



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area



A MEMBER OF THE  
**National Heritage  
Area System**



# Letter from Our Leadership

Dear friends,

Renew /rə'nōo/ (verb): to make like new, restore, refresh. There is perhaps no better way to describe 2023 for the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area (Cache NHA). Starting the year with a bang, President Biden signed the National Heritage Area Act on January 5th, 2023, reauthorizing 45 NHAs, including Cache NHA, for an additional fifteen years and authorizing seven new programs. The National Heritage Area Act creates standard criteria for the funding, management, and designation of National Heritage Areas across the country. We celebrated this bi-partisan accomplishment in Washington, D.C., with our NHA colleagues and legislative champions from across the country and locally with a legislative reception.

Midyear, we unveiled the rebranding of Cache NHA, complete with a modernized badge logo, a new website, and the tagline, "Discover Heritage. Explore Culture." The refreshed branding focuses on tourism while continuing to do what we do best: promoting history and local education. Our website includes a new section on recreation and curated tours in the heritage area. The refreshed brochure guides residents and tourists to enjoy the culture and amenities at our partner sites across the Cache NHA.

This year, we will expand upon the concept of renewal. You may have seen or even participated in the Capture the Cache photo contest launched last year as part of our rebranding campaign. We will keep this contest going annually and add a celebration event in June, Cache & Cocktails, to announce the contest winners and to honor the legacy of our emeritus leaders who have contributed significantly to the success of our heritage area.

2024 marks the 7th year for the Poudre Pour, and in keeping with our theme, it too will be refreshed in 2024. Over the past two years, we've invited partners to participate in the Poudre Pour to provide outreach and education on the themes of Water in 2022 and Environmental Stewardship in 2023. This year's theme will be celebrating the rich heritage and culture brought to Northern Colorado by Hispanic and Latinx immigrants, beet farmers, and laborers. We are partnering with community leaders to plan a cultural celebration with live performers, artists, cooking and art demonstrations, storytelling elements, and more.

We are profoundly humbled by the continued opportunity to do this great work of engaging people in the history, culture, and stewardship of our river corridor. We are grateful for your support and partnership and hope you experience a sense of rejuvenation going into 2024. We look forward to partnering with you this year!

With a sense of hope and renewal,

*Sabrina*



Sabrina Stoker  
Executive Director





## Board of Directors

## Staff

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At-large: Camp5 LLC

**Greg Dewey, Treasurer**  
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At Large: Northern Engineering

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Colorado State University

**Eric Robinson**  
At Large: In-Situ, Inc

**Tammy Rusch**  
Central Colorado Water Conservation District

**Karen Scopel**  
At Large: Greeley Natural Areas

**Hannah Swanbom**  
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**Candace Thomas**  
At Large: Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

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U.S. Forest Service

**Sharon ByWaters-Reyes**  
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**Cheri Yost**  
National Park Service  
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Executive Director

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Assistant Director

**Renee Tonnies**  
Office Manager

**Rylyn Todd**  
Marketing &  
Communication Coordinator

**Alexis Works\***  
Communication Coordinator

**Darien Ellis\***  
Projects and Education Specialist

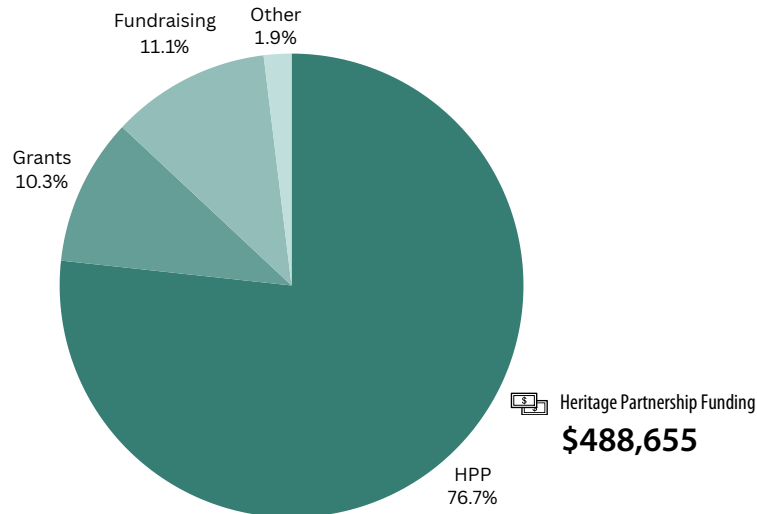
# Certified Interpretive Guides

Congratulations to our team members who were certified as Interpretive Guides! The Interpretive Guide course (CIG), offered by the National Association for Interpretation, teaches interpreters how to make programming purposeful, enjoyable, relevant, organized, and thematic. With the January 2024 addition of Heidi Fuhrman, our new Heritage Interpreter, the entire staff at Cache NHA is CIG certified.





