



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area



A MEMBER OF THE
National Heritage
Area System

Letter from Our Leadership

Dear Community Members,

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your unwavering dedication and tireless efforts in preserving our shared heritage. Your commitment to our mission has been a beacon of hope and resilience during a tumultuous year, and for that, I am profoundly thankful.

Throughout the year, we faced numerous obstacles, yet your collective determination and passion for our cause never wavered. Together, we have navigated uncertainties and emerged stronger, continuing to inspire and engage our community with our programs. Your contributions have not only preserved the rich history of the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area but have also laid the groundwork for future generations to cherish and learn from.

As we look ahead to 2026, I am filled with enthusiasm and excitement for the opportunities that lie before us. The upcoming year promises to be extraordinary as we join the nation in celebrating America's 250th anniversary and Colorado's 150th anniversary. These remarkable occasions present a wonderful chance to reflect on our past, celebrate our present, and eagerly anticipate a future full of promise and opportunity.

In line with these celebrations, we are thrilled to announce a new initiative that focuses on the Trailblazers of water innovation in the West. Through this program, we will explore the rich history and legacy of the Cache la Poudre River, highlighting the inspiring stories of early American pioneers who transformed the arid landscapes of Northern Colorado into the vibrant communities we cherish today.

Whether you are a long-time resident or new to the area, this year's programming promises valuable insights and fosters a deeper connection to the land and water that support us. Through educational events, community workshops, and storytelling sessions, we aim to breathe life into the history of the Poudre River and inspire a renewed commitment to its preservation. Together, we will uncover the creativity and resilience that have shaped river management and stewardship, ensuring that future generations can continue to thrive in Northern Colorado.

We invite you to stay connected and engaged with our organization as we embark on this enlightening journey. To stay informed about upcoming events and activities, please visit our website and subscribe to our newsletter. Together, let's honor the trailblazers of water innovation and ensure their legacy continues to inspire future generations.

Thank you for your ongoing support and enthusiasm. We eagerly look forward to celebrating with you and sharing the stories that make our community truly special.

Warm regards,

Sabrina Stoker



Sabrina Stoker
Executive Director



Board and Staff



Officers

Dan Biwer, Chair
City of Greeley
Julie Kallenberger, Vice-Chair
At-large: Camp5 LLC
Greg Dewey, Treasurer
Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
Chelsie Romulo, Secretary
University of Northern Colorado

Ex-Officio

Cheri Yost
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain National Park

Members

Michelle Bird
Larimer County
Matt Clark
At Large: J-U-B Engineering
Katie Donahue
City of Fort Collins
Meegan Flenniken
Larimer County
Scott Hummer
At Large: Retired Colorado Water Commissioner
Jared Orsi
Colorado State University

Staff

Sabrina Stoker
Executive Director
Beth Bullard
Assistant Director
Renee Tonnes
Office Manager
Rylyn Todd
Marketing and Communications Coordinator
Oscar Godinez-Avila
Heritage Interpreter

By The Numbers



23,044 people participated in events and educational programs



153 volunteers provided 3,258 hours of service



117 partners



\$185,748 in non-federal funding

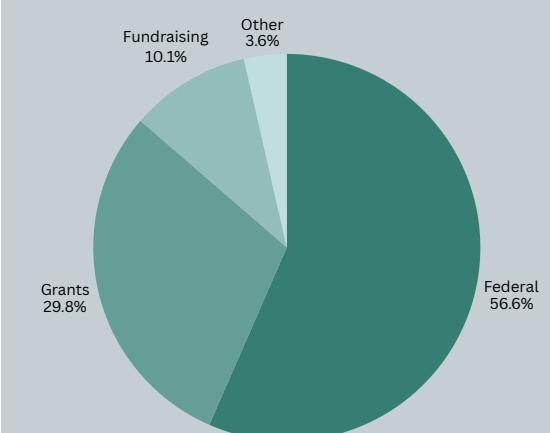


\$48,118 allocated for future historic preservation and interpretation projects



45,265 visitors to the website

Funding Sources



Heritage Partnership Funding (Federal)
\$423,546

Leveraged Dollars
\$1,265,139

*Figures represented are based on unaudited financials as of 1.6.26

Community Grants



Awarding Grants to Community Partners

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 provides funding to local partners to support the preservation, interpretation, and development of the heritage area resources.

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

\$30,497 in grant funds distributed in 2025



B.H. Eaton House

Community Partner: Town of Windsor
Project Type: Historic Preservation
Total Project Cost: \$675,000
Completion Date: May 2025
Grant award from Cache NHA: \$40,000

Emma Malaby Grocery Preservation Planning

Community Partner: Historic Larimer County
Interpretive Theme: Following the Water
Total Project Cost: \$47,206
Completion Date: June 2025
Grant award from Cache NHA: \$8,000

Poudre River Trail Interpretation & Story Map

Community Partner: Colorado State University
Interpretive Theme: Collaboration & Compromise
Total Project Cost: \$39,256
Completion Date: January 2025
Grant award from Cache NHA: \$6,497

Poudre River Trail Wayfinding Design

Community Partners: City of Greeley, Town of Windsor, Town of Timnath, Larimer County, and Poudre River Trail Corridor
Project Type: Development of Heritage Area Resources
Total Project Cost: \$27,300
Completion Date: June 2025
Grant award from Cache NHA: \$5,000



Curated Tours

Curated tours are a fresh way to promote heritage tourism. Framed as half-day or full-day visits, these pre-planned itineraries cater specifically to the interests and preferences of the traveler while including dining, shopping, and activity options.

