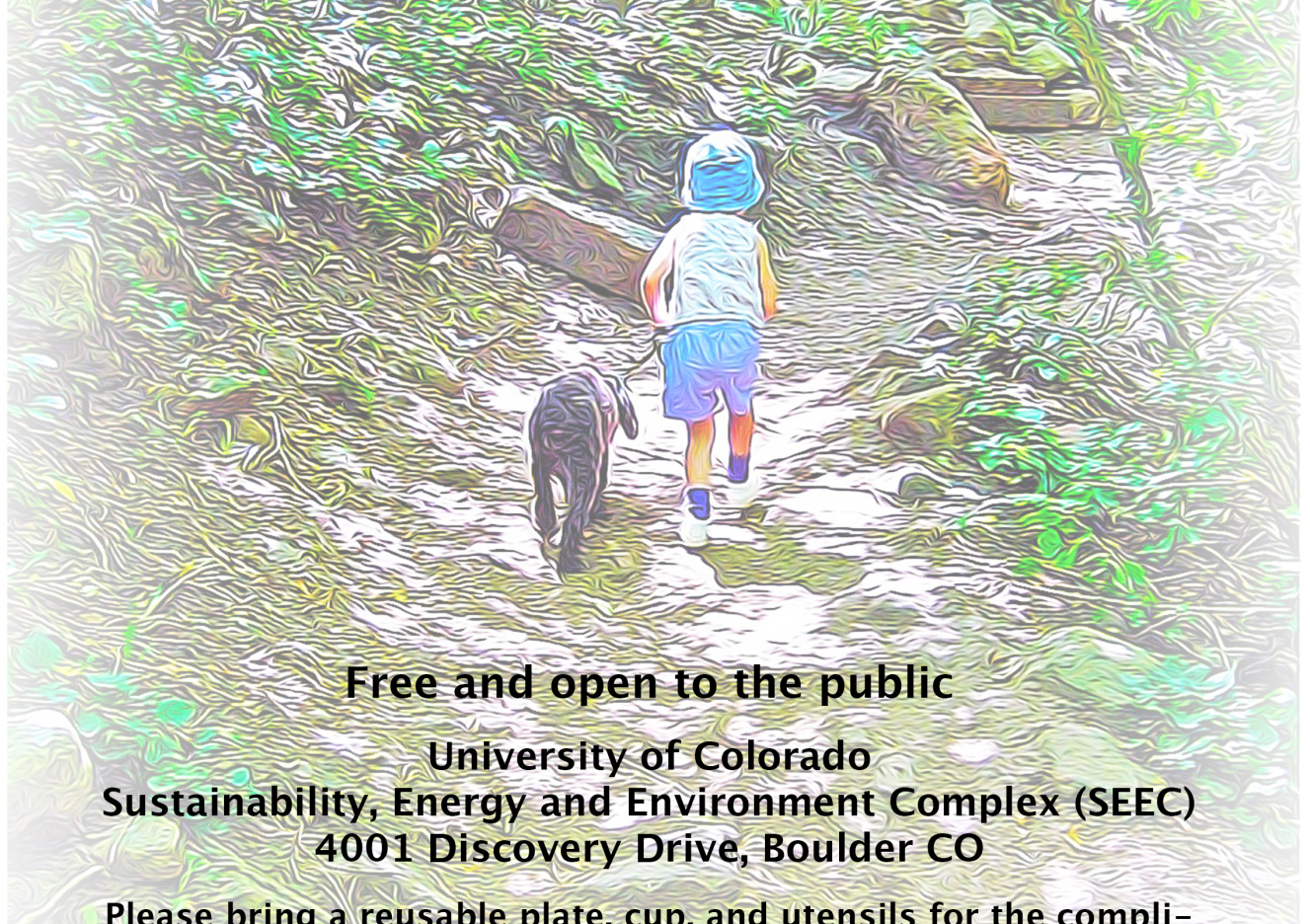


# **TURNING THE LENS ON OURSELVES: The Science of Visitors on Open Spaces**

**Saturday, March 17th, 9 – 2:30**

**Boulder County Nature Association  
Annual Ecosymposium**



**Free and open to the public**

**University of Colorado  
Sustainability, Energy and Environment Complex (SEEC)  
4001 Discovery Drive, Boulder CO**

**Please bring a reusable plate, cup, and utensils for the complimentary lunch. Donations will be accepted for the Boulder County Nature Association's Research Grants program.**

**Many thanks to the sponsors who make this symposium possible. Boulder County Nature Association, Colorado Native Plant Society, Boulder County Parks and Open Space, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, Boulder County Audubon Society and the University of Colorado Albert A. Bartlett Science Communication Center, the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and the Environmental Studies Program.**

**Information at <http://bcna.org>**



# TURNING THE LENS ON OURSELVES: The Science of Visitors on Open Spaces

8:30-9:00 Coffee, name tags and registration

9:00-9:07 Audience Activity: Turning the Lens on Ourselves — Sandra Laursen

9:07-9:20 Welcome and Overview of Day: Sue Cass and Sandra Laursen

9:20-10:00 **Richard Knight: “Outdoor Recreation: The Highest and Best Use of our Public Lands?”**

Richard Knight works at the intersection of land use and land health in the American West. A professor of wildlife conservation at Colorado State University, he received his graduate degrees from the University of Washington and the University of Wisconsin. He sits on a number of boards including the Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust, the Science Board of the Malpai Borderlands Group, Land Conservation Assistance Network, Tejon Ranch Conservancy Science Advisory Panel, and the Colorado Land Library. He was formerly on the Board of Editors for both Conservation Biology, and for Ecological Applications. In 2007 Colorado State University honored him with the Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching award. He is a five-time recipient of the Student’s Choice for Favorite Faculty Member in the Warner College of Natural Resources. With Courtney White, he recently edited *Conservation for a New Generation* (Island Press).

