



## 2021 Annual Report

# Resource Protection

### Park Rangers

Bevin Carithers  
Erin Hartnett  
Lucero Torres  
Jason Vroman  
Jeff Hiebert  
Chris White  
Kevin Grady  
Denny Morris  
Juan Ocampo  
Sarah Andrews  
John Queen  
Jose Barrientos  
Bailey Eddy  
Henry Chapman  
Rachel Holland  
Shelby Cooks

### Park Deputies

Matt Sanderson  
Tony Tagliatela  
Phil Jarvis  
Katie Tkach  
Candice Bott

### K9 Staff

Dax  
Scout  
Trinity  
Switch  
Zee

### Equestrian Staff

Rohan  
Starlight  
Beauty  
Duncan

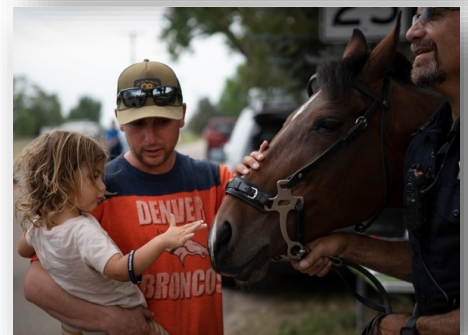
### Our Purpose

*As leaders in our field, Boulder County Park Rangers and Deputies play an integral role protecting open space lands and ensuring the safety of park users. We engage and educate the public and safeguard the human, natural, and cultural resources of Boulder County. Our work inspires an appreciation of conservation and environmental stewardship for future generations.*



### 2021 Highlights

- ★ Expanded commitment to cultural responsiveness and inclusion through the recruitment of diverse staff and community partners.
- ★ Left Hand Outdoor Challenge returns after 18 months of COVID cancellations with 24 students and four mentors.
- ★ Mounted patrol program expands with new members, policies, procedures, and a formal application process.
- ★ Hesse Trailhead shuttle operations add Friday service, attracting more than 33,000 riders.
- ★ Working dog search-and-recue teams completed 34 missions, assisting agencies throughout Colorado.
- ★ Rangers and deputies completed 6,772 hours of patrol in parks, open spaces, and on trail.
- ★ Rangers and deputies respond to 676 incidents and XXX calls for service from the Boulder County Sheriff's Office.
- ★ Rangers and deputies wrote 548 citations and written warnings.



## 2021 Program Highlights

A 2021 national report commissioned by the National Conservation Law Enforcement Education Foundation found that Americans consider the work of conservation officers and park rangers critically important to their communities; however most respondents could not describe how the work of conservation officers affected their lives and communities. Consequently, the report suggests that it is the obligation of the conservation law enforcement community to demonstrate how their work is relevant in the communities where they work, including a clear focus on community-based efforts that address local concerns, issues, and priorities.

Maintaining relevant, inclusive and meaningful community-based programming is at the core of the resource protection team’s values and strategic plan. Below are a few highlights of the community-based efforts that demonstrate our commitment to ensuring that our work has a noticeable and lasting impact throughout Boulder County.

- ★ **Left Hand Outdoor Challenge (LHOC):** 27 LHOC teen participants and four mentors emerged from pandemic lockdowns and cancellations with fresh energy and a clear focus on the 2021/2022 program season. Summer participants cleared agricultural ditches and practiced their electrofishing skills along St. Vrain Creek. Fall programs focused on recovery projects related to Cal-Wood burn scar and collaborative, service experiences with the American Indian Veterans group at their ceremonial site on Indian Mountain.
- ★ **Mounted Patrol Program:** Rangers and deputies patrolled a total of 201 hours at various parks and trails throughout the county in 2021. The team also spent 20 hours participating in outreach activities, such as National Night Out, World Ranger Day and Share the Trail trailhead displays. The Mounted Patrol program was joined by two new members in 2021, Deputy Phil Jarvis, with his horse Beauty, and seasonal ranger Rachel Holland with her horse Duncan.
- ★ **Cultural Responsiveness and Inclusion:** 2021 was a year of exploration and relationship building for the work group’s CRISP team. Rangers developed new partnerships with Cal-Wood Latino Family Camps, Naturekids Boulder, Naturekids Lafayette, and Casey Middle School’s Avid Class program. These partnerships will be expanded in 2022 with additional park-based hikes, ranger presentations, and family programming. Rangers also continued the expansion of a more perpetual relationship with the San Lazaro community in Boulder, including coordinating National Night Out activities, participating in community holiday events, and conducting a community listening session.



