.

Others should be brought into the LLHA, specifically local business owners. Methods of accomplishing this will continue to be worked on, especially for more difficult contacts.

Sources of revenue, state/private/local, will be explored.

Other possible partnerships, such as with businesses that rely on outdoor activities such as the Cabelas, Bass Pro Shop, Colorado Mills, etc. will be explored as business partners.

Tina / Judy will compile a strategic plan in a written and matrix form and will distribute it for review.

end

M E E T I N G S U M M A R Y

Project: Lariat Loop Management Plan **Project Number:** 0508

Date: December 17, 2005

Present: Joe Tempel, President
 Barbara Boyer, Executive Director
 Cyd Pougiales, Vice President
 Peter Szilagyi
 Sally White, Secretary
 Kristi Martens, Treasurer
 Steve Friesen
 Tim Sandsmark
 Carole Lomond
 Amy Cleveland
 A.J. Tripp-Addison
 Ken Foelske
 Ron Garrison
 Cynthia Shaw-McLaughlin
 Sister Bernadette Casciano

From: Tina Bishop **Phone :** 303-477-5244
Fax: 303-477-5146

RE: Visioning Session

cc: file

Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance

1. The LLHA goals and objectives to protect significant resources and the special character of the heritage area were confirmed.
 - *The Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance is a non-profit group formed by area partners and stakeholders interested in sustaining the integrity and special character of the regions character. The Alliance is operated by a working committee comprised of a board of directors, officers and an executive committee.*
 - The Alliance's primary roles are to provides a communication forum for all partners, to enable cooperation on joint projects and to assist in raising funds not available to individual partners including the development of public-private partnerships.*
2. The existing tools used by the LLHA include the Lariat Loop Interpretive Plan, the Lariat Loop logo, the scenic byway signs, the organizational structure of the LLHA and several partners, and the brochure. New marketing materials in development include an updated map and brochure, an audio-tour, new interpretive waysides.

Lariat Loop Management Plan

1. The Management Plan will provide the framework that will assist in organizing and defining the Lariat Loop. It is the written document that will assist the LLHA in defining the goals, strategies, roles for conserving and enhancing the Lariat Loop's unique qualities.

- The Plan will define the roles and responsibilities of the Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance and each of its partners and community members.
- It will include an analysis of the Lariat Loop's existing condition including a summary of its road condition, documentation of adjacent properties, levels of traffic, potential safety considerations, visible utilities and other important physical characteristics.
- The Plan will identify improvements that will be necessary to maintain the Lariat Loop as an important cultural and natural resource that is visitor friendly.
- It will define strategies for the preservation and restoration of the Loop's significant resource, for and for the improved management and marketing of the heritage area.

Visioning – Work Session #1

1. This first work session was focused on defining Heritage Tourism and what it means to the Lariat Loop.
2. Sally Pearce with CDOT presented the State's current work related to scenic byways and heritage tourism.
 - 38% of total pleasure trips to Colorado in 2003 were for heritage tourism. This equates into 8.1 million visitors out of a total of 21.3 million;
 - \$2.5 billion of \$5.5 billion spent on tourism in Colorado in 2003 was for heritage tourism;
 - The primary sources of heritage travel to Colorado was the western United States;
 - The most common source of information about Colorado heritage travel was word of mouth. Other sources include the internet, personal experience and books;
 - Heritage visitors to Colorado take longer than average trips and stay longer, and trips are more predominant during the summer season;
 - Denver is the number one attraction. Red Rocks Amphitheater is the fourth most popular Colorado attraction and Buffalo Bills Museum is the sixth.
3. Tina Bishop presented an overview of heritage tourism and what it means to the Lariat Loop. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has done several studies on heritage tourism and has defined it as follows.
 - *“Cultural heritage tourism is traveling to experience the places, artifacts and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present. It includes cultural, historic and natural resources.”*
 - For the Lariat Loop this means incorporating the following.
 - Balance between Visitor and Resident Needs
 - Memorable Experiences
 - Authentic and of a High Quality
 - Protects the Resources
 - Heritage Tourism for the Lariat Loop involves:
 - Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance
 - Local Community
 - Preservation interests
 - Tourism
 - Economic Development
 - The arts
 - Museums
 - Humanities

4. Tina Bishop facilitated the first task of the working session, which was intended to define the acceptable balance between visitor and resident needs that is desired. The large group was divided into smaller groups of three with the task to define the issues that are most relevant to the scenic byways. These could range in scale and topic and could include issues from providing amenities such restrooms to having peace and quiet to protecting views.

- Comments were organized into categories including Circulation, the LLHA and its partners, Quality of Life, Amenities, Experiences and Information.
- Circulation – road bicycling is an issue, especially on the Lariat Trail; encourage a ‘share the road’ attitude; work with Jefferson County on more bike paths; get Jeffco to coordinate better when they close roads for events.
- the LLHA and its partners – LLHA is the clearing house for the Loop; LLHA should become self-sustaining; expand membership of LLHA; need dedicated funding; product branding could be revenue source; other revenue could come from offering tours, parking; new member opportunities include the Fort, Jefferson County Economic Council, Evergreen Chamber of Commerce, more businesses, more commercial and retail members, more lodging members.
- Quality of Life – balance road bikes with road use; keep the ambience of the small towns; conflicts between tourism traffic and locals are a concern; identify capacity and common usage times;
- Amenities – need amenities as they are few; food; bathrooms; need lodging outside of main downtowns; need more local businesses to become members of LLHA.
- Experiences – increase bike tourism; coordinate / provide van and bus tours; coordinate pre-planned tours and packages; create a Lariat Loop tour; maintain experiential and hands on experiences; target an international and national audience;
- Information – product branding (Lariat Loop soap, for example); branding for individual sites and for the Loop; market the Loop but need funding; convey information through living history; provide details about the resources; provide multi-cultural activities (Catholic pilgrimages, for example); reprint the placemats; provide a concierge service; create a visitor guide; focus promotion and education on locals; interactive activities; create video for marketing; create a media kit that could include photographs, history, activities and stories.

5. Tina Bishop facilitated the second and last task, which was intended to identify the not so obvious attractions, to define those areas with existing traveler amenities and to identify those sites that currently provide a program related to the Lariat Loop. The larger group was divided into three groups and each group took on one task.

- The first group’s task was to define the not so obvious attractions and to locate these on the Lariat Loop plan. They decided instead to note those areas that should be conserved and not promoted. These sites included Denver Mountain Parks and Jefferson County Open Space parks that already have a high visitor level.
- The second group identified those programs that exist along the Lariat Loop and located these on the plan with green dots. This exercise confirmed that there are many programs along the Loop with a broad range of topics.

- The third group identified existing visitor facilities along the Lariat Loop such as food, restrooms and lodging. They located these facilities on the plan with yellow dots. This exercise was very telling as there were very few dots on the plan, confirming that traveler amenities are few and far between along the Loop.
5. The LLHA confirmed that the following would be principles of the Management Plan.
- Create a balance between resident and visitor needs;
 - Provide for memorable experiences where sites and programs come alive;
 - Ensure that the Lariat Loop and its resources are authentic places of a high quality;
 - Protect and preserve the social, historic and natural resources that combine to make the Lariat Loop a unique place.

end

Appendix B

Existing Resources Summary

THE RESOURCES

Places of Significance:	Views and Vistas	Educational / Interpretive Sites
<i>Parks and Open Spaces</i>	Wonders	
<i>Towns / Historic Districts</i>	<i>Natural and Cultural</i>	<i>Museums / Visitor Centers</i>
Scenic Routes	Sites of Significance	<i>Tourist Site</i>
<i>Scenic Drives / Trails</i>	<i>Historic / Cultural Sites</i>	
	<i>Sacred Sites</i>	

Places of Significance:

Parks and Open Spaces

Denver Mountain Parks

Lookout Mountain Park:

Resources: Lookout Mountain picnic site (historic shelter and NPS site); scenic views and vistas; Pahaaska Teepee (1921); Buffalo Bills grave site (1917); Lookout Mountain mountaintop; montane forest overstory and meadows;

Colorow Point:

Resources: mountain cliff and overlook, symbolic site named for Chief Colorow; scenic views and vistas; montane forest overstory and meadows;

Genesee Park:

Resources: montane Ponderosa Pine forest; historic park roads (Olmsted – 1912); scenic views into valleys; Chief Hosa Lodge; Genesee shelter site;

Fillius Park:

Resources: montane Ponderosa Pine forest and grassy meadows; historic park roads, picnic grounds (NPS); shelter () views into valleys;

Bergen Park:

Resources: Bergen shelter site;

Dedisse Park:

Resources: Dedisse shelter site; historic park roads; historic picnic sites (NPS - 1937); scenic views into valleys;

O'Fallon Park:

Resources: historic park roads; historic picnic sites (NPS - 1937); scenic views into valleys;

Corwina Park:

Resources: historic park roads (Olmsted – 1912); scenic views into valleys;

Little Park:

Red Rocks Park:

Resources: Red Rocks Amphitheatre; historic park roads; Fountain formation;

Jefferson County Open Space Parks

Windy Saddle Park:

Elk Meadow Park:

Resources: Johnson Ranch remnants (barn); scenic views into valleys; montane Ponderosa Pine forest and grassy meadows;

Alderfer / Three Sisters Park,

Resources: montane Ponderosa Pine forest and grassy meadows; four rock formations – the Three Sisters and the Brother;

Lair o' the Bear Park

Resources: Bear Creek; montane Ponderosa Pine forest, riparian woodlands and grassy meadows; Mountain Nook Ranch landscape remnants (lilacs, etc.);

Bear Creek Canyon Park,

Mount Falcon Park,

Resources: montane Ponderosa Pine forest; Summer White remnants; John Brisben Walker's stone house remnants; old fire watch tower; trails to resources – Walkers Dream Trail;

Matthews-Winters Park,

Resources: as first open space acquired by Jeffco in 1973 – the hogback; montane Ponderosa Pine forest and grassy meadows; (2) mine sites on hogback; Mt. Vernon cemetery; Mt. Vernon townsite remnants – church, bungalows, Mt. Vernon House;

Apex Park

Resources: scenic view; dense Ponderosa Pine woods; Apex and Gregory wagon road remnants;

Towns Historic Districts

Golden –

Resources: 12th Street Historic District; Astor House Museum; Herman Coors House;

Town of Evergreen – Evergreen Historic District,

Resources: downtown area – as summer community – cottages and commercial area;

Kittredge –

Resources: Gates summer residence east of Kittredge; beginnings as trout fishing resort – Luther House and residential neighborhoods; road and features – bridges; Kittredge commercial district – Questover Tourist Lodge;

Idledale –

Resources: Denver Motor Club remnants; history as summer colony; tourist cabins and early roadside commercial structures (now residences);

Morrison –

Resources: commercial and residential properties in the Morrison National Register Historic District; setting in Bear Creek Canyon;

Scenic Routes

Scenic Drives

Lariat Trail,

Resources: mountain ascent with spectacular scenic views and vistas; historic overlook points (named); Lariat Spring House Site; part of original scenic circle (NRHP); historic road and road elements;

Bear Creek Canyon Scenic Drive,

Resources: Bear Creek; mountain canyon with scenic views, vistas; part of original scenic circle (NRHP – between Idledale and Morrison); links mountain parks (Denver & Jeffco);

Mt. Vernon Creek Canyon

Resources: scenic canyon with views of Red Rocks & Dakota Ridge;

Scenic Trails

Beaver Brook Trail,

Resources: scenic trail with views & vistas;

Views and Vistas

From the Loop

Lariat Trail – from the trail, the road from Golden to Lookout Mountain towards the plains of Denver.

