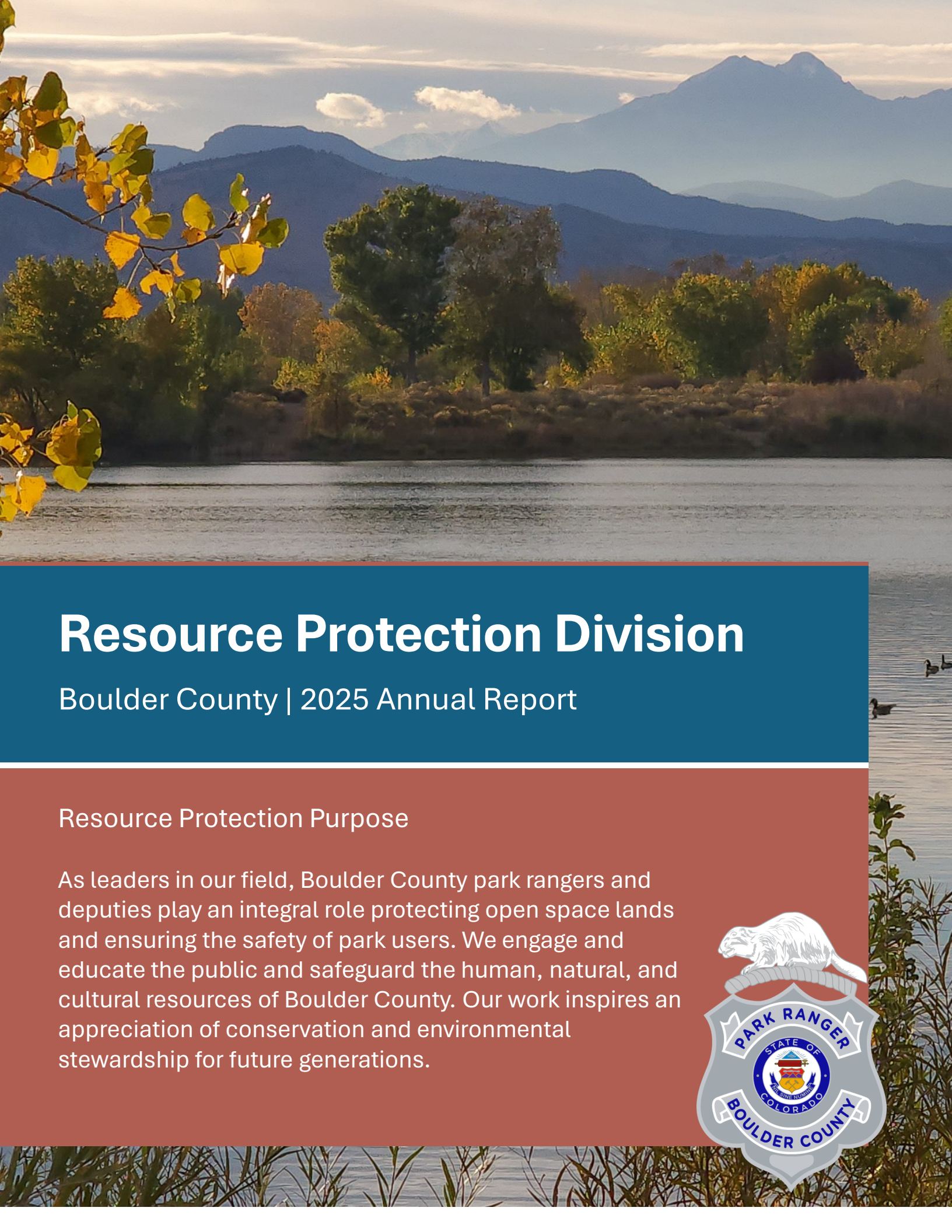




Resource Protection Division

Boulder County | 2025 Annual Report

Resource Protection 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.