## Patrol and Enforcement Summery

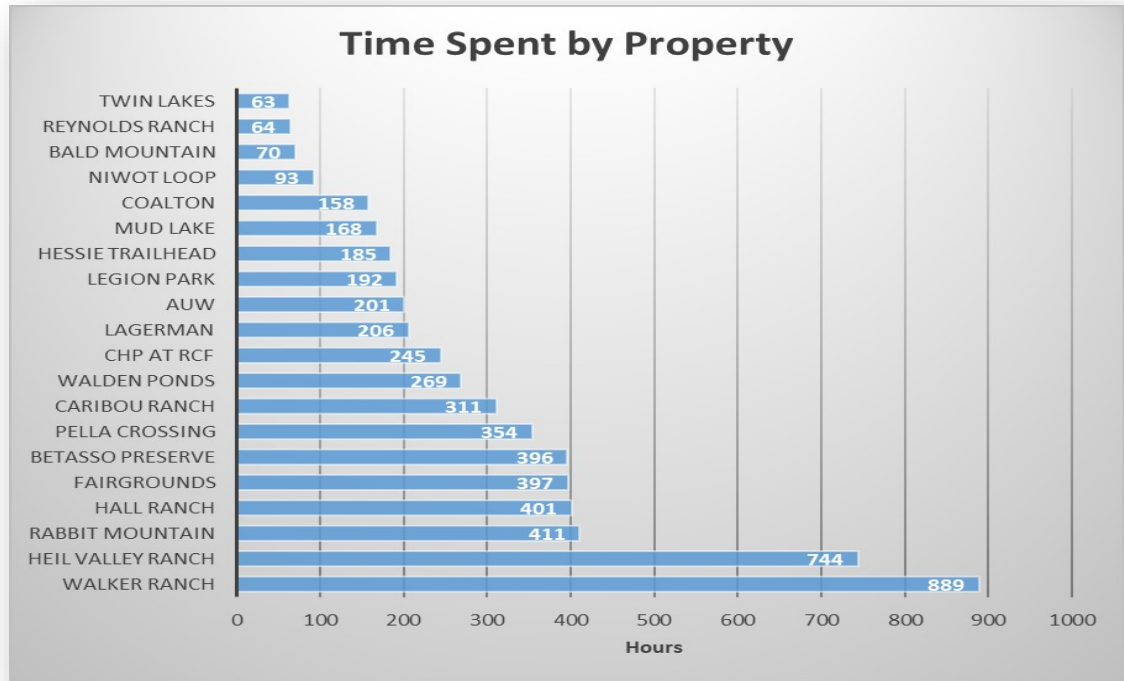


Figure 1. Patrol and other time reported by rangers and deputies at open space parks and properties.