Lookout Mountain – towards Denver.

I-70 and Buffalo Site – towards the Continental Divide,

Genesee Park – towards the Continental Divide.

Hwy. 26 - towards Red Rocks and Dinosaur Ridge

Wonders

Natural Wonders

Dakota Ridge,

Resources: geological formations; fossils;

Red Rocks Formation,

Resources: geological formations; diverse flora and fauna from low foothills to montane; diverse wildlife including birds of prey (peregrine falcons)

Dinosaur Ridge,

Resources: geological formations; paleontology;

Cultural Wonders

Red Rocks Amphitheatre

Resources: Burnham Hoyts amphitheater; NPS (CCC) construction; CCC Camp;

Sites of Significance

Historic / Cultural Sites

Clear Creek History Park,

Lariat Trail Gateway,

Resources: Benedict Gateway monuments;

Buffalo Bills Grave,

Resources: Grave site; NPS remnants of overall site – Lookout Mountain; relationship to plains;

Boettcher Mansion

Resources: relationship to Boettcher family; Boettcher Mansion (summer residence); site elements;

Humphrey House,

Resources: buildings; site elements; setting;

Hiwan Homestead Museum

Resources: Hiwan Homestead; site elements;

Rooney Ranch

Resources: centennial ranch; buildings, site elements; natural setting;

Magic Mountain Archaeological site

Sacred Sites

Colorow Point,

Resources: geological formations; association with Chief Colorow;

Morrison Cemetery,

Resources: cemetery site; view to Morrison; flora and fauna;

Mother Cabrini Shrine

Resources: site; views and vistas; buildings; steps to monument; monument;

Remnant Sites

Lariat Trail Spring House

Lookout Mountain Funicular remnants,

Resources: mountainside scar;

Johnson Ranch at Elk Meadow;

Resources: barn; outbuildings;

Denver Motor Club,

Resources: building remnants;

Summer White House ruins,

Resources: foundation remnants;

John Brisben Walker house,

Resources: building remnants;

Dakota Ridge Mining sites,

Resources: structure remnants; earth mounds;

Mt. Morrison Funicular remnants,

Resources: mountainside scar;

Educational / Interpretive Sites

Museums / Visitor Centers

Lookout Mountain Nature Center and Preserve

Colorado Railroad Museum

Foothills Art Center

Geology Museum – Colorado School of Mines

Golden Pioneer Museum

Buffalo Bill Museum & Grave

Morrison Natural History Museum

Dinosaur Ridge Visitor Center

Tourist Sites

Coors Brewery

Evergreen Lake House

Appendix C



THE LARIAT LOOP INTERPRETIVE PLAN



JANUARY 2002



THE LARIAT LOOP INTERPRETIVE PLAN



JANUARY 2002

THE LARIAT LOOP

Table of Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	
I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. INTERPRETIVE VISION	2
Philosophy	
Purpose of the Plan	
Goals and Objectives	
III. LARIAT LOOP CHARACTER	3
Resources	3
Views and Vistas	
Scenic Routes	
Places of Significance	
Sites of Significance	
Wonders	
Educational and Interpretive Sites	
Interpretive Character	5
IV. INTERPRETIVE APPROACH	6
Interpretive Audience	
Interpretive Theme	
Interpretive Topics and Stories	
V. INTERPRETIVE RECOMMENDATIONS	8
Preserve and Protect Loop Resources	8
Protect Scenic Routes	
Protect Individual Properties	
Identify the Loop	9
Loop Logo	
Provide Loop Signing System	
Create Waysides	
Connect the Users to the Loop	10
Oral Histories	
Media	
Graphic Systems	
Sites	
Events, Exhibits and Programs	
APPENDIX	
Resource Summary	
Interpretive Site Summary	
Action Plan	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to the following organizations for their efforts in this planning effort.

Consultant Planning Team

Mundus Bishop Design, Inc.

Tina Bishop

Patrick Mundus

Advanced Resource Management, Inc.

Rich Smith

CW&H Graphics

Carlie Barnhart

Colorado Department of Local Affairs

Jefferson County Open Space

Ken Foelske

Christine Leahy

Denver Parks

A.J. Tripp-Addison

Susan Baird

Patricia Schuler

Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance

Sister Bernadette

Greg Campbell

Matt Carey

Arlone Child

Edna Fiore

Steve Friesen

Terry Hoffman

Tracy Houston

Ron Larsen

Carol Lomond

Cathleen Norman

David Peri

Cynthia Pougiales

Bea Roeder

Millie Roeder

Joan Schwarz

John Steinle

Joe Tempel

Sally White

Gary Wink

Debbie Wolf

Dick Wulf

THE LARIAT LOOP

I. INTRODUCTION

LARIAT LOOP MOUNTAIN GATEWAY HERITAGE AREA

The Lariat Loop Mountain Gateway Heritage Area was officially established as a Colorado State Heritage Area in 1999 to preserve the history and culture of the region.

The Lariat Loop Mountain Gateway Heritage Area is a 150 square mile area in central Jefferson County. Located in the foothills near metropolitan Denver, the area encompasses many natural and scenic sites including natural landmarks, forests, wildlife, and cultural museums.

The region has long been considered a natural and scenic treasure with tourism as its backbone. Early visionaries recognized this, acquiring significant land parcels for natural preserves, and through a 'premier' road system made them accessible to the people of Denver. Today, more than one-fourth of the region is preserved as publicly owned open space with a rich array of flora, fauna and historic sites.

The 12 by 12.5 mile region includes the seat of Jefferson County government and encompasses portions of I-70, U.S. 6 and U.S. 285, the three main gateways to Colorado's front range mountains. A 40-mile circular portion follows one of Colorado's most significant historic scenic routes, which includes two drives listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Lariat Trail and Bear Creek Canyon Scenic Mountain Drive.

The Lariat Loop Mountain Gateway Heritage Area is anchored by the towns of Golden, Evergreen and Morrison.

LARIAT LOOP HERITAGE ALLIANCE

The Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance is a non-profit group formed by area partners and stakeholders interested in sustaining the integrity and special character of the region's character. The Alliance is operated by a working committee comprised of a board of directors, officers and an executive committee.

The Alliance's primary roles are to provide a communication forum for all partners, to enable cooperation on joint projects and to assist in raising funds not available to individual partners including the development of public-private partnerships.

THE ROLE OF THE LARIAT LOOP INTERPRETIVE PLAN

The interpretive plan is funded by two of the Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance partners, Denver Parks & Recreation and Jefferson County Open Space Program. The primary role of the plan is to provide direction on interpreting the valuable scenic, cultural and natural assets of the heritage area. The plan is one component of a broad long-range planning effort that the Alliance is undertaking.

A collaborative process was used to create the interpretive plan which involved most of the Alliance partners. Three workshops were instrumental in determining the appropriate interpretive direction. Early in the process, a visioning workshop resulted in the decision to refer to the region as the Lariat Loop for the interpretive plan. Most partners already shorten the name and the shorter name will be valuable in future marketing efforts.

II. INTERPRETIVE VISION

PHILOSOPHY

Interpretation for the Lariat Loop will bring forward and explain the underlying meaning of the places, people, events and natural forces that have marked and shaped this unique area. The interpretive plan for the Lariat Loop presents an approach that is place-based, that offers unique experiences, builds on existing resources, and enhances the Loop's image as a 'scenic circle'.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of the Lariat Loop Interpretive Plan is to create an interpretive strategy that will convey a consistent message (the theme) that underlies all of the Lariat Loop's interpretive strategies and activities, and that will be collectively used by all members of the Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. To preserve and protect the Lariat Loop and its significant resources.
2. To educate and enlighten a diverse audience about Lariat Loop's scenery, natural environment, cultural history, and recreational opportunities.
3. To convey that the Lariat Loop is an interconnected circle of significant inter-related places that encourages further exploration.
4. To build on existing interpretive sites and resources.

View from the Buffalo Bill Museum towards the plains.



III. LARIAT LOOP CHARACTER

RESOURCES

The Lariat Loop's wealth of unique scenic, natural and cultural resources create its unique sense of place. Whether publicly or privately owned, the Lariat Loop resources are the very reason that both residents and tourists value the area.

A summary of the existing resources are shown on the *Existing Resources and Opportunities Map*. The Lariat Loop has a very extensive collection of significant resources. Because of this, only a few representative examples of each category will be included in the following text. A more detailed list is provided in the appendix.

The existing resources are categorized by resource type and are presented in the following categories in the following order.

- Views and Vistas
- Scenic Routes
- Places of Significance
- Sites of Significance
- Wonders
- Educational / Interpretive Sites

VIEWS AND VISTAS

The views and vistas of the Lariat Loop "embrace every character of mountain scenery," as envisioned in the 1914 Olmsted Plan . Views of the plains, Denver and the metro area, mountain peaks and streams, forests and open rolling meadows are all included in the scenic resources. A few of the significant views include:

- From the Lariat Trail, the road from Golden to Lookout Mountain towards the plains of Denver;
- I-70 towards the Continental Divide;
- Highway 26 near Red Rocks Park.

SCENIC ROUTES

Scenic corridors are the backbone of the Lariat Loop, providing visual access to areas of spectacular scenery. Scenic routes include automobile routes and trail corridors.