2025

Division Highlights

Park Rangers

Bevin Carithers
Erin Hartnett
Lucero Torres
Jeff Hiebert
Chris White
Kevin Grady
Denny Morris
Sarah Andrews
Juan Ocampo
Sully Tun-Ake
Warren DeKoven
Tina Currin
Brennan Bushman
Kayla Rickel
Marjorie Ortega
Ellen Rigell

Park Deputies

Jason Shatek
Kelly Bowden
Josh Scrudder
Zach Evans
Richie Cunningham

Equestrians

Starlight

K9s

Zee
Switch
Dotti
Watson



5,540 hours of on-trail patrol

Dispatched to **240** requests for service



Responded to **862** incidents

432 citations and written warnings issued



25 youth and community engagement programs

77 visitor engagement programs





Resource Protection in Pictures



Lefthand Outdoor Challenge

We welcomed 30 Boulder County teens to the 2025-26 season of the Lefthand Outdoor Challenge (LHOC), a program designed to invite young people into meaningful experiences outdoors. Guided by rangers, volunteer mentors, and community partners, LHOC blends hands-on skill building, leadership, development, service, and reflection, creating opportunities for teens to explore the outdoors while honoring their individual identities, perspectives, and stories. From the first Wednesday evening basecamp in September, participants began building trust, connecting with peers and mentors, and setting intentions for the season ahead.

Through hikes, climbs, service projects, and group challenges, participants stretch their comfort zones, practice leadership, learn to support one another, and build confidence along the way. Time outdoors is paired with guided reflection, helping teens make sense of their experiences and recognize their strengths, values, and voices. By the end of the program, teens leave with a stronger sense of belonging, deeper connections to peers and mentors, a meaningful relationship with the land, and pride they carry into their communities.



2025 Challenge Calendar

LHOC runs from September through May. Activities for 2025 included:

- **September - Camping & Volunteer Project at Cal-Wood:** Overnight camping builds outdoor skills and community connections.
- **October - Ropes Course Day:** High-ropes challenges grow trust, communication, and leadership.
- **November - Stewardship Project City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP):** Trail restoration and conservation work alongside Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) participants.
- **December - First Aid & CPR Training:** Teens gain practical safety skills and confidence for future outdoor adventures.
- **January - Career Exploration Day:** Teens explore outdoor and natural resource careers.
- **February - Winter Skills Day:** Participants practice cold-weather survival, teamwork, and leadership alongside WRV and VOC participants.
- **March - Climbing Program:** Youth develop climbing and trust-building skills with Women's Wilderness.
- **April - Environmental Education & Birding:** Hands-on learning about ecology, conservation, and local wildlife.
- **May - Trail Restoration at Rabbit Mountain:** Teens strengthen stewardship and teamwork through service projects.

Patrol & Enforcement Summary

Park rangers continue to use many tools to enforce park rules and regulations and ensure park visitor safety. The most common methods of enforcement are education, verbal warnings, and multi-lingual signage. When combined, these methods set expectations and help visitors understand the importance of open space protection and user safety.

Rangers and deputies also deploy parking citations, civil infractions, and written warnings when needed as noted in Figure 1. In 2025, rangers issued 252 parking citations, a significant increase from 2024. The number civil infractions issued increased to 139 from 81 in 2024. Written warnings also showed a slight increase.

Dogs off of leash, entering closed areas, fishing violations, camping, and afterhours use of open space lands continued to be the most frequently issued civil infractions as illustrated in Figure 2. As to be expected, civil infractions issued for each of these regulation violations increased from 2024.