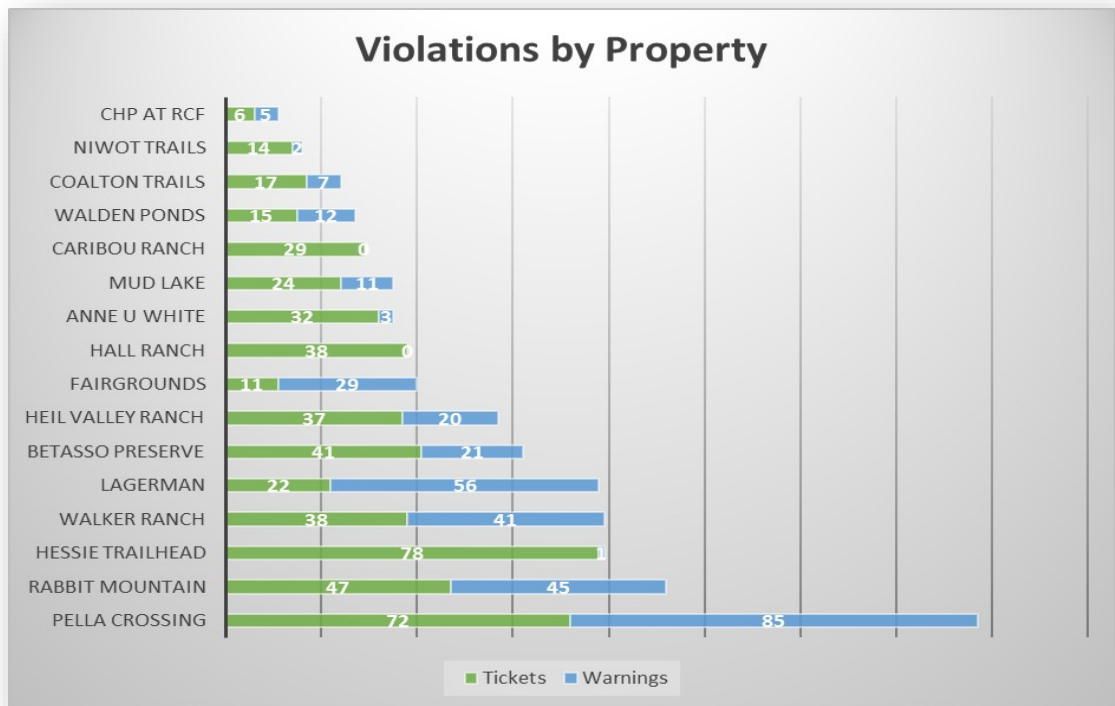


Figure 2. Citations and written warnings issued by rangers and deputies at open space parks and properties.

