



Arapahoe County Open Spaces

BOCC Study Session

April 20, 2026

Requesting Approval to Implement a Formal Agricultural Lease Program

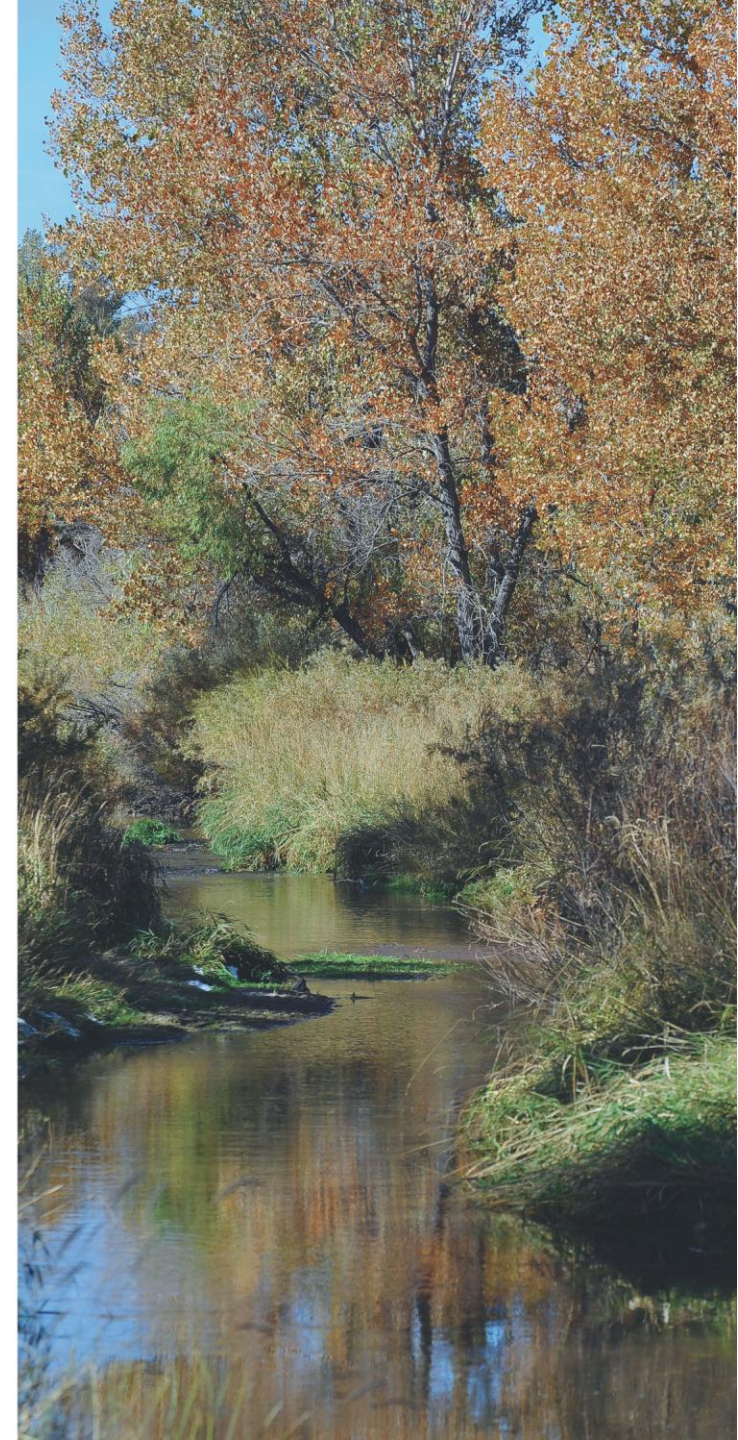


Presentation Outline

- Goals
- Stewardship & Maintenance Benefits
- Details
- Development Partners
- Implementation Documents
- Restated Staff Recommendation

Agricultural Lease Program Core Goals

- Honor Arapahoe County's heritage of working agricultural lands
- Support the local economy within Arapahoe County
- Align with Open Space Resolution and Open Space Master Plan
- Conserve, steward, and maintain Arapahoe County open spaces
- Create equitable and localized leasing opportunities for ranchers





Agricultural Lease Program Stewardship & Maintenance Benefits

- Ecological Benefits of Grazing
 - Promotes healthy functioning grassland ecosystems
 - Improves vegetative cover and diversity
 - Enhanced soil structure and soil health
 - Decreases hazardous fuel loads in grassland ecosystems
 - Enhances riparian areas and wildlife habitat
- Maintenance Benefits Provided by Lessee
 - Additive upkeep of property infrastructure (windmills, irrigation systems, roadways, fences)
 - Noxious weed and vegetation management
 - Additional presence and monitoring of remote Open Space properties



Agricultural Lease Program Details

- **Timeline**
 - Solicitation submittals, September 2026
 - Solicitation reviews, October 2026
 - Lease award / implementation, January 2027
- **Review / Selection Process**
 - Open Spaces staff in conjunction with Douglas County Open Spaces will evaluate lessee applications (no PII on documents)
 - Applications will be evaluated based on a defined evaluation matrix
- **Lease Terms**
 - Initial six (6) year lease, with option to renew twice for two year extensions
- **Lease Properties**
 - Richmil Ranch Open Space
 - Bijou Basin Open Space
 - Kiowa Creek Annex
 - Kiowa Creek South Open Space

Agricultural Lease Program Development Partners



Agricultural Lease Program Implementation Documents

1. Grazing Land Lease Policy

- Overall policy governing agricultural lease program for Open Spaces properties

2. Grazing Management Plan

- Management plans guiding grazing operations for each leased property, which will be updated annually or biannually based on site conditions

3. Grading Criteria

- Criteria used by Open Spaces staff to select qualified lessees for grazing leases

4. Property Specific Solicitation Flyer

- Fact sheet and communications flyer used for lease program solicitation process



Staff Request

Staff is requesting BOCC approval to formalize and implement an Agricultural Lease Program on select properties beginning January of 2027.

Thank you...