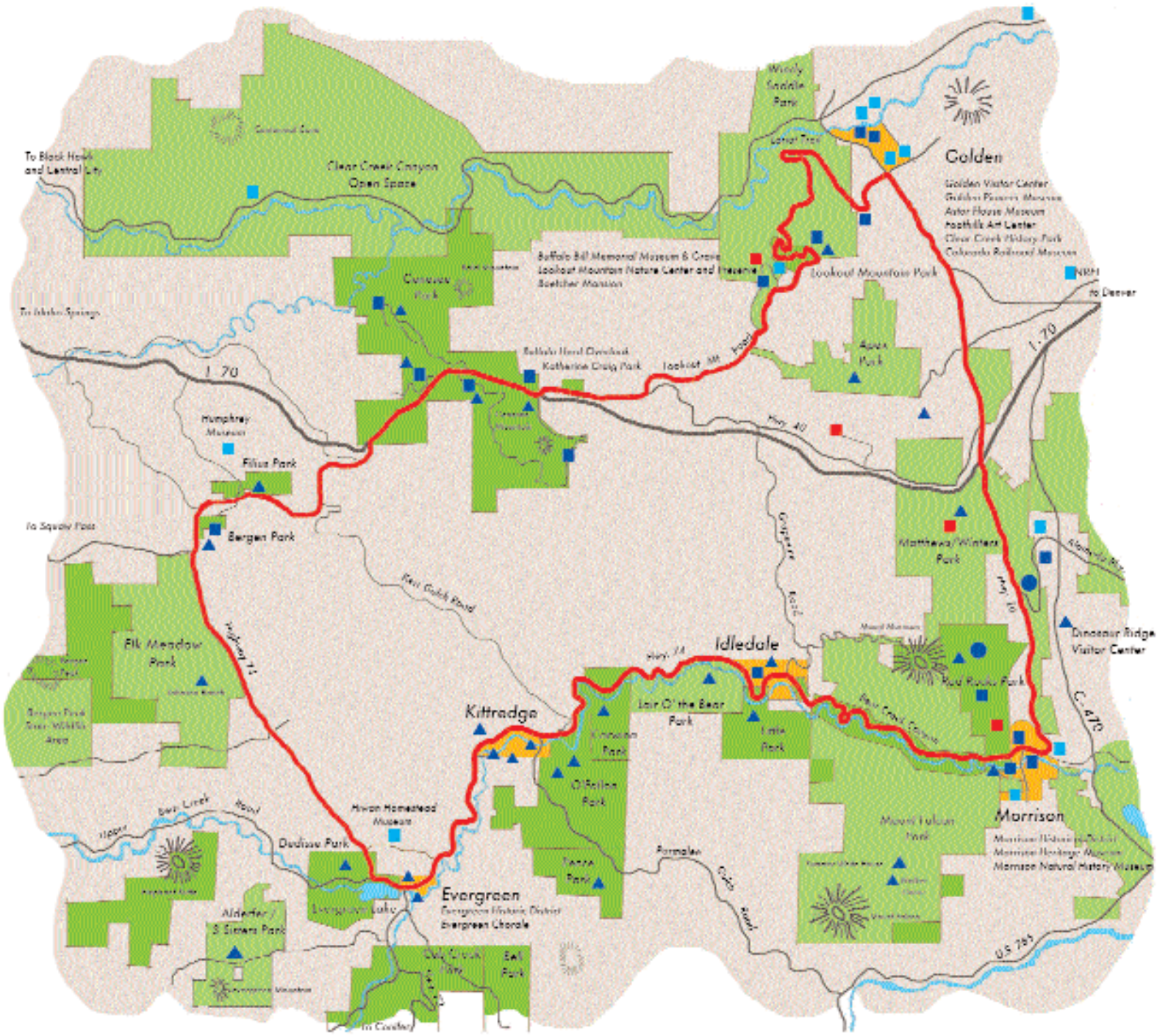
- Bear Creek Canyon
- Highway 74 along Elk Meadow Park
- Beaver Brook Trail

Red Rocks Formation




THE LARIAT LOOP

EXISTING RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Legend

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
|  | Town/Historic District |  | Sacred Site |
|  | Parks and Open Space |  | Interpretive Opportunity |
|  | The Larjat Loop |  | Museum / Education Center |
|  | Natural / Cultural Wonder | | |



THE LARIAT LOOP

PLACES OF SIGNIFICANCE

Large significant lands that have historical sites or that are comprised of many ownerships are categorized as ‘places of significance’. These ‘places’ might be publicly owned open spaces or they might be a town or a special district.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

The publicly owned parcels of the Denver Mountain Parks and Jefferson County Open Space protect much of the Loop’s natural resources. While preserving and protecting these public open spaces also allow for contemplative and recreational access for all.

TOWNS/HISTORIC DISTRICTS

The downtowns of Morrison, Golden and Evergreen, along with Kittredge create the Loop’s distinctive small mountain town character.

SITES OF SIGNIFICANCE

Smaller, singular locations that have value as important natural or cultural areas are categorized as sites of significance.

HISTORIC / CULTURAL SITES

The rich varied history of the Lariat Loop is expressed in its many significant historic sites. Both privately and publicly owned places, these sites convey important individual stories. A few of these sites include Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave, Hiwan Homestead, Magic Mountain archaeological site, and the Rooney Ranch.

SACRED SITES

Less known and more hidden than other resources, the Loop’s sacred sites reflect the spiritual aspects of the area. Resources include well known sites such as Mother Cabrini Shrine and Colorow Point, and lesser known native American sites and historic cemeteries.

WONDERS

Natural and cultural wonders of regional, national and international value are interwoven within the mountains of the Lariat Loop.

Natural wonders include the extraordinary Dakota Hogback and Red Rocks Fountain formation. The Red Rocks amphitheater, O’Fallon monument and Boettcher Mansion are among the most distinctive cultural wonders.

EDUCATIONAL / INTERPRETIVE SITES

MUSEUMS / VISITOR CENTERS

A variety of the existing museum and visitor centers provide important experiences, information and programs about the area’s history and culture. Important educational sites include Lookout Mountain Nature Center and Preserve, Dinosaur Ridge Visitors Center and Hiwan Homestead Museum.

TOURIST SITES

Many locations along the Loop offer amenities and activities to travelers and residents. These are places that offering important tourist services. Some of the better known tourist sites include Coors Brewery, Evergreen Lake House and downtown Morrison.



Pahaska Tepee

THE LARIAT LOOP

INTERPRETIVE CHARACTER

The Lariat Loop's scenic, natural and cultural resources create its very distinctive character. The area's setting, its architectural features, and its significant resources as described previously are all components of its unique character. The following describes the Lariat Loop character, which will inform the design of the Lariat Loop's interpretive elements.

The area's setting of evergreen forests and streams provides a memorable natural character that is often referred to as the foothills. This distinctive foothills character has been beautifully articulated in the historic shelters and structures of the Denver Mountain Park system, and in the many buildings located on Jefferson County Open Space lands. This architectural heritage will inform the design of the Lariat Loop's interpretive elements, which may include signs and wayfinding elements.

Tourism has long been the backbone of the Lariat Loop. Beginning with the early tour brought by promises of scenic vistas and clear water, tourism brochures from the early to mid-1900s reflect a romantic view of touring in the mountains. The imagery and simplicity of these brochures will be reflected in the media for the Lariat Loop.

Located in the montane foothills, between the prairie and the Rocky Mountains, the Lariat Loop conjures up many images of the early West. This imagery will be reflected in the interpretive improvements and in the media.



View of the Continental Divide from Genesee Park.



Bergen park's historic shelter expresses the Lariat Loop's mountain character.



Lookout Mountain Nature Center contributes to the educational resources and character of the Lariat Loop.

IV. INTERPRETIVE APPROACH

The interpretive approach for the Lariat Loop offers a deeper look into the Loop's significant past and an opportunity to shape its future.

The interpretive approach presents a methodology to assist in revealing the underlying meanings and hidden stories of the Lariat Loop. This approach will be the vehicle to explore the wide range of topics and stories integral to the Lariat Loop.

INTERPRETIVE AUDIENCE

The Lariat Loop audience, while a diverse group of people, will be primarily the residents and locals who live and work, visit or bring guests to the Lariat Loop Heritage Area. Individual sites on the Loop also attract national and international visitors.

INTERPRETIVE THEME

The interpretive theme summarizes the values and important characteristics of the Lariat Loop. It will be used to assure consistency among interpretive sites and materials, and to facilitate the involvement by a broad spectrum of the Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance and other partners.

"THE LARIAT LOOP
IS A SCENIC CIRCLE
CONNECTING
NATURAL SPLENDORS,
HISTORIC TREASURES AND
RECREATION PLEASURES."

INTERPRETIVE TOPICS AND STORIES

The stories that will be told, or interpreted, about the Loop are organized by four interpretive topics. The topics provide a convenient arrangement of the Loop's interpretive resources and stories and present a platform to bring together a wide variety of stories and Lariat Loop partners. In reality, the resources and stories transcend individual categories, and the most successful interpretation will occur when resources and stories connect and integrate multiple topics.

DRIVING THROUGH HISTORY

The early origins and the history of the Lariat Loop, including its historic ties to Denver Mountain Parks and the efforts of Jefferson County to add to the public land system, create a district-wide topic directly related to the contribution that on-going tourism has made to the area.

Stories may include:

- Establishment and construction of the Lariat Trail and Denver Mountain Parks system.
- Importance of "the Loop" to early travelers and vacationers.
- History of the creation of the Denver Motor Club, its building along Bear Creek, and its demise.

THE LARIAT LOOP

IT'S IN OUR NATURE

The foundation of the Loop is its wonderful natural environment. This topic relays stories of the Loop's wildlife, flora, fauna, ecosystems and geology.

Stories may include:

- Natural history, geology and ecology, of the areas' significant formations, including the Fountain Formation and Dakota Hogback;
- Fire in the foothills, natural cause and human intervention;
- Flooding and reconstruction along Bear Creek.

ON THE LAND, IN THE LOOP

The profiles and stories of the people who have made the Loop's colorful history provide an intimate link to the local community including railroad and ranching history, and stories of the more famous and flamboyant individuals.

Stories may include:

- Mining history, mining camps and mining claims;
- Mountain men, trappers and early explorers;
- Homesteading in the 1870s.

SACRED PLACES, HIDDEN LIVES

The diversity of communal, religious and spiritual nature of the people associated with the Loop is explored in this topic.

Stories may include:

- Chief Colorow, and other native peoples, including the Utes;
- Mother Cabrini and the Queen of Heaven Orphanage for Girls;
- Episcopal influence and the Mission of Transfiguration Church.



Bear Creek



The Morrison Cemetery

V. INTERPRETIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

The interpretive recommendations for the Lariat Loop combine standard methods of interpretation with techniques that are suited to the special issues of the Loop.

PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE RESOURCES

An important step in interpreting the Lariat Loop is to ensure that the area's significant places remain and are protected. Preserving the Loop's physical attributes for today and into the future is the first and most fundamental step in the interpretation of the Lariat Loop.

The Lariat Loop is a unique area today because of individual efforts and community initiatives that have occurred in the past. Acts such as preserving special land parcels as parks and open space, creating scenic routes that connect these lands, and creating local points of interest such as museums and cultural sites have already contributed to the Loop's sense of place.

Recommendations:

- Continue the work of the Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance (LLHA). The diverse group of individuals and organizations represented by the Alliance can accomplish preservation goals and greatly benefit from working together.
- Establish a series of task forces coordinated by LLHA to work on select activities that promote interpretation.

PROTECT SCENIC ROUTES

The road corridors of Bear Creek Canyon, Hwy. 74 along Elk Meadow Park, the I-70 corridor through Genesee Park, and Hwy. 26 along the Dakota Hogback offer breathtaking views of the surroundings while connecting the Loop's significant sites.

