

# Friends of Dinosaur Ridge Education Grant Proposal: Denver Field Ornithologists 2024 Grant Opportunity

## About the Friends of Dinosaur Ridge

The group Friends of Dinosaur Ridge is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and Jefferson County Open Space's sole official licensed tour operator of Dinosaur Ridge. The organization also operates tours and manages the fossil at Triceratops Trail in Golden, Colorado.

## Organization Mission Statement

Dinosaur Ridge educates and inspires wonder in visitors of all backgrounds about the science and history of the fossils and natural resources found at Dinosaur Ridge, Triceratops Trail, and related paleontology sites. We practice responsible stewardship with a strong commitment and urgency to preserve the fossils and natural resources for future generations.

## Project Goal

Dinosaur Ridge has a relationship with the administrators of the Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch dating back to the 1990s. Both the current Hawk Watch administrator, Denver Field Ornithologists, and our organization have ties to Jefferson County Open Space.

Friends of Dinosaur Ridge is applying for grant funding to replace the existing sign (reference photo below) located at the east side Main Visitor Center and add a second sign at the west side Discovery Center, just a few miles south of the Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch access trail. Proposed revisions to the signs include (but are not limited to):

Revise the outdated text:

- "Raptor Ridge Raptor Migration Station" – replace with current name of Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch.
- "Cooperative project of the...Museum of Natural History, the Colorado Bird Observatory, and Jefferson County Open Space" – replace with "administered by Denver Field Ornithologists in cooperation with Jefferson County Open Space".
- Revise count data (2000-7000) to reflect more current observations.
- Replace Red-Tailed Hawk image with a hawk in flight.

## Project Location Information

Dinosaur Ridge Main Visitor Center

[16831 W Alameda Parkway, Morrison, CO 80465](#) (C-470 and Alameda)

Dinosaur Ridge Discovery Center

[17681 W Alameda Parkway, Golden, 80401](#) (Red Rocks Entrance #1)

## Partnership

Friends of Dinosaur Ridge is partnering in this endeavor with the Hawk Watch organization with this project. Dinosaur Ridge will lead in assembling and designing the project, as well as determining sign locations on site upon completion. Hawk Watch will be consulted to ensure information accuracy and a unified message for the benefit of both organizations.

## Proposed Line-Item Budget

Line Item	Details	Price
Interpretive Sign x2	Printer: Digital Frontier in Broomfield. The material is aluminum facing with PVC core. UV protected, outdoor rated.	\$160
Sign Base x2	The sign base is composed of a top and bottom. The top is flat aluminum, the bottom is aluminum with a break-away base, and there are beveled aluminum edges that hold the interpretive sign in place utilizing side screw mounting holes.	\$500
Interpretive Sign Design	It will take approximately 12 hours to draft, review, and design the interpretive sign. Approximate hourly rate for staff/designer: \$26/hour	\$312
Maintenance Installation	Maintenance staff installation: 4 hours (2 per sign): \$-20/hour	\$80
	Total Grant Request	\$1,052

## Project Phases

Phase 1: Estimated 1-2 months: Write interpretive text in collaboration with Hawk Watch to ensure accuracy and preferred message for both organizations. Provide drafts to Dinosaur Ridge staff/volunteers and Hawk Watch staff/volunteers for review. Send the final version of the interpretive text to Mary Ann Bonnell at Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) for final approval and review. Dinosaur Ridge works this way with JCOS with any interpretive sign installed on JCOS property (of which the Main Visitor Center falls). If comments come back, edit in a timely manner and send back for final approval. Once received we will progress to phase 2.

If we need to install a new sign base, Dinosaur Ridge will seek proper authority from JCOS for sign base installation.

Phase 2: Maximum 2 weeks: Obtain photo options and credits from Hawk Watch and send the images and text to the graphic designer. For interpretive signs, we work with Grey Orange Studios – a local designer that’s worked with Dinosaur Ridge on previous interpretive design projects. A first draft fully

designed will be sent to all parties (Hawk Watch, Dinosaur Ridge, JCOS) for comment. After edits are made, a final draft will be sent for approval. Once approved, we will progress to phase 3.

Phase 3: Estimated 2 weeks: Sign files will be prepared for print by graphic designer and sent to the printer. We use Digital Frontier, a local graphics printer. They will receive the signs and design proof. Dinosaur Ridge will vet the proof for any graphical issues and then approve or correct. Once approved, the sign-printing process takes around 10 days. Once printed, we will progress to Phase 4.

Phase 4: Maximum 2 weeks: After receiving the signs from the printer, Dinosaur Ridge Maintenance staff will install the interpretive signs per JCOS requirements. We will then coordinate for an unveiling as requested from Hawk Watch or Denver Ornithologists.

## **Research, education or conservation project methods to be used**

Friends of Dinosaur Ridge, in collaboration with the Denver Field Ornithologists, will rely on research-driven data to enhance our Hawk Watch interpretive signs. We are committed to incorporating current research in the field, using up-to-date education methodologies, and employing cutting-edge exhibit design techniques. This comprehensive approach ensures that the revised interpretive signs not only reflect the latest scientific knowledge but also adhere to the best practices in education and exhibit design. It is our goal to deliver an engaging and informative experience, elevating the impact of our project for the benefit of our community.

## **Community Impact**

With an impressive annual visitation of around 216,000 people from across the nation and the globe, as indicated by our 2023 year-end data, Dinosaur Ridge serves as a powerful platform for raising awareness for natural history including birds of prey. The Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch not only boasts world-famous fossil beds but also serves as a unique vantage point for observing the seasonal migration of raptors through Colorado. By featuring Hawk Watch's crucial conservation role on our signage, we not only educate our vast audience but also anticipate a boost in traffic to the Hawk Watch platform, aiding conservation efforts.

## **Photo References**

Base – This is an example of an interpretive sign with a complete breakaway base.



Current Sign Design to be redone:



We thank and appreciate your consideration of this grant funding request. Please see contact information below for any further questions.

## Project Contact

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