## Patrol and Enforcement Summery

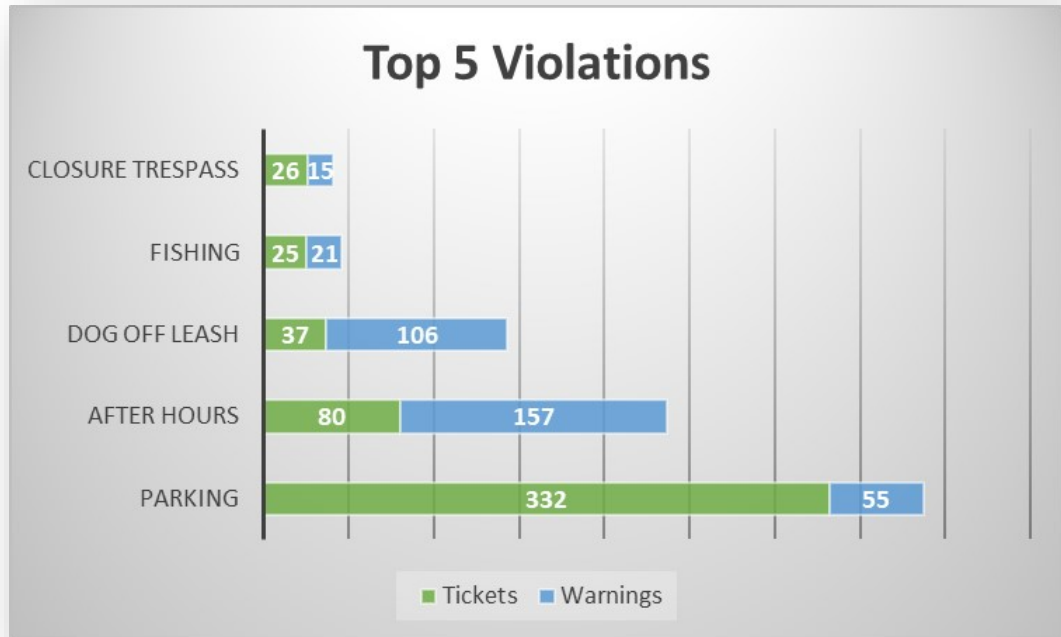


Figure 3. Top 5 violations reported by rangers and deputies on open space parks and properties in 2021.

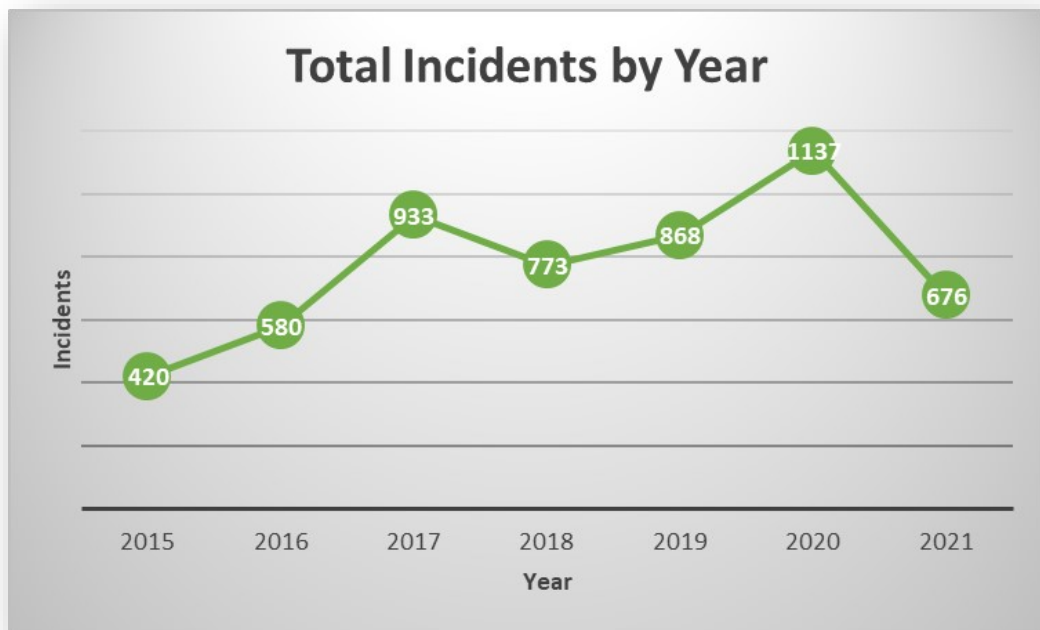


Figure 4. Total number of incidents requiring the response of at least one park ranger or park deputy from 2015—2021.



# Hessie Trailhead Shuttle Celebrates 10th Summer!

The Hessie Trailhead shuttle celebrated 10 years in operation in 2021. Since the summer of 2012, the shuttle has seen tremendous growth in ridership, and 2021 was no exception. With more than 33,000 daily boardings, the shuttle continues to provide free access to the Hessie Trailhead, Lost Lake, and the Indian Peaks Wilderness from Memorial Day weekend to mid-October.



