

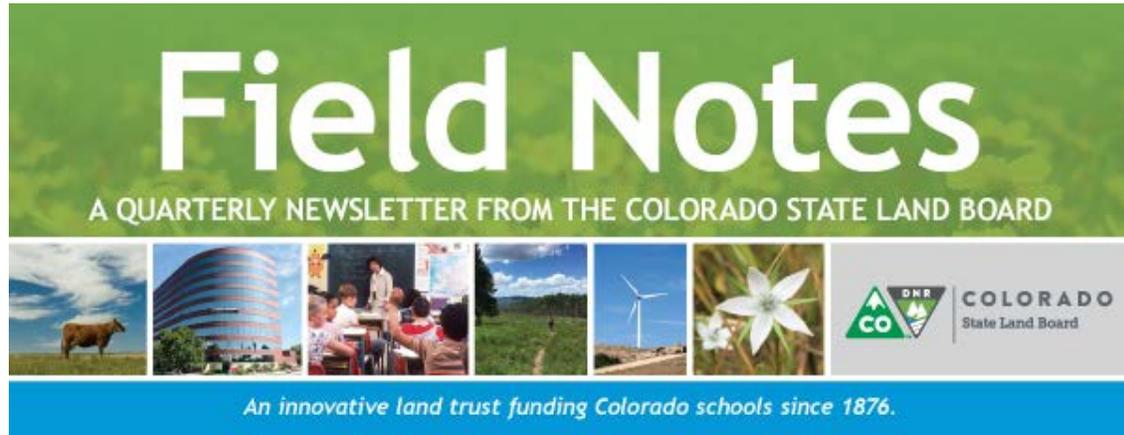
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Spring 2018

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW NEWSLETTER

The Colorado State Land Board is now providing a quarterly enewsletter, *Field Notes*, sent via email to replace the mailed newsletter. [Let us know](#) what you'd like to read about.

BIG HORN SHEEP RELOCATED VIA HELICOPTER Population now exceeds 400 in southeastern Colorado

The State Land Board partnered with [Colorado Parks & Wildlife](#) in January to relocate 15 big horn sheep from Chancellor Ranch in Las Animas County to Bader Ranch, also in Las Animas.

Our goal was to help increase the population



of big horn sheep by expanding the breadth of herd locations in southeastern Colorado.

[Watch a 30-second video](#) of CPW staff capturing a big horn sheep by helicopter.

This was the second relocation exercise on trust land in the past several years. An additional eight ewes were captured, collared, and released on site with tracking collars as part of a state-wide movement study.

Big horn sheep were historically found in Purgatoire Canyon in southern Colorado but were eradicated during early European settlement. In 1982 Colorado successfully reintroduced 17 sheep from Rocky Mountain National Park to the area. The population in southeastern Colorado now exceeds 400.

In 2015 Colorado Parks and Wildlife created the Bighorn Sheep Access Plan (BSAP). It allows private and public recreation licenses on large ranches that have well established big horn sheep populations. Chancellor Ranch, which is owned by the State Land Board, is participating in the BSAP as an inter-agency, 3-year pilot program.

[Read more about big horn sheep hunting tags.](#)

'MOVE THAT DIRT!'

Supporting schoolchildren through capital construction grants

Congratulations to the Brush School District in Morgan County for [breaking ground on its new middle school and high school](#) in March. Brush received a \$27 million grant from the [Department of Education's Building Excellent Schools Today \(BEST\) program](#), which provides capital construction grants to schools.



Brush District Superintendent Bill Wilson emceed a groundbreaking ceremony at which students in hardhats followed his command to 'move the dirt' to begin construction. Hundreds of students and community members attended.

Ninety-five percent of lease payments to the State Land Board pass directly to Colorado schools. We raise money for Colorado schoolchildren by offering leases for agriculture, grazing, recreation, commercial real estate, rights-of-way, renewable energy, oil, gas, and solid minerals. That revenue flows to the Department of Education, including the BEST program.