These corridors originate from the 1914 Olmsted Plan, and are still instrumental in revealing the mountain scenery via well-built and carefully aligned roads.

Recommendations:

- Support the public agencies' efforts to preserve views and public lands along these corridors.

PROTECT INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

As evidenced by the wealth of existing resources, the Loop has a wonderful array of invaluable sites on both public and private properties. Recommendations:

- Provide support for current inventory efforts, and future efforts to identify additional areas of significant natural and cultural resources.
- Support the public agencies efforts to conserve special places.
- Assist and support LLHA partners to preserve sites directly controlled by partners.
- Support and participate in historic district nominations to recognize and protect significant sites, consider the use of the National/State Register or Denver Landmark districts.

THE LARIAT LOOP

IDENTIFY THE LOOP

LOOP LOGO

The development of a consistent identity for the Loop will be instrumental in explaining that the Loop's resources and partners are all a part of the Lariat Loop.

- Create a "Loop" logo that is used consistently by the Loop partners. The logo can be used to identify Loop sites and Loop partners.



Lariat Loop logo concepts that relate to topics of interpretation.

PROVIDE LOOP SIGNING SYSTEM

- Use the basic concepts of the Lariat Loop logo in the design of all signs.
- Create a Loop identifying sign graphic, similar to those used for Scenic Byways, that will be used throughout the Loop area.
- Create a sign medallion for use by the LLHA members on their individual signs.
- Add new directional signs using the CDOT brown sign system to identify Lariat Loop resources.



CREATE WAYSIDES ALONG SCENIC CORRIDORS

Create waysides to provide safe, interpretive sites for travellers to stop and learn about important resources.

- Locate waysides as indicated on the Interpretive Implementation Plan.
- Work with public agencies such as Denver Mountain Parks, Jefferson County Open Space and Evergreen Parks and Recreation to identify funding opportunities.



The Lariat Loop logo concept.

THE LARIAT LOOP

CONNECT THE USERS TO THE LARIAT LOOP - TELL THE STORIES

To adequately convey the stories of the Lariat Loop to the intended audience will require several techniques.

Together, they will comprise a system or a ‘family’ of interpretation that includes media, interpretive sites, events and programs.

ORAL HISTORIES

One important aspect of understanding the Lariat Loop is to understand stories and histories of individuals. Conducting oral histories and community story-telling workshops can provide insights into the lives of local residents and others who have made significant contributions or know of important events. Recommendations:

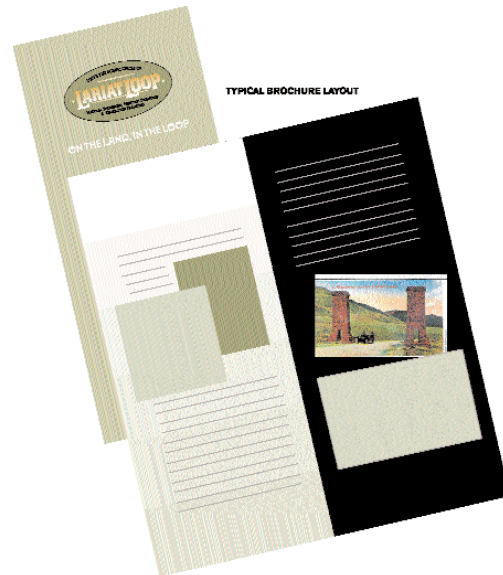
- Identify appropriate participants and conduct oral histories.
- Develop a community story-telling workshop. Interview and record individual memories.

MEDIA

GENERAL BROCHURE

The current Lariat Loop brochure provides a broad range of information that is very helpful for the visitor. As the ‘family’ of elements is further defined this general brochure will be updated to reflect the character of the new media. Recommendations:

- At time of reprinting, revise the general brochure to reflect the new media, incorporate logos and to revise any changes.



An example of a pamphlet or brochure incorporating the logo.

PAMPHLET OR BROCHURE SERIES

Individually and collectively, the Lariat Loop partners have a wealth of knowledge of the area. This knowledge will be tapped to create a pamphlet or brochure series. Recommendations:

- Create a series of brochures that eloquently combine wayfinding and interpretive information.
- Focus on the four topics (see Section IV. Interpretive Approach) with an emphasis on specific Loop stories. The story of the Dakota Hogback formation might be told in a pamphlet titled to “It’s In Our Nature”.
- Distribute brochures at the orientation sites, interpretive sites and at select sites outside the Loop area.

THE LARIAT LOOP

TOUR GUIDES BASED ON TOPICS

Create a series of wayfinding tour guides and maps using the interpretive topics. Incorporate specific stories organized by topics. Recommendations:

- Create a driving tour to explore the wonders of the significant parks and open spaces. Base the stories on “Driving through History.”
- Create maps for guided and non-guided walks and hikes.

SPECIALTY ITEMS

A wide variety of specialty items will reinforce the character of the LLHA, promote the Loop and Heritage Area, and may create a source of revenue. Recommendations:

- Create new items such as post cards, coasters and placemats. Provide these items at points of sale for the Loop, such as orientation sites and tourist sites and return revenues to LLHA to cover expenses.
- Produce a video(s) in keeping with the interpretive topics. Work with the partners at orientation sites that have indoor theaters or similar facilities for showings.

EDUCATIONAL GUIDES

Create educational guides for use by the local school districts including Jefferson County Schools and Denver Public Schools.

LARIAT LOOP WEBSITE

The LLHA currently promotes the Lariat Loop and select LLHA partners through its website, www.lariatloop.org. A variety of valuable information regarding the Lariat Loop’s Colorado Heritage Area designation and its resources is provided. Recommendations:

- Continue to improve and update the current Lariat Loop website as information changes.
- Link all LLHA partners through the website to assist in disseminating interpretive information.

THE LARIAT LOOP

GRAPHIC SYSTEM

LOOP LOGO

The Loop logo will be used as an integral element of each of the system's graphic components.

LOOP RACK

The rack will be used to hold Lariat Loop materials such as brochures, for distribution.

- Design a rack that is reflective of the Loop character and that be easily manufactured at a reasonable price.
- Distribute Loop Racks to Lariat Loop orientation sites and at other existing interpretive sites.

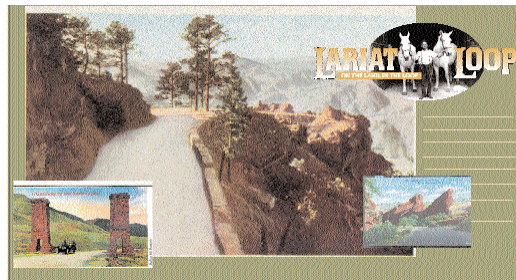
INTERPRETIVE SIGN

In select situations the development of interpretive signs will be beneficial. Specific sites such as the resources that are categorized as "places of significance", will have new interpretive information that can either be integrated with existing signs or can be developed as individual signs.

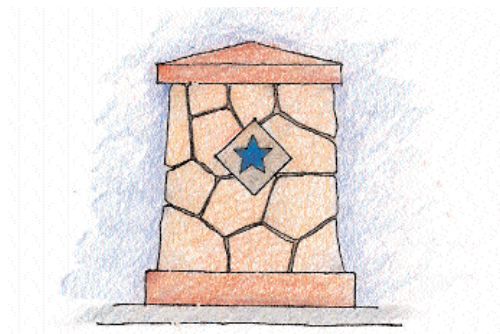
- Integrate new interpretive signs with the existing kiosks at select Jefferson County Open Space locations, such as Lair o' the Bear Park and Elk Meadow Park.
- Create interpretive signs for each Lariat Loop wayside.

LOOP MARKER

The Loop marker will be used to mark important sites such as waysides. The marker will reflect the historic architecture of the area and include the Loop Logo.



Interpretive sign example.



Lariat Loop wayside marker.

THE LARIAT LOOP

SITES

A series of seven types of sites are recommended for the Lariat Loop. They range from orientation sites, that offer a broad range of services, to waysides that focus on specific resources. The Implementation Plan outlines all of the Lariat Sites, the type of site and topics that may be addressed. A detailed list of sites with recommendations for topics and stories is included in the Appendix. The seven types of sites are:

- Orientation Sites
- Tourist Sites
- Waysides
- Existing Interpretive Sites
- Interpretive Sites
- Experiential Sites
- Little Loops

ORIENTATION SITE

An orientation site is a place where wayfinding, interpretive and introductory information regarding the entire Loop will be available. Orientation sites will provide the most extensive amount of interpretive information. Recommendations:

- Locate orientation sites at places that already attract large numbers of visitors and that are conveniently located.
- Integrate orientation sites with existing Lariat Loop facilities where possible to share amenities such as parking and restrooms.

ORIENTATION SITES		
LOCATION	TOPIC	ELEMENTS
I-70 and Highway 26 CDOT's Geologic Cut	It's In Our Nature	Interpretive Sign
Town of Morrison Morrison Heritage Museum	all topics	Loop Rack Interpretive Sign
Town of Evergreen Evergreen Chamber of Comm.	all topics	Loop Rack
Buffalo Overlook (newly created) Buffalo Overlook	Driving Through History <i>Stories: Mountain Parks history</i> It's In Our Nature/ Sacred Places, Hidden Lives <i>Stories: Buffalos / Native Americans</i>	Interpretive Sign
Golden Golden Chamber of Commerce	all topics	Loop Rack
Lookout Mountain Lookout Mountain Nature Center	It's In Our Nature <i>Stories: Ponderosa Pine Forest</i>	Loop Rack
Buffalo Bill Memorial Museum and Grave	Driving Through History <i>Stories: History of Pahaska Tepee, Lariat Trail, role of Tourism & Funicular Railroad</i> On the Land, In the Loop <i>Stories: Buffalo Bill</i> Sacred Places, Hidden Lives <i>Stories: Chief Colorow- Colorow Point</i>	Loop Rack

THE LARIAT LOOP

TOURIST SITES

Tourist sites are existing towns or places that already provide basic facilities such as gas, food, restrooms and lodging. Instead of creating separate visitor amenities, for example restrooms, the tourist sites will be identified as locations for these services.