A 2021 survey of shuttle riders provided the county and resource protection team with much needed data on shuttle ridership and potential improvements to the program. Key takeaways from the survey included the following:

- ★ 95 % of survey respondents came to Hessie to hike;
- ★ 99% of survey respondents drove to the shuttle stop, while only 1% used RTD buses from Boulder. 98% of respondents had access to a personal vehicle;
- ★ 75% of survey respondents identified as millennials;
- ★ 87% of survey respondents identified as white, and 91% identified as non-Hispanic;
- ★ Most respondents suggested that the shuttle run on weekdays as well as weekends;
- ★ Survey respondents asked for shuttle service from both Nederland High School and the park-n-ride parking lot

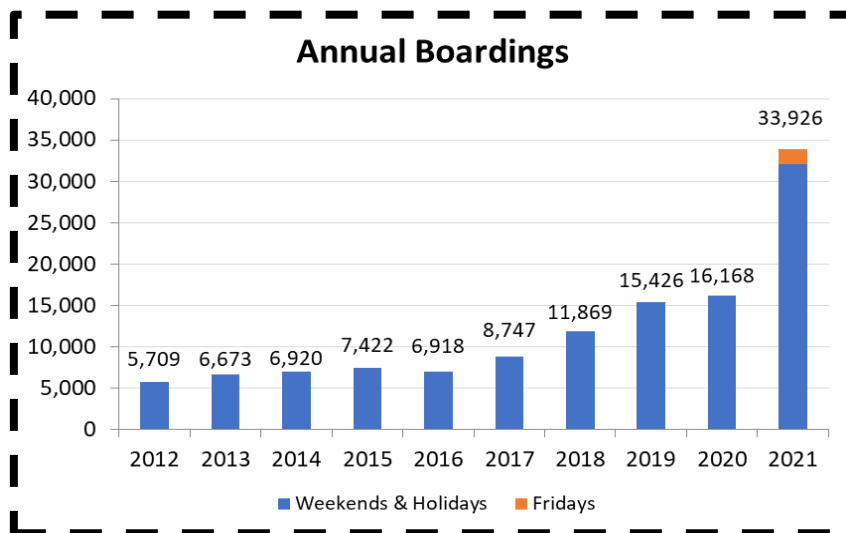


Figure 5. In 2021, the Hessie Trailhead shuttle program celebrated its 10th year in operation with nearly 34,000 riders.

# 2021 Highlights: K9 Search-and-Rescue Team

Park Ranger Jeff Hiebert, Park Deputy Katie Tkach, and their canine partners led a successful year of searches, trainings, and outside agency assists as part of the Resource Protection Service Dog program, the Boulder County Sheriff's Office K9 team, and the Search and Rescue Dog of the United States (SARDUS) volunteer group. Ranger Hiebert is the president of SARDUS, which is the largest search and rescue dog group in the state, and he was directly responsible for training and dispatching 30 dog teams. Ranger Hiebert, Deputy Tkach, and the volunteers were instrumental in a number of cases in 2021, providing canines to search for evidence, missing people, and human remains across the front range.

## Team Accomplishments

- ★ Ranger Hiebert responded to 22 missions and added canine certifications for evidence and water search.
- ★ Deputy Tkach responded to 12 missions.
- ★ Volunteer dog teams went on approximately 300 missions and spent 3,500 hours serving their communities and local law enforcement agencies.
- ★ Agencies assisted include the Boulder County Sheriff's Office, Boulder Police Department, Longmont Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Aurora Police Department, Arapaho County Sheriff's Office, Larimer County Sheriff's Office, Louisville Police Department, Ft. Collins Police Department, FBI, Lakewood Police Department, and Arvada Police Department.

## Mission Highlights

- ★ Ranger Hiebert and his canines, Zee, Dax, Trinity, and Switch, located a bobcat trap on the Hall II property, searched the Peck property for a missing, suicidal male, found a gun that a murder suspect disposed of, and searched for evidence in a million-dollar bank robbery.
- ★ Deputy Tkach and Scout searched for an elderly female that went missing in Louisville and did a canine demo for Sunrise of Boulder Senior Center.
- ★ SARDUS volunteers located three suicide victims, one drowning victim in the Poudre River flood event, and another victim in Carter Lake, and were requested by the FBI to assist with three out-of-state cases of missing children.





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*RMRA Agency Member*