Visit poudreheritage.org/tour/curated-tours/ or click on the photo below to explore the full tours!



Explore the Farmers Markets

Features five vibrant farmers markets located in Northern Colorado, each offering a unique taste of local culture, fresh produce, and artisan goods. As you stroll these bustling markets, you'll discover the variety of community life along the Poudre River corridor.



13 Locations to Photograph

Designed to guide any aspiring or professional photographer across the heritage area to spots that capture the natural beauty, culture and heritage of the Cache NHA.



The Patio Tour: Dog Friendly Patios

Visit some of the best dog-friendly patio spaces throughout the Cache NHA in Northern Colorado. Whether you're sipping on a refreshing iced tea or savoring a tasty snack, these patios offer the perfect backdrop for both relaxation and socializing with your furry friend by your side.



Museum Tour

The history of the communities in the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area are displayed throughout the heritage area in museums. Historic building tours, display exhibits, interactive experiences, and more showcase the stories of this region.



Promote

a variety of historical and cultural opportunities

Capture the Cache Exhibition

The Capture the Cache Exhibition displayed photography and artwork celebrating the natural beauty, culture, and heritage of Cache NHA. Selected pieces were featured in a month-long exhibit at the Visit Fort Collins Welcome Center with **2,377** in attendance. The juried show honored the fusion of art and heritage tourism, featuring pieces inspired by the agriculture, community, and weather of the heritage area. An Opening Reception on June 3rd celebrated the selected winners and our Emeritus honoree. Plein air artists from Petrichor Collective joined us for a live painting demonstration.

1st Place
Agriculture
Finn Smith



1st Place
Community
Erik Staub



1st Place
Weather
Richard Hermann



Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra

The Greeley Philharmonic performed a symphonic cultural demonstration that paid tribute to Greeley's rich Chicano & Latino cultures through a program celebrating Día de los Muertos. 70 professional musicians performed nine movements that celebrated Chicano and Latino Heritage for an audience of **584**.

JOIN US THIS YEAR
JUNE 2, 2026
Visit Fort Collins Welcome Center

Best in Show
Paul Avery





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.

Engage

people in their river corridor

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. The group uses its experiences and knowledge to identify opportunities for cooperative action.

 Did you know? The Poudre River Forum planning committee is made up of PRTI members. Topics for the forum often stem from study topics explored with PRTI.

Native Seed & Plant Swap

The NoCO Native Plant Exchange hosts two annual events: a native plant swap and giveaway in June and a native seed swap in November. Through these events, the NoCO Native Plant Exchange empowers the community to use locally native plants in their landscapes to support wildlife, conserve water and share educational resources. This year 960 plants were donated and 150 native species of seeds were collected and distributed. **830** people attended the Native Seed & Swap events in 2025.



Poudre RiverFest

Poudre RiverFest invites the community to experience the Cache la Poudre River, while promoting restoration and educating people about the river corridor. This free, family-friendly festival brings people together to celebrate the river through exhibitors and hands-on activities all connected to the river. In 2025, the festival welcomed **2,700** attendees who enjoyed live music from local bands and a vibrant community atmosphere of people who love the Poudre River.

The Cache NHA has supported the festival since its inception, serving on the planning committee and hosting a booth featuring an interactive magnet map. Visitors explored historic photo collections from across the heritage area, gaining a deeper sense of place and connection to the river.



Inspire

learning, preservation, and stewardship



01 Pub Talks

Poudre Pub Talks, funded by Nutrien, is an annual educational series that bring experts to your favorite local breweries for informational conversations about our community's culture, history, recreation, ecology, and stewardship.

02 Poudre River Forum

The Poudre River Forum is a conference on water issues, use, history, and conservation practices. Over 228 people attended the 10th Anniversary Forum which focused on the Poudre River basin, reflecting on its historic past, the evolutionary path to the present, and considerations for future generations. Of those in attendance, there were 6 legislators. The 49 survey respondents gave the event an overall score of 4.5/5 with top comments focusing on the great venue, high quality speakers, and the diversity of viewpoints.

JOIN US THIS YEAR
MARCH 6, 2026
Aims Welcome Center

This year's Forum will recognize the innovations and trailblazers in our watershed.

Save the Date for Next Year: March 5, 2027

Buy tickets today!