In most cases tourist sites are places that already encourage Lariat Loop travelers to stop. Some of these locations will be appropriate places to disseminate information to visitors. Recommendations:

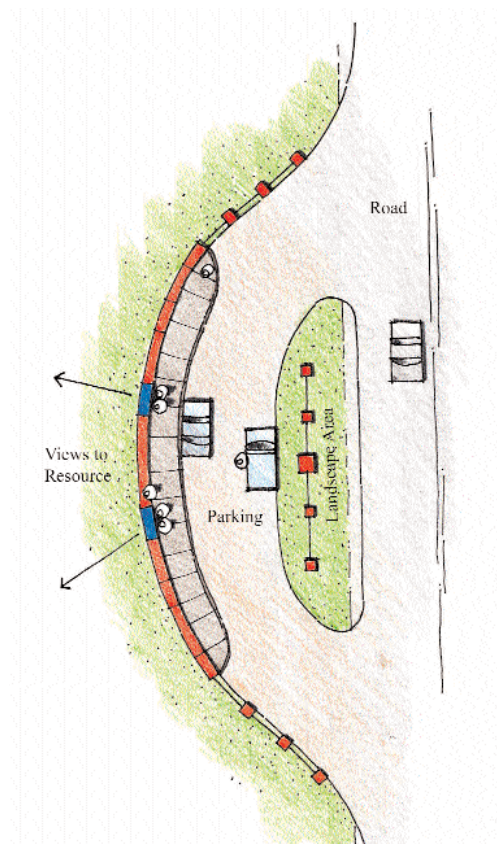
- Work with businesses, public agencies and other stakeholders to coordinate the distribution interpretive information.
- Identify LLHA partners with window stickers and sign medallions.

WAYSIDES

Waysides will be roadside pull-offs that are located along the scenic corridors to allow visitors an opportunity to stop and experience important or special elements of the Loop. Recommendations:

- Waysides will be small, conveniently located pull-offs along scenic routes. They will be sensitively sited to provide direct visual and physical connections to their interpretive subjects.
- Waysides will be defined by low stone walls with interpretive panels integrally placed. A small parking area will be visually separated from the road by a landscape area and will be limited to a small number of cars.
- Waysides will provide interpretive information specifically tailored to their location.

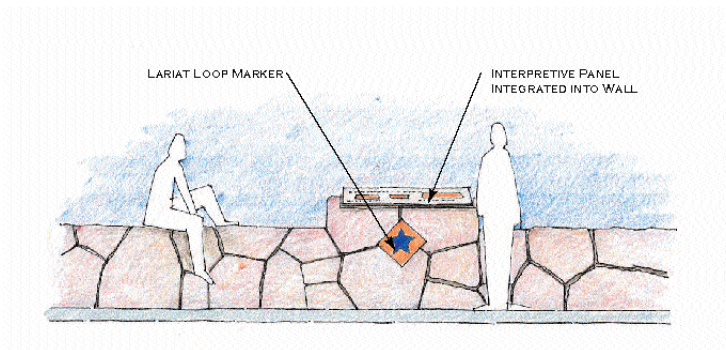
TOURIST SITES
Buffalo Bill Memorial Museum and Grave
Town of Morrison
Kittredge
Downtown Evergreen
Downtown Golden
Bergen Park Commercial District



Plan of typical wayside development.

THE LARIAT LOOP

WAYSIDES		
LOCATION	TOPIC	ELEMENTS
Bear Creek Canyon East Wayside	Driving Through History <i>Stories: Denver Motor Club JB Walker Lands and Roads</i> On the Land, In the Loop <i>Stories: Gates Estate</i>	Wayside Marker Interpretive Sign
Bear Creek Canyon West Wayside	Driving Through History <i>Stories: Development of the Scenic Circle</i> On the Land, In the Loop <i>Stories: Idledale - Joyland Denver Motor Club</i>	Wayside Marker Interpretive Sign
Corwina Park Two Waysides at Picnic Sites	Driving Through History <i>Stories: Olmsted Plan NPS/CCC Development</i>	Wayside Marker Interpretive Sign
Elk Meadow Wayside on Hwy. 74	Driving Through History <i>Stories: Jefferson County's Role in Open Space</i> On the Land, In the Loop <i>Stories: Ranch life</i> It's In Our Nature <i>Stories: Wildlife Habitat, Conservation</i>	Wayside Marker Interpretive Sign
Red Rocks Park Wayside on Hwy. 26	Driving Through History <i>Stories: Park of the Titans-Red Rocks Amphitheatre, JeffCo's First Open Space,</i> It's In Our Nature <i>Stories: Fountain Formations, Geology Dakota Ridge - National Natural Landmark</i>	Wayside Marker Interpretive Sign



Typical wall and interpretive sign at wayside..

THE LARIAT LOOP

EXISTING INTERPRETIVE SITES

Several existing sites along and adjacent to the Lariat Loop already provide interpretive information and experiences. These sites often have high resource value of their own and make strong contributions to the Lariat Loop.

Many of the interpretive recommendations can be put forth through the programs and resources already established at these sites. Additionally, resources from these sites can be interpreted by integrating Lariat Loop interpretive information with existing sites. Recommendations:

- Work with businesses, public agencies and other interested parties who operate facilities at tourist sites to coordinate the distribution interpretive information.
- Distribute Lariat Loop interpretive materials to sites as noted.
- Provide a Lariat Loop rack at each site where distribution of materials will occur.
- Work with individual partners to integrate Lariat Loop topics.



Hiwan Homestead Museum

EXISTING INTERPRETIVE SITES	
SITE	ROLE/TOPICS
Town of Morrison Morrison Natural History Museum Morrison Heritage Museum Morrison Historic District	Distribute materials It's In Our Nature On the Land, In the Loop
Hiwan Homestead	On the Land, In the Loop
Humphrey Memorial Park and Museum	Distribute materials On the Land, In the Loop
Mother Cabrini Shrine	Sacred Places, Hidden Lives
Lookout Mountain Nature Center	It's In Our Nature
Boettcher Mansion	On the Land, In the Loop
Golden Pioneer Museum	Distribute materials On the Land, In the Loop
Colo. School of Mines Geology Museum	Distribute materials It's In Our Nature
Colo. Railroad Museum	Distribute materials On the Land, In the Loop
Astor House Museum	Distribute materials On the Land, In the Loop
Foothills Art Center	Distribute materials only
National Renewable Energy Lab	Distribute materials On the Land, In the Loop
Dinosaur Ridge Visitors Center	Distribute materials It's In Our Nature

THE LARIAT LOOP

INTERPRETIVE SITES

Interpretive Sites are resource areas where interpretive information will be integrated with the physical characteristics of the individual place.

Recommendations:

- Locate interpretive sites at places that have high resource value.
- Interpretive sites may be immediately adjacent to the Lariat Loop, or may be in close proximity (via a Little Loop).
- Provide interpretive information that conveys the stories about the place to enhance the experience.
- Integrate interpretive information into existing site components where possible by using existing structures and signs to support new interpretive panels and graphics.



Mt. Vernon Creek at Matthews-Winters Park.



Evergreen Lake House

THE LARIAT LOOP

INTERPRETIVE SITES		
SITE LOCATION	TOPIC	ELEMENT
Kittredge	On the Land, In the Loop <i>Stories:History As a Trout Fishing Resort Summer Residence Area Charles Kittredge Influence</i>	Interpretive Sign
Evergreen Lake	Driving Through History <i>Stories:DMP - Dedisse Park Development With Lake Golf Course and Park NPS Centerpiece of Mountain Parks Resort Community</i> On the Land, In the Loop <i>Stories:Dedisse Ranch Evergreen at Junction of Wagon Road and Bear Creek John Evans - Rancher, Logger, Territorial Governor</i>	Interpretive Sign
Bergen Park	Driving Through History <i>Stories:History of Mountain Parks (Olmsted, NPS, Denver, Jeffco)</i> On the Land, In the Loop <i>Stories:Bergen Ranch</i>	Interpretive Sign Marker
Chief Hosa Lodge	Driving Through History <i>Stories:JB Benedict Architecture Earliest Campground</i>	Interpretive Sign
Clear Creek History Park	Driving Through History <i>Stories: JeffCo's Expansion of the Mountain Parks</i> It's In Our Nature <i>Stories:Clear Creek Ecosystem</i> On the Land, In the Loop <i>Stories:Clear Creek History</i>	Interpretive Sign
Matthews Winters Park	On the Land, In the Loop <i>Stories:Mt Vernon Townsite, Cemetery</i>	Interpretive Sign
Ute Council Tree	Sacred Places, Hidden Lives <i>Stories:Chief Colorow - Cheyenne Arapaho and Ute People</i>	nothing on site - off-site media

THE LARIAT LOOP

EXPERIENTIAL SITES

Experiential sites are places where the visitor experience will take precedence over providing interpretive information. The interpretative experience will be provided primarily by orienting visitors toward a specific, unique experience on a particular Lariat site.

Experiential sites are primarily existing sites where trails, paths or drives are already aligned to expose visitors to a place such as a wetland area, a scenic overlook or a walk into the Ponderosa Pine forest.

Interpretive information will not be provided at these sites but they do play a major role in a visitor's overall interpretive experience.

LITTLE LOOPS

Little Loops are side trips off of the primary scenic routes. Little Loops will provide interpretive experiences to augment and provide variety to the main scenic tours. Recommendations:

- Include important side routes that showcase specific aspects of the Loop in interpretive and orientation materials.

EXPERIENTIAL SITES

O'Fallon Park

Dedisse Park

Fillius Park

Genesee Park

Colorow Point

Lookout Mountain Park

Lariat Trail

Beaver Brook Trail

Hogback Corridor

LITTLE LOOPS

Genesee Park

Red Rocks Park

Colorow Point

Mother Cabrini Shrine (along U.S. 40)

THE LARIAT LOOP

EVENTS, EXHIBITS AND PROGRAMS

EVENTS

Local events that are focused primarily on the Lariat Loop, its resources or partners, will be influential in promoting individual resources and the entire Lariat Loop area.

Recommendations:

- Continue the Lariat Loop Road Rally as an annual event and continue its promotion with the Loop's media.
- Create new events such as a Lariat Loop 40 bike ride along the scenic corridors.
- Coordinate with other local events to showcase the heritage value of the Lariat Loop. Examples include Evergreen Earth Day Fair, Evergreen Town Run, Evergreen Parade, and Golden Pioneer Days.

EXHIBITS

With a variety of museums being both LLHA partners and significant resources, there exists a number of opportunities to promote the Loop through educational and artistic exhibits.

Recommendations:

- Develop museum exhibits for the Lariat Loop museums, Buffalo Bill, Morrison Heritage Museum and others, that showcase the Lariat Loop interpretive theme and topics.
- Coordinate exhibits with other interpretive techniques, including using compatible information at interpretive waysides and sites.
- Work with other LLHA, such as Foothills Art Center to create artistic exhibits.

PROGRAMS

The Lariat Loop area already boasts a number of valuable programs that provide an important base of activities for the entire Loop. These programs should be coordinated and sites designated for their use.

Recommendations:

- Create a method to organize the current programs offered by the LLHA partners. For example: the Saints, Sinners, and Stegosaurus program developed by Mother Cabrini Shrine could use the trails and the proposed wayside at Red Rocks Park.