Figure 1. Enforcement Methods

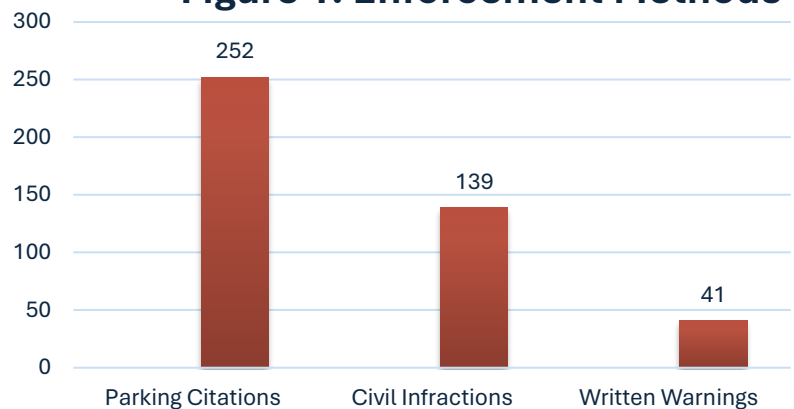
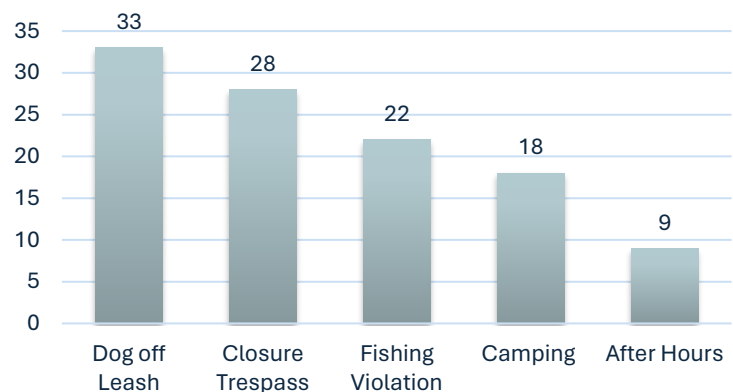


Figure 2. Top 5 Violations



Incident Summary

In 2025, park rangers and park deputies responded to 862 incidents, including 240 dispatched calls for service on open space parks, trails, and properties. As Figure 1 indicates, this is the highest number of incidents in the past five years.

When considered by incident type (Figure 2), parking citations and calls dispatched by the Boulder County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) account for nearly 60 percent of the incidents handled by park rangers.

Figure 3 notes the locations where incidents are occurring most frequently on open space lands. Pella Crossing generated the most incident reports followed by the David-Hessie property. Increased incidents were noted on Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain and Lagerman Agricultural Preserve. Not pictured in Figure 3 are 109 incidents that rangers documented on smaller open space properties and areas outside of their jurisdiction.

In addition to the park deputies, BCSO continues to provide significant assistance to Parks & Open Space through trailhead checks, trail patrol, investigations, ranger back-up, and emergency services. In 2025, BCSO reported an additional 35 incidents on open space lands, including traffic stops, animal complaints, and search and rescue operations.