From November 2024 to February 2025, Cache NHA hosted a series of four Pub Talks. Over 246 people learned about the following topics:

- Foraging for Beer
- Mexican American History Project of Greeley
- History of the Poudre River Trail & Completion Update
- Waste & Water: The Impact of Diversion

“
The varying views were impactful. It was obvious not everyone in the room could agree on everything, but the common goal was the Cache la Poudre River's best interests, and I loved that.

Forum Attendee



03 Learning In Our Watershed™

Learning in Our Watershed™ (LOIW) is a field trip program designed to help youth understand the Cache la Poudre River and their water heritage while inspiring the next generation of river stewards. In 2025, **8,086** students participated in LOIW field trips within the national heritage area. Total program costs are **\$237,800+** and funding is provided by the National Park Foundation, Nutrien, and private donations.

Partner Sites

Children's Water Festival
Colorado Youth Outdoors
CSU Environmental Learning Center
Fort Collins Museum of Discovery
Greeley History Museum
Poudre Learning Center
Windsor History Museums

"Thank you! I learned so much new stuff...I would go back 10,000 more times," said one 3rd grader on a LOIW field trip.



Learning In Our Watershed™ Outcomes

70% of students experienced the NHA for the first time
86% of students would like to return to the NHA
83% of students enhanced their understanding of the NHA
86% of students learned they could make a difference for the watershed
83% of teachers reported an increase in understanding the NHA as a resource

Resources for Teachers and Parents



"The Poudre is my local waters and education about the protection of this valuable resource is priceless, I strongly believe and recommend this program to other teachers," said one teacher.

Learning in Our Watershed™ is an adaptable three-touch model with pre and post field trip activities designed to create pathways for kids to enjoy, understand, and connect with nature in exciting ways. Check out our videos with mascots Drip and Drop and other resources to further Colorado curriculum in reading, science, history and more! Resources can be found at <https://poudreheritage.org/learning-in-our-watershed/>



Celebrations

Emeritus Board Members

Emeritus board members are individuals who have served the Poudre Heritage Alliance and the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area with distinction, excellence, and outstanding service.

This year's honoree was Dr. Robert Ward. Robert served as Director of the Colorado Water Center from 1991-2005 and as a PHA board member from 2001-2016.

Board members describe Robert as always thoughtful, collaborative, and passionate about the NHA and his enthusiasm for history is remarkable. Robert has shared his knowledge of Western water development as told through the lives of various individuals linked to the Poudre River at the Poudre River Forum, Pedaling the Poudre Tours, and more.



Poudre Pioneer

The Poudre Pioneer Award recognizes individuals who have remarkably contributed toward furthering the PRTI goal to make the Cache la Poudre River a premier example of a healthy working river.



This year's awardee was John Stokes. John retired from the City of Fort Collins in 2021 and for most of his time there he led the Natural Areas Department. During his tenure, conserved lands grew from approximately 9,000 acres to over 50,000 acres. John and his colleagues worked to improve the Poudre River via physical improvements, water rights transactions, and partnership building. "For all of us who care for and love the Poudre River, we know what a precious and fragile resource that we depend on for vital ecological, agricultural, industrial and domestic purposes," said Stokes.

“Working with the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area to celebrate the historic role that people of the Poudre River played in creating today’s western water law and management strategies has been a rewarding activity. I look forward to continuing our work to make the Cache NHA one of the nation’s premiere NHAs.”

Robert Ward, PHA Emeritus Board Member

Emeritus Board Members

Richard Maxfield
U.S. Senator Hank Brown
Dr. Howard Alden
Richard Brady
Dr. Richard Bond
U.S. Senator Wayne Allard
Peggy Ford Waldo
Justice Gregory Hobbs
Susan Boyle
Brian Werner
Dr. Robert Ward

The perpetual plaque honoring emeritus board members is on permanent display at the PHA office.



New Headquarters

B.H. Eaton House

This year the Cache NHA relocated its headquarters to the historic B.H. Eaton House in Windsor. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the site was open on the weekends as a visitor center. During our first summer we welcomed **1,198** visitors, providing tourist information and interpretations of the heritage area's history.

Stop in next season to explore a variety of historical artifacts and interpretive materials, get a stamp in your National Park Passport, and browse the gift shop.

Passport to Your National Parks®

As a partner of the U.S. National Park Service (NPS), Cache NHA participates in the Passport to Your National Parks program, a fun way to remember your visits to America's National Parks, Monuments, Heritage Areas, and other sites of the NPS system. NPS passport stamps are unique to each site and record the site name, place of stamp, and the date you visited.

There are three Passport Stamp locations in the Cache NHA: The Visit Fort Collins Welcome Center, B.H. Eaton House, and the Colorado Model Railroad Museum. Collect all three!



Official Merchandise

Shop for Cache NHA apparel and other fun items at the small gift shop. Fan favorites include the zip-up hoodies, "It's pronounced POO-der" shirts, heritage area puzzles, and unique stickers. Select items are available in-store only!

Can't make it in person? The online store offers a wide variety of colors and sizes.



Shop Online Today!



Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area



www.poudreheritage.org

Photo Credit: Dave Cho