# Financial Overview



Income      **\$638,227**  
 Expenses    **\$598,264**  
 Net income   **\$39,963**

 Heritage Partnership Funding  
**\$488,655**

Leveraged Dollars  
**\$503,895**

\*Figures represented are based on unaudited financials

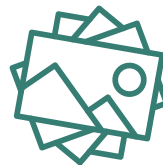
## By The Numbers



9,975 people participated  
in events and educational  
programs



69 volunteers provided  
1,360 hours of service



129 photos submitted to the  
Capture the Cache Photo  
contest



124 partners



\$149,562 in fundraising  
and non-federal sources



\$68,197 allocated for future  
historic preservation and  
interpretation projects



4.4 K followers on  
Social Media Platforms



22,815 visitors to the website



# Supporters

Thank you for supporting the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area! Your contribution supports programming that provides educational opportunities for learners of all ages, preserves local history, celebrates the rich culture of our region, and builds a community of collaborators who care about the preservation and well-being of our watershed. To donate, visit <https://poudreheritage.org/donate/>.

## DONORS

John Bartholow  
Daniel Biver  
Sarah Daniel  
Greg Dewey  
Katie Donahue  
Meegan Flennikan  
Carol Handshue  
Nick Haws  
Joseph Hoefler  
Scott Hummer  
Julie Kallenberger  
Anonymous  
Sandy Magnuson  
Calvin Miller  
Jared Orsi  
Anonymous  
Kristi Ritter  
Anonymous  
Diane Rothfuss  
Tammy Rusch  
Karen Scopel  
Anonymous  
Candace Thomas  
Tom Trout  
Robert Ward  
Brian Werner  
Salt Road Brewing  
Foundation Financial Group  
Northern Water

## FUNDERS

Colorado Tourism Office  
National Parks Foundation  
National Parks Service  
Nutrien

## SPONSORS

A. Bruce Johnson & Associates  
Aloterra Restoration Services  
American AgCredit  
Anderson Consulting Engineers  
Aquatics & Wetlands Nursery  
BHA Designs  
Bohemian Foundation  
Cache la Poudre Water Users Association  
Cannon Law  
Central Colorado Water Conservation District  
City of Fort Collins Natural Areas  
City of Fort Collins Utilities  
City of Greeley  
City of Greeley Water & Sewer  
City of Greeley Natural Areas & Trails  
City of Thornton  
Colorado State University Libraries  
Ducks Unlimited  
Elder Construction  
ETI Instrument Systems  
First Farm Bank  
Fischer, Brown, Barlett, Larson & Irby, PC  
Fort Collins Loveland Water District  
Horse & Dragon Brewing  
Houska Automotive  
Larimer and Weld Irrigation Company  
Larimer Conservation District  
Larimer County Board of Commissioners  
Morning Fresh Dairy/ Noosa Yogurt  
North Poudre Irrigation Co.  
Northern Engineering  
Northern Water  
One Canopy  
Open Water Foundation  
Otter Cares  
Pawnee Buttes Seed  
Poudre Learning Center  
Platte River Power Authority

## SPONSORS CONTINUED

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union  
Scheels Colorado  
State Farm Insurance  
TB Group  
The Weld Trust  
Tri-lynx System  
United States Bureau of Reclamation  
University of Northern Colorado- Department of Geography, GIS, and Sustainability  
Weld County Farm Bureau  
Windsor Downtown Development Authority