Figure 1. Total Incidents by Year

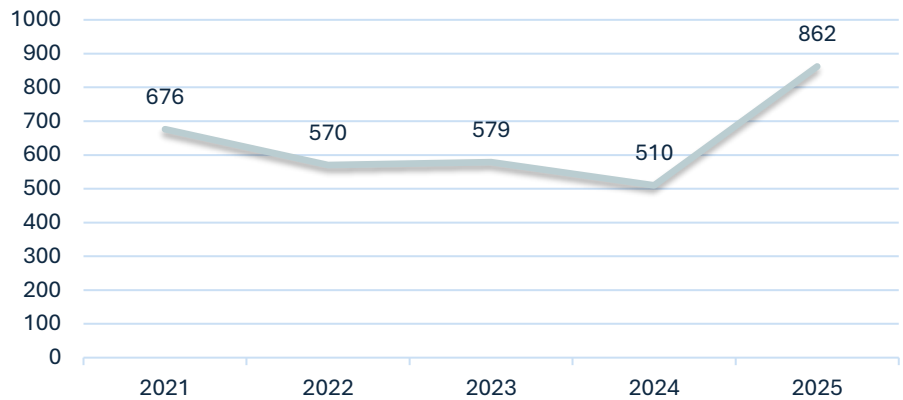


Figure 2. Number of Incidents by Type

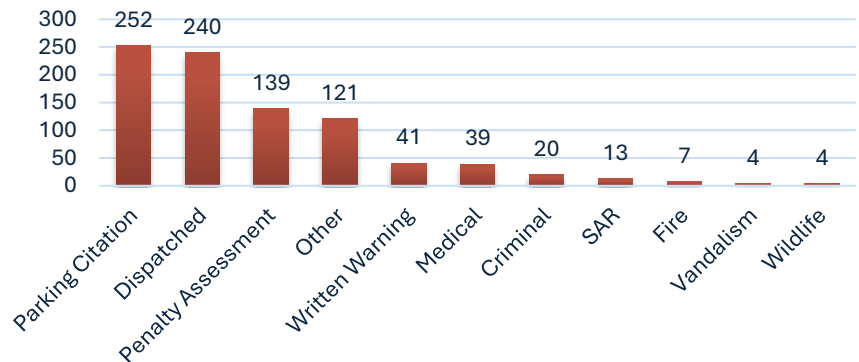
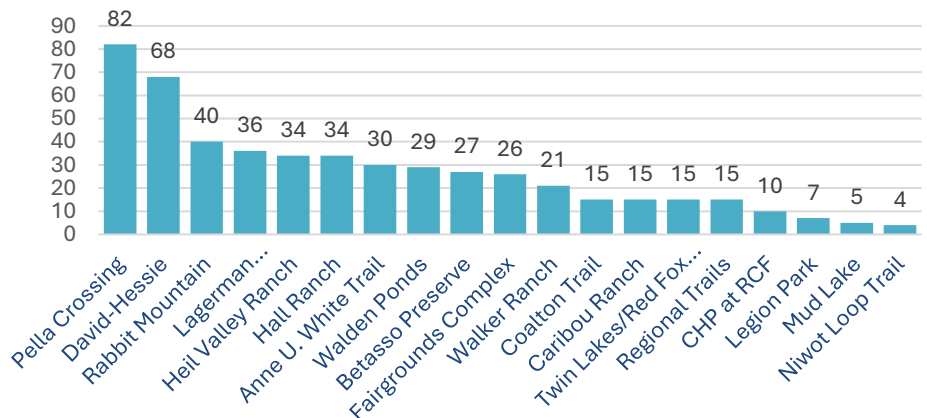


Figure 3. Number of Incidents by Property



Las Aventuras de San Lazaro



In 2022, Boulder County Parks & Open Space Rangers began working alongside Susana Rodriguez, a community leader and cultural broker, to co-create a multigenerational outdoor program, which the community later named Las Aventuras de San Lazaro. Each year we plan six to eight events and have 20-35 participants per event, depending on the activity. Susana and Ranger Juan Ocampo coordinate the program focusing on community engagement and recruitment.

This year rangers and the San Lazaro community collaborated to host six events. The year began with ranger Sarah Andrews and Ocampo leading a bilingual CPR/first aid class and certified 14 individuals. Additional events included a family camping event, youth mountain biking, a moms-only hike, a stewardship project, and our fourth annual Christmas tree harvest.

Susana Rodriguez attended the Colorado Open Space Alliance Conference and presented with ranger Sully Tun-Ake and Ocampo on community engagement and Las Aventuras de San Lazaro. At this conference, Las Aventuras de San Lazaro received a Blue Grama Award in the category of Outstanding Visitor Engagement Program.

Reflexiones Sobre Los Aventuras de San Lazaro

"Mi evento favorito con los guardabosques fue cuando fuimos a acampar. Vimos dos alces y uno se nos acercó demasiado. Tenía miedo, pero fue muy divertido verlos en persona."

- Kayla Fernandez

"Mi momento favorito fue cuando fuimos a cosechar nuestro árbol de Navidad. Era algo nuevo para mí, y estando en las montañas nevadas, alrededor de la fogata, disfruté todo ese día, incluso los tamales. "

- Manuela Longoria

"Estar al aire libre para mí simplemente significa salud porque nos desconectamos de nuestra vida diaria, de nuestra rutina, del estrés, y cuando nos desconectamos de las responsabilidades del hogar y conectamos con la naturaleza, me ayuda a relajarme, me trae paz, mejora mi salud mental porque libero todo mi estrés."