[Watch this 90-second video](#) to see why we are proud to partner with lessees in supporting local school kids.

[Photo credit: Jenni Grubbs/Ft. Morgan Times]

FIRE DAMAGE

Fire risk is predicted to be high this spring and summer. Wildland fires continue to threaten people and property across Colorado. Unfortunately, 25,000 acres of trust land in Colorado have already been affected by fire this spring.

"We are incredibly grateful to the first responders who bravely help extinguish these damaging fires," said Greg Ochis, assistant director at the State Land Board.

Call 911 immediately if you experience or witness a fire on trust land. When you are in a safe position, please [contact your district manager](#) to inform them of the fire. District Managers will assess the situation and may be able to adjust your lease rate due to damages.

IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE ... IT'S A DRONE

The State Land Board has recently begun using remote-controlled drones to inspect properties that we might not otherwise be able to access by foot, hoof, or motor. Drone video footage also helps our [Governor-appointed Commissioners](#) gain a better understanding of a property's attributes when they make sale or leasing decisions.



Do you have a drone? Be sure to review our [Unmanned Aircraft Systems policy](#) that was adopted in February 2018.

Video captured by drone of the 11,000 acre Sherman Creek Ranch in Walden, CO, helped us showcase the property to prospective lessees during competitive lease bidding last year. Watch the [2-minute video about Sherman Creek Ranch](#):



HELP US MITIGATE NOXIOUS WEEDS ON TRUST LAND

Springtime culprits: hoary cress and leafy spurge

The State Land Board strives to mitigate all noxious weeds on trust land. We offer up to \$200,000 annually in weed mitigation cost-sharing. [Apply today.](#)

Help us eradicate two springtime noxious weeds:

Hoary cress (*cardaria draba*), commonly known as whitetop, is a creeping perennial. One plant can produce 1,200 to 4,800 seeds. The plants emerge in early spring and flower from May to June. Identifying attributes:

- Gray-green, lance-shaped, 2-inch stems during rosette stage (April-May)
- Upper leaves have two lobes that clasp the stem
- Small, white flowers with four petals (May-June)
- Seed capsules are heart-shaped with two small, flat, reddish brown seeds (seeds set mid-summer)



Leafy spurge (*euphorbia esula*) is a non-native, deep-rooted perennial that can produce up to 130,000 seeds. The seeds can project up to 15 feet away from the parent plant and the roots can extend as deep as 30 feet into the soil. Identifying attributes:

- Brown roots containing numerous pink buds
- Smooth, pale green, and thickly clustered stems 1-3 feet

- tall (April-May)
- Narrow, linear leaves 1-4 inches long
- Very small and yellowish-green flowers enclosed by yellowish-green, heart-shaped bracts (late May)
- Exudes white, milky sap upon stem or leaf breakage, which can harm eyes and sensitive skin



Learn more about [hoary cress](#) and [leafy spurge](#).

[Source and photo credits: Colorado Department of Agriculture]

TRUST LAND HISTORY ROOTED TO AMERICA'S FOUNDING FATHERS

The Colorado State Land Board is 142-years-old, and our history dates to America's founding in the 1700s.

- The terms 'section 16' and 'school section' originate with Thomas Jefferson, who created the township mapping system whereby land is divided into six-by-six mile squares.
- Butch Cassidy (pictured right) was a ranch hand at Spectacle Ranch in 1888-89 prior to robbing the Bank of Telluride in 1889. The ranch, now named Gray Ranch, is owned by the State Land Board.
- Actor Christian Bale's blockbuster movie *Hostiles* about the Civil War was filmed on trust land in 2016.



Check out this [interactive historical timeline](#) to read more fun (and serious) facts about trust land history.

Do you have something to share? Did your ancestors take part in a historic event on trust land as a lessee? [Tell us about it.](#)

HELPFUL LINKS

[Use our maps to look up land](#)

[View your account online](#)

[Contact us with questions/comments](#)

[Join us at board meetings and/or read the meeting minutes](#)

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