## IN-KIND DONORS

Climb Hard Cider Co.  
Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed  
Fort Collins Museum of Art  
Fort Collins Museum of Discovery  
Greeley Family FunPlex  
Greeley Tribune  
High Hops Brewery  
Horse & Dragon Brewing  
KUNC  
Lyric Cinema  
Morning Fresh Dairy/ Noosa Yogurt  
Myth Maker Brewing  
Odell Brewing Company  
Peculiar Ales  
Roberts Ranch  
Salt Road Brewing  
Snowbank Brewing  
Sweetwater Brewing Company  
Timnath Beerwerks  
Town of Windsor  
Urban Air Adventure Park  
WeldWorks Brewing  
Wildlands Restoration Volunteers  
Yetter Brewing Company  
Zwei Brewing



# Community Grants



## Awarding Community Grants

The Community Projects grant program aims to honor the history and culture of the Cache la Poudre River and its people. The Community grants program supports the preservation, interpretation, and development of the heritage area resources. We accept letters of intent for new projects on a rolling basis. Proposed projects that move beyond the letter of intent stage will be sent a comprehensive application for completion.

To learn more about the process, visit [poudreheritage.org/community-grants-impact](https://poudreheritage.org/community-grants-impact). More information on current grant opportunities is available at <https://poudreheritagealliance.submittable.com/submit>.

**\$21,080 in grant funds distributed in 2023**



## Poudre River Mural

Community Partner: Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed

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



## Five States of Colorado

Community Partner: Colorado Humanities

Released in 2023, Colorado Humanities and HaveyPro Cinema produced a 90-minute film, *The Five States of Colorado*. The film interprets Colorado's history and modern-day issues surrounding its water basins. This product will include a curriculum on Colorado history and will be available to all schools in Colorado. A portion of the film shows children learning about irrigation along the Poudre River while on a field trip to the Poudre Learning Center, located within Cache NHA. The field trip was funded by Cache NHA's Learning in Our Watershed Program while the film received grant funding.



## Poudre River Trail Interpretive Sign

Community Partner: City of Greeley Natural Areas and Trails

This new interpretive signage, designed by the City of Greeley Natural Areas and Trails, is located along the Poudre River Trail at the Island Grove Trailhead. It includes central themes of local wildlife, plants, and history. The signage incorporates the following best practices as outlined in the Cache NHA Strategic Interpretive Plan: offers shade, is placed where people congregate, is bilingual, offers a simplified map noting visitor location, and offers 3-second, 30-second, and 3-minute messages.





# Projects In Progress



## ✓ Emma Malaby Grocery Preservation Planning

Community Partner: Historic Larimer County  
Interpretive Theme: Following the Water  
Estimated Total Project Cost: \$47,206  
Estimated Completion Date: June 2024  
Grant award from Cache NHA: \$8,000



## ✓ Poudre River Trail Interpretation & Story Map

Community Partner: Colorado State University  
Interpretive Theme: Collaboration & Compromise  
Estimated Total Project Cost: \$39,256  
Estimated Completion Date: September 2024  
Grant award from Cache NHA: \$6,497



## ✓ 1883 Water Works Open House Series

Community Partner: Poudre Landmarks Foundation  
Project Type: Development of Heritage Area Resources  
Estimated Total Project Cost: \$32,455  
Estimated Completion Date: May 2024  
Grant award from Cache NHA: \$7,500



## ✓ Lower Cache Priority Reach 16

Community Partner: Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed  
Interpretive Theme: Collaboration and Compromise  
Estimated Total Project Cost: \$108,000  
Estimated Completion Date: November 2026  
Grant award from Cache NHA: \$15,000



## ✓ Interpretive Sign Standards and Guidelines for Windsor Historical Sites, Open Spaces, and Trails.

Community Partner: Town of Windsor  
Project Type: Development of Heritage Area Resources  
Estimated Total Project Cost: \$24,000  
Estimated Completion Date: February 2024  
Grant award from Cache NHA: \$1,000