- Laura Moreno



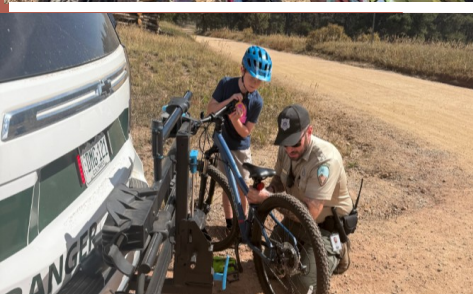
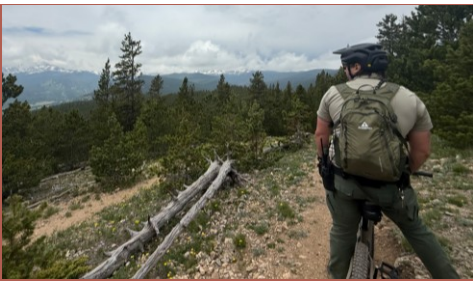
Volunteer Ranger Corps

In 2025, 59 volunteer rangers gave 2,236 hours of volunteer time and observed or had contact with 21,709 visitors on our trails. These dedicated volunteers also reported maintenance issues, trail hazards, and violations that they saw while on patrol.

During the year, rangers provided opportunities for the volunteer rangers to engage in property stewardship trainings, special assignments such as the 50th anniversary nighttime program at Heil Valley Ranch, and a behind-the-scene hike at Reynolds Ranch.

The annual program evaluation provides a platform for the volunteers to express their thoughts on the program. A longtime volunteer shared the following quote:

"It is great being out in nature, seeing wildlife and flowers and chatting with the visitors who stop to ask questions or to share what they've seen. It is uplifting." - Katherine Young



Boulder Mountain Bike Patrol

In 2025, BCPOS rangers, together with United States Forest Service and the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks staff, supported 68 interagency bike patrol volunteers. The Boulder Mountain Bike Patrol collectively logged an impressive 6,985 miles on Boulder County trails, providing vital assistance and education along the way.

This dedicated team made more than 718 educational contacts, completed 26 mechanical assists, and offered directions and reassurance to 90 visitors. Beyond these efforts, they serve as an essential resource by reporting hazardous trail conditions, helping keep our trails safe and enjoyable for all.



K9 Search & Rescue Program

Resource Protection's K9 Search and Rescue Program works in cooperation with Search and Rescue Dogs of the United States (SARDUS) and park deputies with the Boulder County Sheriff's Office Canine Unit to provide training for search and rescue dog teams across Colorado, respond to requests for searches, and provide educational opportunities for the public.

In 2025, Resource Protection's K9 Search and Rescue Program facilitated 45 calls for service, which included searches for suicidal individuals, at-risk juveniles and children, elderly subjects, outdoor recreationalists, and drowning victims.

Ranger Kevin Grady and K9 Dottie and Ranger Jeff Hiebert and his canines were requested by the National Transportation Safety Board to search for human remains after a plane crash at Rock Creek Farm. They also assisted with locating a deceased male that went missing in Jamestown.

Deputy Josh Scrudder and K9 Watson had 21 callouts, which included requests by local law enforcement agencies from Boulder, Longmont, Lafayette, Broomfield, Weld County, Jefferson County, and Adams County, to assist with criminal investigations to find evidence and human remains, and tracks for missing people.

In addition, Grady and Dottie achieved their certifications for human remains detection, advanced trailing, and water search. Scrudder and Watson obtained their advanced trailing certification and water search certification. Hiebert recertified K9 Zee and Switch in trailing, human remains detection, water search, and evidence.

The Resource Protection K9 team also provided demos for Calwood summer camp, OSMF Junior Rangers, and Warren Tech students, as well as community engagement opportunities at Barnyard Critter Days, 50th anniversary events, and Mountain Range High School career day.