THE LARIAT LOOP

GUIDED TOURS

A wide range of outdoor activities are enjoyed all along the Loop. An organized program of guided tours that focus on the Loop resources would allow visitors to experience the Loop and gain a greater understanding of its resources and heritage. Recommendations:

- Create “Tours on the Loop”, a series of outdoor activities that showcase the heritage and natural resources of the Loop.
- Work with organizations such as the Colorado Mountain Club, to promote the “Tours on the Loop” to local residents and expand as interest grows.
- Create a range of guided tours for use by several user groups. Include guided walks and hikes, winter activities such as snowshoeing, and orienteering.
- Organize a group of local volunteers with assistance from specialty organizations such as the Colorado Mountain Club.

INTERPRETIVE LECTURE SERIES

The LLHA have a wide variety of active participants who are well versed in the area’s local and regional history and culture. Creating a forum for these individuals will encourage them to share their knowledge and educate users on the value of the Loop. Recommendations:

- Create an annual Lariat Loop Lecture Series. Invite local speakers and others to present and discuss their knowledge as appropriate.
- Create a lecture series for local school districts.
- Support and sponsor existing lectures that showcase Lariat Loop resources.
- Organize the lecture series in accordance with the interpretive themes and topics.
- Create a speakers bureau to organize LLHA partners, members and others according to topics and stories.



Recreational biking along the Loop.

APPENDIX

Resource Summary
Interpretive Site Summary
Action Plan

LARIAT LOOP

Existing Resources Summary

THE RESOURCES

Places of Significance:

Parks and Open Spaces

Towns / Historic Districts

Scenic Routes

Scenic Drives / Trails

Views and Vistas

Wonders

Natural and Cultural

Sites of Significance

Historic / Cultural Sites

Sacred Sites

Educational / Interpretive Sites

Museums / Visitor Centers

Tourist Sites

Places of Significance:

Parks and Open Spaces

Denver Mountain Parks

Lookout Mountain Park:

Resources: Lookout Mountain picnic site (historic shelter and NPS site); scenic views and vistas; Pahaaska Teepee (1921); Buffalo Bills grave site (1917); Lookout Mountain mountaintop; montane forest overstory and meadows;

Colorow Point:

Resources: mountain cliff and overlook, symbolic site named for Chief Colorow; scenic views and vistas; montane forest overstory and meadows;

Genesee Park:

Resources: montane Ponderosa Pine forest; historic park roads (Olmsted – 1912); scenic views into valleys; Chief Hosa Lodge; Genesee shelter site;

Fillius Park:

Resources: montane Ponderosa Pine forest and grassy meadows; historic park roads, picnic grounds (NPS); shelter () views into valleys;

Bergen Park:

Resources: Bergen shelter site;

Dedisse Park:

Resources: Dedisse shelter site; historic park roads; historic picnic sites (NPS - 1937); scenic views into valleys;

O’Fallon Park:

Resources: historic park roads; historic picnic sites (NPS - 1937); scenic views into valleys;

Corwina Park:

Resources: historic park roads (Olmsted – 1912); scenic views into valleys;

LARIAT LOOP

Little Park:

Red Rocks Park:

Resources: Red Rocks Amphitheatre; historic park roads; Fountain formation;

Jefferson County Open Space Parks

Windy Saddle Park:

Elk Meadow Park:

Resources: Johnson Ranch remnants (barn); scenic views into valleys; montane Ponderosa Pine forest and grassy meadows;

Alderfer / Three Sisters Park,

Resources: montane Ponderosa Pine forest and grassy meadows; four rock formations – the Three Sisters and the Brother;

Lair o' the Bear Park

Resources: Bear Creek; montane Ponderosa Pine forest, riparian woodlands and grassy meadows; Mountain Nook Ranch landscape remnants (lilacs, etc.);

Bear Creek Canyon Park,

Mount Falcon Park,

Resources: montane Ponderosa Pine forest; Summer White remnants; John Brisben Walker's stone house remnants; old fire watch tower; trails to resources – Walkers Dream Trail;

Matthews-Winters Park,

Resources: as first open space acquired by Jeffco in 1973 – the hogback; montane Ponderosa Pine forest and grassy meadows; (2) mine sites on hogback; Mt. Vernon cemetery; Mt. Vernon townsite remnants – church, bungalows, Mt. Vernon House;

Apex Park

Resources: scenic view; dense Ponderosa Pine woods; Apex and Gregory wagon road remnants;

Towns Historic Districts

Golden –

Resources: 12th Street Historic District; Astor House Museum; Herman Coors House;

Town of Evergreen – Evergreen Historic District,

Resources: downtown area – as summer community – cottages and commercial area;

Kittredge –

Resources: Gates summer residence east of Kittredge; beginnings as trout fishing resort – Luther House and residential neighborhoods; road and features – bridges; Kittredge commercial district – Questover Tourist Lodge;

Idledale –

Resources: Denver Motor Club remnants; history as summer colony; tourist cabins and early roadside commercial structures (now residences);

Morrison –

Resources: commercial and residential properties in the Morrison National Register Historic District; setting in Bear Creek Canyon;

LARIAT LOOP

Scenic Routes

Scenic Drives

Lariat Trail,

Resources: mountain ascent with spectacular scenic views and vistas; historic overlook points (named); Lariat Spring House Site; part of original scenic circle (NRHP); historic road and road elements;

Bear Creek Canyon Scenic Drive,

Resources: Bear Creek; mountain canyon with scenic views, vistas; part of original scenic circle (NRHP – between Idledale and Morrison); links mountain parks (Denver & Jeffco);

Mt. Vernon Creek Canyon

Resources: scenic canyon with views of Red Rocks & Dakota Ridge;

Scenic Trails

Beaver Brook Trail,

Resources: scenic trail with views & vistas;

Views and Vistas

From the Loop

Lariat Trail – from the trail, the road from Golden to Lookout Mountain towards the plains of Denver.

Lookout Mountain – towards Denver.

I-70 and Buffalo Site – towards the Continental Divide,

Genesee Park – towards the Continental Divide.

Hwy. 26 - towards Red Rocks and Dinosaur Ridge

Wonders

Natural Wonders

Dakota Ridge,

Resources: geological formations; fossils;

Red Rocks Formation,

Resources: geological formations; diverse flora and fauna from low foothills to montane; diverse wildlife including birds of prey (peregrine falcons)

Dinosaur Ridge,

Resources: geological formations; paleontology;

Cultural Wonders

Red Rocks Amphitheatre

Resources: Burnham Hoyts amphitheatre; NPS (CCC) construction; CCC Camp;

Sites of Significance

Historic / Cultural Sites

Clear Creek History Park,

Lariat Trail Gateway,

Resources: Benedict Gateway monuments;

Buffalo Bills Grave,

LARIAT LOOP

Resources: Grave site; NPS remnants of overall site – Lookout Mountain; relationship to plains;

Boettcher Mansion

Resources: relationship to Boettcher family; Boettcher Mansion (summer residence); site elements;

Humphrey House,

Resources: buildings; site elements; setting;

Hiwan Homestead Museum

Resources: Hiwan Homestead; site elements;

Rooney Ranch

Resources: centennial ranch; buildings, site elements; natural setting;

Magic Mountain Archaeological site

Sacred Sites

Colorow Point,

Resources: geological formations; association with Chief Colorow;

Morrison Cemetery,

Resources: cemetery site; view to Morrison; flora and fauna;

Mother Cabrini Shrine

Resources: site; views and vistas; buildings; steps to monument; monument;

Remnant Sites

Lariat Trail Spring House

Lookout Mountain Funicular remnants,

Resources: mountainside scar;

Johnson Ranch at Elk Meadow;

Resources: barn; outbuildings;

Denver Motor Club,

Resources: building remnants;

Summer White House ruins,

Resources: foundation remnants;

John Brisben Walker house,

Resources: building remnants;

Dakota Ridge Mining sites,

Resources: structure remnants; earth mounds;

Mt. Morrison Funicular remnants,

Resources: mountainside scar;

LARIAT LOOP

Educational / Interpretive Sites

Museums / Visitor Centers

Lookout Mountain Nature Center and Preserve

Colorado Railroad Museum

Foothills Art Center

Geology Museum – Colorado School of Mines

Golden Pioneer Museum

Buffalo Bill Museum & Grave

Morrison Natural History Museum

Dinosaur Ridge Visitor Center

Tourist Sites

Coors Brewery

Evergreen Lake House

LARIAT LOOP

SUMMARY - INTERPRETIVE SITE SUMMARY

Sites, Topics, Stories

Site Location	Type of Site	Topic	Element
Town of Morrison			
	Orientation Site at Morrison Heritage Museum	<i>All Topics: Driving Through History; It's In Our Nature; On the Land, In the Loop; Sacred Places, Hidden Lives.</i> Distribute wayfinding / interpretive media	<i>Interp. Rack Interp. Sign</i>
	Gateway, Tourist Resource		
Morrison Natural History Museum, Morrison Heritage Museum, Morrison Historic District	Existing Interpretive Site		<i>Interp. Rack</i>
Bear Creek Canyon			
	East Wayside	<i>Driving Through History</i> <i>Stories: Denver Motor Club JB Walker land & roads</i> <i>On the Land, In the Loop</i> <i>Stories: Gates Estate</i>	<i>Wayside Site Marker</i>
	West Wayside	<i>Driving Through History</i> <i>Stories: development of the scenic circle</i> <i>On the Land, In the Loop</i> <i>Stories: Idledale – Joyland Denver Motor Club</i>	<i>Wayside Site Marker</i>
Corwina Park	Two Waysides at Picnic Sites	<i>Driving Through History</i> <i>Stories: Olmsted Plan NPS / CCC development</i>	<i>Wayside Site Marker</i>
O'Fallon Park	Experiential Site		
Kittredge	Tourist Resource		
	Interpretive Site	<i>On the Land, In the Loop</i> <i>Stories: History as Trout Fishing Resort Summer Residence Area Charles Kittredge influence</i>	<i>Interp. Sign</i>
Evergreen			
	Orientation Site at Evergreen Chamber of Commerce	<i>All Topics: Driving Through History; It's In Our Nature; On the Land, In the Loop; Sacred Places, Hidden Lives.</i> Distribute wayfinding / interpretive media.	<i>Interp. Rack</i>
	Gateway, Tourist Resource		