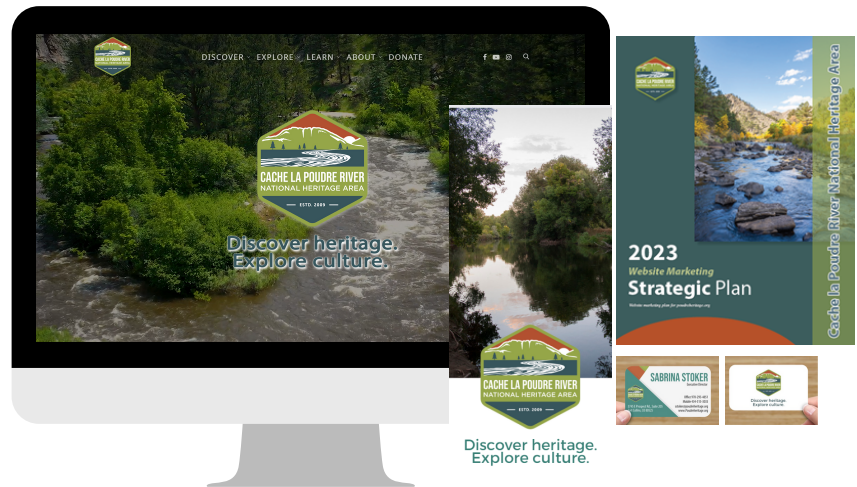


# Rebranding Efforts

## THE PROJECT

The Colorado Tourism Office awarded Cache NHA \$10,925 in marketing grant funds to support rebranding efforts. The rebrand includes a new logo, website, tagline, brochure and business card design. The project aimed to modernize our digital presence and turn the spotlight from who the Cache NHA and Poudre Heritage Alliance are to the history of the area and amenities of the NHA.

Aligned with our Strategic Interpretive Plan, an entirely new section of the website offers resources for exploring the NHA amenities, recreation, and curated tours. The rebranding included a marketing plan to drive traffic to our website and promote heritage tourism.



Now accepting events  
for our community  
calendar and guest  
blogs!

## Official Merchandise

You can purchase Cache NHA apparel in your favorite style, color, and size with the new online merchandise store.

Get yours  
today!



Discover heritage. Explore Culture.



Wild & Scenic | Crew



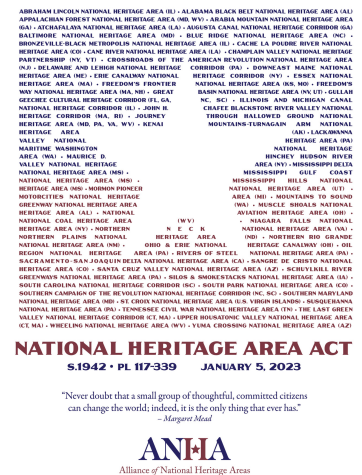


# CELEBRATING REAUTHORIZATION

## REUTHORIZATION OF S. 1942

One of the most significant accomplishments of this year was securing reauthorization for the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area through S. 1942. This effort is a testament to the tremendous nationwide collaborative work of the National Heritage Areas. On January 5, 2023, President Biden signed the National Heritage Area Act S.1942 into law.

This action followed the December 22, 2022 passage of the legislation by the U.S. House of Representatives by a bi-partisan vote of 326-95, after the Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent two days earlier. It was one of the last bills passed in the 117th Congress.



## WHAT IS S. 1942 NATIONAL HERITAGE ACT?

This act recognizes specific areas of the United States as National Heritage Areas, places that tell nationally significant stories. S. 1942 creates standard criteria for the funding, management, and designation of National Heritage Areas across the country. It also provides annual authorization for federal funding and continuity of the National Heritage Areas. This support ensures the conservation, enhancement, and interpretation of the stories within these heritage areas as well as their natural, historic, scenic, and cultural resources. Cache NHA is one of 62 National Heritage Areas across the country.

## LEGISLATIVE CHAMPIONS

We are grateful for the leadership from our bipartisan legislative champions, Congress, and local supporters. Together with the two other Colorado NHA's, Cache NHA marked this occasion by providing framed pieces of art to our legislators who championed S.1942; U.S. Senator Bennet, U.S. Senator Hickenlooper, and U.S. Congressman Neguse.

At a local celebration, Sally Boccella, Northern Colorado Regional Director for U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper, read this statement on behalf of the Senator:

"The lands we choose to protect send a message about what we value and what we want to remember. Victories like this are always a team effort. I want to thank Cache la Poudre Heritage Area Board and Executive Director, Sabrina Stoker, for bringing this to fruition, the Town of Windsor for hosting this reception, and Senator Bennet and Congressman Neguse for teaming up so we can all continue to recognize the natural resources and rich history along the Cache la Poudre."