10:00-10:10 Q and A

10:10-11:00 **Learning about Visitors to Local Open Space Areas**

**Matt Bruce: “Lessons Learned from Visitor Research”**

Matt Bruce is a Director at Corona Insights, a Denver-based research and consulting firm, where he has led outdoor recreation research for cities, counties, state governments and non-profits in Colorado and beyond. Before joining Corona Insights, Matt worked for Boulder County Parks and Open Space; the City of Longmont Parks, Open Space, and Trails; the City of Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation; and various other environmental organizations in Colorado and Idaho. Matt earned a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies with a certificate in Leadership Studies from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and a Master’s of Science in Natural Resources (Social Science emphasis) from the University of Idaho, Moscow. Matt has presented at various conferences and his research has been published in the journal *Restoration Ecology*.

**Deonne VanderWoude: “Empirically Understanding OSMP Visitors: Human Dimensions Research to Inform Visitor Dynamics, Experiences and Demographics”**

Deonne has been working with OSMP since 2004. What started as a seasonal visitor use technician position eventually led to the creation and management of a formal social science program. Her areas of interest include study design, social science

theory, applied social science, social psychology and quantification of the human system in public lands. She has degrees in Environmental Anthropology and Environmental Studies, and enjoys the application of these fields to real-world situations.

**Michelle Marotti: "Boulder County Parks and Open Space: Understanding our Visitors"**

Michelle Marotti was born and raised in Colorado. Growing up, she spent nearly every weekend with family hiking in the mountains. Her passion for Colorado and the outdoors led her to seek a degree from Colorado State University in Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism with an Environmental Communication Concentration. Michelle has been working for Boulder County Parks and Open Space since 2008. She serves as the specialist in park visitor studies in order to evaluate the department's services, estimate visitation, and gather more specific information about visitor demographics, behaviors, and opinions.

11:00-11:10 Q AND A

11:10-11:25 Break

**11:25-12:05 Courtney Larson: "Balancing public access and wildlife conservation: what do we know?"**

Courtney Larson is a Ph.D. student in ecology at Colorado State University. She is interested in wildlife conservation, landscape ecology, spatial analysis, and anthropogenic impacts on ecological systems. More specifically, her research examines human disturbance and how it affects the occurrence and community composition of mammals and reptiles in San Diego, California. She is also interested in using scientific research to inform sustainable land management and conservation planning. Courtney is from Minneapolis, Minnesota and holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies and International Studies from Colby College and an M.S. in Ecology from Colorado State University. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, camping, cooking, and working on her pile of unfinished craft projects.

12:05-12:15 Q and A

12:15-12:25 Audience Activity: Sandra Laursen

12:25-1:05 Lunch

1:05-1:20 Audience Activity: Sandra Laursen

**1:20-2:00 David Pettebone: "Research to Establish Objective Standards and Indicators for Visitor Use Management in National Parks"**

Dr. Pettebone is currently the Applied Research Coordinator for the NPS Social Science Program. His position facilitates, develops, and manages national and park specific social science research projects. Previously, he served as the Wilderness Coordinator for Rocky Mountain National Park from 2011-2015 in the Visitor and Resources Protection division where he oversaw crews that monitored and maintained campsites in the park's backcountry/wilderness. Dr. Pettebone also oversaw the park's Wilderness Act compliance. He has conducted visitor use related research in various national parks

since 2005 and his research interest has included understanding visitor travel networks throughout parks and protected areas and the resulting changes to visitor experiences and resource conditions. Before his academic career he worked on NPS trail maintenance crews in King's Canyon NP, Yosemite NP, Big Bend NP, and Rocky Mountain NP. Dr. Pettebone received his Ph.D. in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources from Colorado State University.

2:00-2:10 Q and A

2:10-2:30 Closing Activities: Sandra Laursen

## **PROGRAM NOTES FOR THE MARCH 17, 2018 BCNA ECOSYMPPOISUM**

Richard Knight

Outdoor Recreation: The Highest and Best Use of our Public Lands?

- [Slides from presentation](#)

Matt Bruce

Lesson Learned from Visitor Research

- [Slides from presentation](#)

Deonne VanderWoude

Empirically Understanding OSMP Visitors: Human Dimensions Research to Inform Visitor Dynamics, Experiences and Demographics

- [Slides from presentation](#)

Michelle Marotti

Boulder County Parks and Open Space: Understanding our Visitors

- [Slides from presentation](#)

Courtney Larson

Balancing Public Access and Wildlife Conservation: What Do We Know?

- [Slides from presentation](#)
- "Effects of Recreation on Animals Revealed as Widespread through a Global Systematic Review" by Courtney L. Larson, Sarah E. Reed, Adina M. Merenlender, Keven R. Crooks

David Pettebone

Research to Establish Objective Standards and Indicators for Visitor Use Management in National Parks

- [Slides from presentation](#)