LARIAT LOOP

Evergreen Lake	Interpretive Site	<p><i>Driving Through History</i> <i>Stories: DMP – Dedisse Park development w/lake, golf course, park.</i> <i>NPS centerpiece of Mt. Parks Resort community</i></p> <p><i>On the Land, In the Loop</i> <i>Stories: Dedisse Ranch</i> <i>Evergreen at junction of wagon road & Bear Creek,</i> <i>John Evans – rancher, logger, Territorial Governor</i></p>	<p><i>Marker</i> <i>Interp. Sign</i></p>
Dedisse Park	Experiential Site		
Hiwan Homestead	Existing Interpretive Site	<p>Distribute materials only</p> <p>Existing site provides interpretation on the Lariat topics: <i>On the Land, In the Loop</i></p>	<p><i>Interp. Rack</i></p>
Elk Meadow	Wayside on Hwy. 74	<p><i>Driving Through History</i> <i>Stories: Jefferson County’s role in open space</i></p> <p><i>On the Land, In the Loop</i> <i>Stories: Ranch</i></p> <p><i>Its in Our Nature</i> <i>Stories: Wildlife habitat, conservation area</i></p>	<p><i>Wayside Site</i> <i>Marker</i> <i>Interp. Sign</i></p>
Squaw Pass	Gateway		
Bergen Park	Interpretive Site (targeted to local residents)	<p><i>Driving Through History</i> <i>Stories: History of Mountain Parks (Olmsted, NPS, Denver, Jeffco)</i></p> <p><i>On the Land, In the Loop</i> <i>Stories: Bergen Ranch</i></p>	<p><i>Marker</i> <i>Interp. Sign</i></p>
Fillius Park	Experiential Site		
Humphrey Memorial Park and Museum	Existing Interpretive Site	<p>Distribute materials only</p> <p>Existing site provides interpretation on the Lariat topics: <i>On the Land, In the Loop</i></p>	<p><i>Marker</i></p>
Chief Hosa Lodge	Interpretive Site	<p><i>Driving Through History</i> <i>Stories: JB Benedict architecture</i> <i>Earliest campground</i></p>	<p><i>Marker</i> <i>Interp. Sign</i></p>
Genesee Park	Experiential Site		
	Little Loop		<p><i>Loop Logo</i></p>
Buffalo Overlook at I-70			
	Orientation Site (focus on buffalo & Native Americans)	<p><i>Driving Through History</i> <i>Stories: History of Mountain Parks</i></p> <p><i>It's In Our Nature,</i> <i>Stories: Buffalo</i></p> <p><i>On the Land, In the Loop</i> <i>Stories: Patrick House & Toll Roads</i> <i>Sacred Places, Hidden Lives</i></p>	<p><i>Wayside Site</i> <i>Marker</i> <i>Interp. Sign</i></p>

LARIAT LOOP

Mother Cabrini Shrine	Existing Interpretive Site	Existing site provides interpretation on the Lariat topics: <i>Sacred Places, Hidden Lives</i>	<i>Interp. Rack</i>
	US 40 Little Loop	Scenic drive along US 40.	<i>Loop Logo</i>
Lookout Mountain			
Lookout Mountain Nature Center	Orientation Site, Existing Interpretive Site	Distribute materials only Existing site provides interpretation on the Lariat topics: <i>It's In Our Nature</i>	<i>Interp. Rack Marker</i>
Boettcher Mansion	Existing Interpretive Site	Existing site provides interpretation on the Lariat topics: <i>On the Land, In the Loop</i>	<i>Interp. Rack</i>
Pahaska Teepee / Buffalo Bill's Grave and Museum	Orientation Site	<i>Driving Through History</i> <i>Stories: History of Pahaaska Teepee</i> <i>Development of the Lariat Loop</i> <i>(historic road)</i> <i>Tourism & Funicular Railroad</i> <i>It's In Our Nature,</i> <i>Stories: Ponderosa Pine Forest</i> <i>On the Land, In the Loop</i> <i>Stories: Buffalo Bills</i> <i>Sacred Places, Hidden Lives</i> <i>Stories: Chief Colorow – Colorow Point</i>	<i>Interp. Rack Marker Interp. Sign</i>
Colorow Point	Experiential Site	Walking overlook	
	Little Loop		<i>Loop Logo</i>
Lookout Mountain Park	Experiential Site		<i>Loop Logo</i>
Lariat Trail	Beaver Brook Trail Experiential Site	Wildflower and native plant hike	<i>Loop Logo</i>
Golden			
	Orientation Site Golden Chamber of Commerce	<i>All Topics: Driving Through History; It's In Our Nature; On the Land, In the Loop; Sacred Places, Hidden Lives.</i> Distribute wayfinding and interpretive media.	<i>Interp. Rack Marker</i>
Golden Pioneer Museum	Existing Interpretive Site	Existing site provides interpretation on the Lariat topics: <i>On the Land, In the Loop</i> Distribute materials only	<i>Interp. Rack</i>
Colo. School of Mines Geology Museum	Existing Interpretive Site	Existing site provides interpretation on the Lariat topics: <i>Its in Our Nature</i> Distribute materials only	<i>Interp. Rack</i>
Colo. Railroad Museum	Existing Interpretive Site	Existing site provides interpretation on the Lariat topics: <i>On the Land, In the Loop</i> Distribute materials only	<i>Interp. Rack</i>
Astor House Museum	Existing Interpretive	Existing site provides interpretation on the	<i>Interp. Rack</i>

LARIAT LOOP

	Site	Lariat topics: <i>On the Land, In the Loop</i> Distribute materials only	
Clear Creek History Park	Interpretive Site	<i>Driving Through History</i> <i>Stories: Jeffco's expansion of the mountain parks</i> <i>It's In Our Nature,</i> <i>Stories: Clear Creek ecosystem</i> <i>On the Land, In the Loop</i> <i>Stories: Clear Creek History</i>	<i>Marker</i> <i>Interp. Sign</i>
Foothills Art Center	Existing Interpretive Site	Distribute materials only	<i>Interp. Rack</i>
National Renewable Energy Lab	Existing Interpretive Site	Existing site provides interpretation on the Lariat topics: <i>On the Land, In the Loop</i> Distribute materials only	<i>Interp. Rack</i>
Tincup Hogback Corridor	Experiential		
Matthews-Winters Park	Interpretive Site	<i>On the Land, In the Loop</i> <i>Stories: Mt. Vernon townsite, cemetery</i>	<i>Marker</i> <i>Interp. Sign</i>
Red Rocks			
	Wayside along Hwy 26	<i>Driving Through History</i> <i>Stories: Park of the Titans, Red Rocks Amphitheater</i> <i>Jeffco's first open space - Hogback</i> <i>It's In Our Nature,</i> <i>Stories: Fountain Formations, Geology</i> <i>Hogback – National Natural Landmark</i>	<i>Wayside Site</i> <i>Marker</i> <i>Interp. Sign</i>
Dinosaur Ridge Visitor Center	Existing Interpretive Site	Existing site provides interpretation on the Lariat topics: <i>Its in Our Nature</i> Distribute materials only	<i>Marker</i> <i>Interp. Sign</i>
Ute Council Tree		<i>Sacred Places, Hidden Lives</i> <i>Stories: Chief Colorow – Cheyenne, Arapaho and Ute people</i>	

LARIAT LOOP

ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan shall be implemented on a task force based organization within the Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance (LLHA). Each action item should be led by a LLHA partner to be selected by the LLHA. Local Governing Agencies (LGA) are also recommended for leadership on many of the action items. The following table lists the LLHA partners and LGAs. For selected action items it is recommended that a consultant (CNS) be used to supplement LLHA resources.

Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance Partners (LLHA)

Astor House Museum (ASM)	Genesee Grange (GG)
Boettcher Mansion (BTM)	Golden Chamber of Commerce (GCC)
Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave (BBM)	Golden Earth Days Council (GEDC)
Canyon Area Residents for the Environment (CARE)	Golden Historic Preservation Board (GHPB)
Chief Hosa Lodge and Campground (CHL)	Golden Landmarks Association (GLA)
City and Mountain Views (CMV)	Golden Pioneer Museum (GPM)
Clear Creek History Park (CCHP)	Golden Planning Department (GPD)
Clear Creek Land Conservancy (CCLC)	Hiwan Homestead Museum (HHM)
Colorado Heritage Area Partners (CHAP)	Humphrey Memorial Park and Museum (HM)
Colorado Mountain Club (CMC)	Jefferson County Historical Commission (JCHC)
Colorado Railroad Museum (CRM)	Jefferson County Historical Society (JCHS)
CO School of Mines Geology Museum (CSMGM)	Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS)
Colorado Scientific Society (CSS)	Lookout Mt. Nature Center and Preserve (LMNC)
Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS)	The Town of Morrison (TOM)
Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR)	Morrison Historical Dist./Heritage Museum (MHM)
Evergreen North Area Balanced Land Use Effort (ENABLE)	Morrison Natural History Museum (MNHM)
Evergreen Chamber of Commerce (ECC)	Mother Cabrini Shrine (MCS)
Evergreen Park and Recreation District (EPRD)	Mountain Area Land Trust (MALT)
Foothills Art Center (FAC)	National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
Foothills Fire and Rescue (FFR)	Plan JeffCO (PJ)
Friends of Dinosaur Ridge (FDR)	Red Rocks Trading Post (RRTP)
Friends of Red Rocks (FRR)	SOLVE
Genesee Foundation (GF)	

Local Governing Agencies (LGA)

Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW)
Colorado – Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)
Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS)
Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR)
Town of Evergreen (Evergreen)
Evergreen Park and Recreation District (EPRD)
Golden Planning Department (GPD)
Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS)
Jefferson County Highways and Transportation (JCHT)
Jefferson County Planning (JCP)
Town of Morrison (TOM)

LARIAT LOOP

Estimated costs have been included for some of the action items. These estimates are approximations based on limited, conceptual definitions of the work to be undertaken. The cost shown should be used only to determine the relative range of costs a particular item may require. Potential funding sources listed are only some of the possible, appropriate sources for funding individual projects

Potential Funding Sources

- Colorado Council on the Arts (CCA)
- Colorado – Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)
- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)
- Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW)
- Colorado Historical Society (CHS)
- Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR)
- Evergreen Park and Recreation District (EPRD)
- Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)
- Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS)

Priorities given to action items are general and are intended to be used as a guide to the relative importance of the item listed. Priorities range from 1 (highest priority) to 4 (moderate priority).

PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE RESOURCES

1. *Protect the scenic routes.*
2. *Protect individual properties of significant natural and cultural value.*
3. *Collect living oral history of area.*

Preserve and Protect Action Item	Responsibility	Estimated Cost / Funding Resources	Priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish task force to work with local governing agencies and inform LLHA of resource protection issues. 	LLHA	NA	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support governing agencies such as JCOS and DPR in their efforts to conserve and protect lands that are important to the Loop. Refer to <u><i>DMP/JCOS Recreation Management Plan</i></u>. 	LLHA LGA	NA	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist and support LLHA partners to preserve resources that are directly controlled by the partners. 	LLHA	NA / JCOS, GOCO, CHS, private sector	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist and support LLHA partners, governing agencies and other groups to complete natural and cultural resource inventories. 	LGA LLHA	NA / DOLA, DNR, JCOS, DPR, CHS, CSPS	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and participate in grant applications and implementation related to the protection of significant natural and cultural resources. 	LGA LLHA	NA / CHS, DNR, JCP, JCOS, CDOT, DPR, CSPS,	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct oral living history inventory 	LLHA CCA	NA / CCA	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate National Heritage Area designation. 	LLHA	NA	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate LLHA Historic District designation. 	LLHA	NA	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate and summarize potential historic register nominations. 	LGA LLHA GHPB	NA	3

LARIAT LOOP

IDENTIFY THE LOOP

1. *Provide loop signing system*

Identification Action Item	Responsibility	Estimated Cost / Funding Resources	Priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a logo to be used in all Loop materials, including signing system. 	LLHA CNS	complete	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and produce sign medallion to be used by Loop partners as a small addition to their individual signs. 	LLHA CNS	complete	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and produce a window sticker to be used by Loop partners for identification. 	LLHA CNS	\$ 2,500 / LLHA, private sector	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with CDOT to provide “brown signs” for Loop resources that currently do not have this type of identification. 	LLHA LGA	\$ 10,000 - \$ 15,000 / CDOT	2

2. *Create waysides along scenic corridors*

Identification Action Item	Responsibility	Estimated Cost / Funding Resources	Priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate feasibility of developing waysides in locations indicated on the Interpretive Plan. Identify and contact potential wayside partners. 	LLHA, LGA (CDOT, JCHT, JCOS, DPR, Evergreen)	NA	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify potential funding sources for wayside development. 	LLHA, LGA	\$ 200,000 per site / JCOS, JCHT, CDOT, DOLA, DPR, EPRD, Evergreen, CHS, private sector	3

LARIAT LOOP

CONNECT THE USERS – TELL THE STORIES

1. Media

Printed Materials - Topical Tours - Specialty Items - Educational Guides - Lariat Loop Web Site

Media Action Item	Responsibility	Estimated Cost / Funding Resources	Priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At time of brochure reprinting, update “Linger on the Loop” brochure to reflect partner changes, and recommended new graphic materials/media. 	LLHA CNS	\$ 5,000 - \$ 10,000 / LLHA, private sector	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop topical pamphlets based on specific Loop themes. Integrate this material into the overall brochure. 	LLHA CNS	\$ 6,000 - \$ 10,000 / LLHA, CHS, private sector	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate cost of producing specialty items (place mats, mugs, glasses, post cards, etc.) for public awareness and fundraising. 	LLHA	NA	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and produce placemat series in partnership with local restaurants along the Loop. 	LLHA	\$ 3,000-\$ 5,000 / LLHA, private sector	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect, design and produce historic post cards for sale at Loop partners. 	LLHA	\$ 3,000-\$ 5,000 / LLHA, private sector	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate and produce a Lariat Loop video for use by Loop partners. 	LLHA	\$ 5,000 - \$ 10,000 / LLHA, private sector	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop educational guides with JeffCO schools. 	LLHA, JeffCO Schools, CCA	JeffCO Schools, educational grants,	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce walking/hiking tour brochures and guidebook 	LLHA	\$ 5,000 - \$ 10,000 / LLHA, CHS, private sector	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write articles for publications – i.e., newspapers, history oriented publications, tourism publications 	LLHA	NA	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate television publicity – i.e. Colorado Getaways 	LLHA	NA	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce “Lariat Lager” with the Golden Brewery 	LLHA	NA	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate historic bus tour 	LLHA	NA	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce and distribute audio tour (available on web site) 	LLHA	\$ 10,000 - \$ 20,000 / LLHA, private sector	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update and maintain www.lariatloop.org 	LLHA	\$ 2,000/year / LLHA, private sector	2

2. Graphic system

Loop Logo - Loop Rack - Loop Marker - Interpretive Sign

Graphics Action Item	Responsibility	Estimated Cost / Funding Resources	Priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate feasibility of Loop rack to display Loop materials with Loop partners. 	LLHA CNS	\$ 3,000 - \$ 5,000 (design) / LLHA	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Loop marker concept as wayside concept progresses. 	LLHA	\$ 3,000 (design) / LLHA, CDOT	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate feasibility of adding Loop oriented interpretive panels to existing site elements in JCOS, Denver Mountain Parks and other Loop sites as recommended in the Interpretive Plan. 	LGA LLHA	\$ 5,000 - \$ 8,000 per sign / JCOS, DMP, CHS, EPRD, CDOW	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the feasibility of adding Loop oriented Interpretive Stations to JCOS, Denver Mountain Parks or other Loop sites as recommended in the Interpretive Plan. 	LGA LLHA	\$ 50,000 - \$75,000 per site / JCOS, DMP, CHS,	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design interpretive stations, write and design interpretive panels as outlined in the Interpretive Plan. 	LGA LLHA	10% of construction budget	3

LARIAT LOOP

3. Sites

*Orientation Site – Gateways – Waysides - Interpretive Sites - Existing Interpretive Sites
Little Loops - Experiential Sites*

Graphics Action Item	Responsibility	Estimated Cost / Funding Resources	Priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate rebuilding funiculars at Lookout Mountain and Mount Morrison 	LLHA LGA	NA	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to establish orientation sites that provide more prominently displayed Loop materials. 	LLHA LGA	NA	2

4. Events and Programs

Events – Exhibits - New Programs - Existing Programs – Guided Tours - Lecture Series

Events and Programs Action Item	Responsibility	Estimated Cost / Funding Resources	Priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify 3-4 fundraising events per year. 	LLHA	NA	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement annually, the Lariat Loop Road Rally. 	LLHA	NA	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insure LLHPA presence at local events throughout the area. 	LLHA	NA	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop volunteer list for staffing events. 	LLHA	NA	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile materials and sources for travelling, topical museum and public facility exhibit. 	LLHA	\$ 10,000 - \$ 15,000 / LLHA, Museums, private sector	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a list of new programs that may fill needs in the local community. 	LLHA	NA	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a list of potential guided tours and guides that would enhance the Loop experience. 	LLHA	NA	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsor and support local lectures, workshops and educational sessions that are aligned with the Loop's mission and goals. 	LLHA	\$ 250 - \$ 500 per event / LLHA, private sector	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate interactive kiosk at DIA 	LLHA	NA	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create "Lariat Loop 40" 	LLHA	NA	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize coordinated hiking, snowshoeing and orienteering trips and education 	LLHA	NA	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop elder hostel program – Saints, Sinners and Stegosaurus' 	LLHA	NA	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a list of lecture topics, speakers and potential venues for educating the local public about the LLHA. 	LLHA	NA	2

MUNDUS BISHOP DESIGN

Mundus Bishop Design, Inc. Landscape Architecture and Planning 1719 Boulder Street Denver, CO 80211 Tel 303/477-5244

Appendix D

National Register of Historic Places
Within the Lariat Loop Mountain Gateway Heritage Area

GOLDEN

	Address	Function	Date	Reference #
Astor House Hotel	822 12th St.	public museum	3/1/1973	73000478
Camp George West Historic District	15000 S. Golden Rd.	law enforcement	2/11/1993	MPS92001865
Calvary Episcopal Church	1300 Arapahoe St.	public church	3/3/1995	95000186
Colorado National Guard Armory	1301 Arapahoe St.	retail & apartment	12/18/1978	78000860
Coors, Herman, House	1817 Arapahoe St.	private home	10/17/1997	97001227
First Presbyterian Church & Unger House	809 15th St.	Foothills Art Center	3/14/1991	91000294
Golden High School (American Mountaineering)	710 10th St.	mtn sport education	3/14/1997	97000229
Golden Hill Cemetery (Hill Section)	12000 W. Colfax Ave.	public cemetery	7/31/1995	94001230
Loveland & Coors building	1122 and 1120 Washington Ave.	retail & office	5/18/1996	96000544
Magic Mountain	Address Restricted	archaeology	8/21/1980	80000904
Quaintance Block	805 13th St.	retail & office	3/25/1994	94000261
Rio Grande Southern Railroad Motors 2,6,7	17155 W. 44th Ave.	public museum	2/14/1997	97000049
Twelfth Street Historic District	11th, 13th, Elm, and Arapahoe Sts.	private residential	9/22/1983	83001321

DENVER MOUNTAIN PARKS

Bear Creek Canyon Scenic Mountain Drive	Hwy 74, Morrison to Idledale		11/15/1990	MPS90001706
Bergen Park	Hwy 74 (Evergreen Parkway)		11/15/1990	MPS90001707
Colorow Point Park	900 Colorow Rd.		11/15/1990	MPS90001712
Corwina, O'Fallon, and Pence Park	area SE of jct. of Kittredge and Myers Gulch Rds., Evergreen		11/15/1990	MPS90001708
Katherine Craig Park	S. 40 between exits 256 & 454 of I-70		6/30/1995	MPS95000797
Dedisse Park	Evergreen pkwy and Upper Bear Creek Rd		11/15/1990	MPS90001709
<i>Evergreen Lake, Dam, Golf Course and Keys on the Green restaurant</i>				
Fillius Park	Hwy74 (Evergreen Parkway) near Bergen Park		2/24/1995	MPS95000108
Genesee Park	26771 Genesee Ln, I-70 exits 254 and 252		11/15/1990	MPS90001710
<i>Chief Hosa Lodge (Conference Center and Patrick House (private house)</i>				
Lariat Trail Scenic Mountain Drive	4.6 miles Golden to Lookout Mountain Rd.		11/15/1990	MPS90001711
Little Park	Bear Creek Canyon Hwy 74, SW of Idledale, Miller Lane		2/24/1995	MPS95000111
Lookout Mountain Park	Lookout Mountain Rd. at East Summit		11/15/1990	MPS90001713
<i>Buffalo Bill Grave, the Pahaska Tepee restaurant and retail (museum 1972)</i>				
Red Rocks Park District	16351 Colorado Rd. 93 north of Morrison		5/18/1990	MPS90000725
<i>Red Rocks Amphitheatre (outdoor) and Trading Post (restaurant & retail)</i>				
Starbuck Park	Bear Creek Canyon Hwy 74 at Idledale		6/30/1995	MPS95000796

EVERGREEN

Evergreen Conference District	Hwy 74 near Meadow Dr.	multiple public	5/1/1979	79000611
Everhardt Ranch	SE of Evergreen off Hwy 73	private	5/7/1980	80000903
Hiwan Homestead	4208 Timbervale Dr., off Meadow Dr.	public museum	4/9/1974	74000583
Humphrey House	620 S. Soda Creek Rd (Bergen Park)	public museum	12/31/1974	74000584

MORRISON

Morrison Historic District	Hwy 74 and Hwy 8	private & public	9/28/1976	76000561
Morrison School House	226 Spring St.	private home	9/4/1974	74000585
Rooney Ranch	Rooney Rd. and Alameda Pkwy.	private homes	2/13/1975	75000522

MT. VERNON CANYON

Lorraine Lodge (Boettcher Mansion)	900 Colorow Road	public conference	1/18/1984	84000858
Mother Cabrini Shrine Stone House	20189 Cabrini Blvd.	public conference	11/24/1999	
Mt. Vernon House	mouth of Mt. Vernon Canyon at I-70	private home	11/20/1970	70000162
Thiede Ranch	58 Shingle Creek Rd., So. of exit 256 I-70	private home	1/11/1996	95001509