Boccella accepted a framed art piece at the Poudre Pour on behalf of the Senator in celebration of passing the S. 1942.



# Promote

a variety of historical and cultural opportunities

## ✓ Bellvue Hydraulic Laboratory

The Bellvue Hydraulic Laboratory is now open for private tours. The site currently includes mobile interpretive signage explaining the site's history and includes plans for future interpretation. Volunteers Tom Trout and Robert Ward led tours of the property to groups such as the Universities Council on Water Resources/National Institutes for Water Resources Annual Water Resources Conference and the American Society of Civil Engineers Hydraulic Measurements and Experimental Methods Conference. Nearly 200 people toured this site.

Cache NHA hosted two site cleanup days to prepare the Bellvue Hydraulic Laboratory for group tours. Heritage Culturalists and staff scraped and painted the office building, replaced the office building door, repaired the pathways damaged during the channel cleanout, and replaced the temporary fencing. This project is made possible by the private funding of individual donors.



Interested in volunteering to help interpret this site or want to schedule a tour? Reach out to the Cache NHA today!



## ✓ Poudre Pour

The 6th annual Poudre Pour was held at the Town of Windsor Museums, with over 300 in attendance. Twelve educational partners provided hands-on learning experiences about the Poudre River and environmental stewardship. Live music entertained the crowds as they visited exhibits, food trucks, and beer tents. Eleven breweries provided samples and competed for the day's top prize, People's Choice, sponsored by Northern Engineering. Congratulations to Climb Hard Cider for winning the 2023 People's Choice award for the second year.

**Save the Date**

**Poudre Pour October 12, 2024**





Cache NHA supports events and activities throughout the heritage area. This is a great way to collaborate with our partners, engage the community in the heritage area, and connect the public to programs that promote and inspire. This year, we supported the Act Film Festival, Bike to Work Day, FOCO Fondo, the Poudre RiverFest and met with the Eyeopener Kiwanis and the Windsor Rotary clubs.

# Engage

people in their river corridor

## Featured Event: Poudre RiverFest

The Poudre RiverFest is a free, family-friendly festival that celebrates the Poudre River, promotes restoration, and educates people about our river corridor— an essential natural resource in our community. The festival features activities for children and adults to explore the role of the river as a critical habitat for wildlife, a lively recreation area, and a source of clean drinking water.

Cache NHA helps to organize this event for over 2,000 attendees along with the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, the National Association for Interpretation, the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, and the City of Fort Collins Utilities.



## Watershed Restoration Efforts

The Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed and Wildland Restoration Volunteers lead restoration and conservation efforts in the Poudre River watershed. With proceeds from the Poudre RiverFest, these partners accomplished the following restoration efforts in 2023:

- 15 volunteers collected 12.3 bushels of ponderosa pine cones
- 24 volunteers planted 700 trees in the Cameron Peak Fire area of the Poudre River Watershed



## Poudre Runs Through It

Poudre Runs Through It (PRTI) is a study action group of regional leaders and experts who reflect the diverse values of those who live and work in the communities along the Cache la Poudre River. Some members value the river as a working river for agriculture, municipality, and industrial needs, while others value recreation and ecological attributes.

PRTI works together to strike a balance for the many competing uses for the river, and participating in this group helps us to implement our management plan goal 3, Striking a Balance. In 2023, the Cache NHA moved from being PRTI's fiscal sponsor to adopting the group as one of our programs.





# Inspire

learning, preservation, and stewardship

## 01 Pub Talks

Pub Talks, funded by Nutrien, are a series of free adult educational presentations that cover a wide range of topics, from water law to water usage and conservation. From November 2023 to February 2024, Cache NHA hosted a series of four Pub Talks. Over 150 participants learned about the following topics:

- Reforestation in the West: Challenges and Opportunities at a Local Scale
- Innovations in Agriculture
- Impact of 2023 Precipitation on the 2024 Season
- Poudre River Trail Completion Update.



## 02 Poudre River Forum

The Poudre River Forum, an annual initiative of the Poudre Runs Through It, is a conference for industry professionals and community members who farm, deliver clean potable water, drink beer, recreate, and advocate for river health to learn from one another and explore how to move from conflict to collaboration. In 2023, the forum co-hosted by the Cache NHA and PRTI focused on water issues related to affordable housing, agriculture, and the Colorado River Compact, with a watershed and river recovery update on the Cameron Peak Fire burn area rounding out the day.







## 02 Learning In Our Watershed™

Learning in Our Watershed™ (LIOW) is a field trip grant program designed to help youth understand the Cache la Poudre River and their water heritage while inspiring the next generation of river stewards. In 2023, 6,173 students participated in LIOW field trips within the national heritage area. This program is funded by the National Parks Foundation, Nutrien, and private donations.

### Partner Sites

CSU Environmental Learning Center  
Greeley Centennial Village  
Windsor History Museums  
Poudre Learning Center  
Fort Collins Museum of Discovery  
Colorado Youth Outdoors

**"I learned the continental divide is up the mountains, and our water comes from there," said one 4th grader on a LIOW field trip.**

### Learning In Our Watershed™ Outcomes

72% of students experienced the NHA for the first time  
88% of students would like to return to the NHA  
92% of students enhanced their understanding of the NHA  
100% of teachers reported an increase in understanding the NHA as a resource

### Resources for Teachers and Parents

Learning in Our Watershed™ is an adaptable three-touch model with hybrid options for on-site and distance learning, designed to create pathways for kids to enjoy, understand and connect with nature in exciting ways by facilitating outdoor activity, experiential learning, and cultural heritage exercises. Teachers can self-select from a variety of activities in each of the three touch points to customize a field trip specific to their learning objectives and subject matter. Resources can be found at <https://poudreheritage.org/learning-in-our-watershed/>





# Capture the Cache

The Capture the Cache photo contest launched last year as part of our rebranding campaign. The photo contest celebrates the natural beauty, culture, and heritage of the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area. Winning images offer a snapshot of what makes the 45-mile heritage area unique and important. Congratulations to our inaugural winners!

## Inaugural Winners



1st Place Winner  
River Reflections  
Pace Clyncke



1st Place Winner  
Recreation & Lifestyle  
John Bartholow



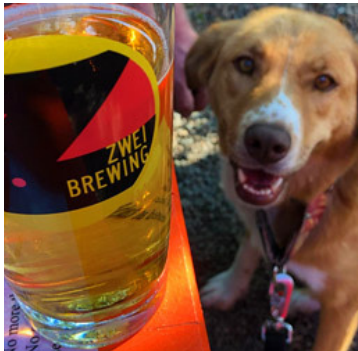
1st Place Winner  
History & Culture  
Dave Cho



# Capture the Cache

Did you participate in the Capture the Cache photo contest last year? Either way, you are in luck because it's back again this year with all new categories!

## 2024 Categories



Community Culture



In Motion



History Along the River Corridor

\*These photos are for example purposes only.

To learn more about the categories and contest rules, scan the QR code and visit our website. Deadline to submit photos for the 2024 contest is May 10, 2024.



## Cache & Cocktails

June 20, 2024

6:00 pm- 9:00pm

Windsong Event Center

Join us for an evening dedicated to art, culture, and community. Our Capture the Cache photo contest winners will be recognized during a celebratory evening of signature cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and camaraderie. A gallery of images will be on display and available for purchase. Cache NHA emeritus inductees will be honored for their service to the Heritage Area. Cache & Cocktails promises a night you won't want to miss. So mark your calendar and prepare to raise a glass to art and adventure!

Visit the event website to learn more.







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

## Follow Us



@Poudreheritage



@Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area



[www.poudreheritage.org](http://www.poudreheritage.org)

## 9TH ANNUAL POUDRE RIVER FORUM

### The Cost of Water

The Poudre River Forum is a conference on water issues, use, history, and conservation practices. The 2024 Forum will focus on "The Cost of Water" concerning infrastructure, storage, treatment, delivery, agriculture, food, housing, and more.

"The Poudre River Forum allows for people who are really integrally involved in managing the water to get together and bond over the course of the day," said Carol Cochran, owner of Horse & Dragon Brewery and previous attendant of the forum.

**Buy tickets today!**



Save the Date for Next Year: March 7, 2025

JOIN US THIS YEAR  
MARCH 1, 2024

AIMs Welcome Center  
4901 W 20 St  
Greeley, CO 80634