Welcome to Open Space Days at Prairie Canyon Ranch
AUGUST 24, 2013 – 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM
FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Enjoy the best of Douglas County Open Space ...ranch style! This is a great day of family fun, entertainment and food for the whole family. Located 6.5 miles south of the junction of Highways 86 and 83 at Franktown (1 ½ miles south of Castlewood Canyon) with entrance on the left ...or, 14 miles north of the junction of Palmer Divide Road and Highway 83 with entrance on the right. It is a time of great fun; however, not for your family dog. ☐️ Sorry, no dogs allowed!

**Hike the Canyons**
Arrive at the Ranch at 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM and sign-up with The Friends of Castlewood Canyon to hike the beautiful creation of nature, Castlewood Canyon.

**Eat and Be Merry**
Flying Horse Catering will provide great food for purchase in the great outdoors of the Ranch. You can sit in the shade of the food tent, just kick back and listen to the great bluegrass sounds of Weapons of Mass Destruction, a great family band out of the Black Forest.

**Ride the Ranch**
If you love trail riding, bring your horse and ride though picturesque ridges and valleys of Prairie Canyon Ranch. Trailer in at 8:30 AM. All rides will be guided and take off between 9:30 – 10:00 AM. Trail ride is limited to 60 riders, so sign up soon! Riders must be pre-registered:
303.688.3280
or trailboss@historicdouglascouny.org

**Encounter Live Raptors**
See and be fascinated by these amazing birds of prey. Learn about their amazing habits and abilities as HawkQuest presents these fabulous creatures.

**Storytelling**
Hear exciting and educational stories of our cultural past when times were both easier and harder. Storytelling is done in the magnificent Red Barn. Storytelling is at 10:30 AM and 11:30 AM.

**Learn About Open Space**
Hear how Douglas County’s Division of Open Space and Natural Resources is working to preserve the land and some of the historic structures of our great County.

**Tour the Ranch**
At Prairie Canyon there’s tons to see and do ...the blacksmith shop, the cave, the past ways of our Native Americans, demonstrations and cultural information presented by our Douglas County historical societies along with Colorado Agricultural Leadership Foundation, keeping farming and ranching alive.

**Wagon Rides**
Experience the excellence of an outdoor hayride on the ranch, enjoying rural Colorado.
The Open Space of Prairie Canyon Ranch...

Prairie Canyon Ranch is 978 acres of rolling grasslands and rocky canyons, ponderosa pines and living history that adorns the landscape along Cherry Creek. Douglas County’s Division of Open Space and Natural Resources has preserved Prairie Canyon as a working cattle ranch to capture our historic values, protect wildlife habitat, and to provide educational, interpretive and appropriate public use opportunities.

The property was homesteaded by Frederick Bartruff and his family in 1873, and has been used as a working cattle ranch since that time. Several historic structures including a house, barn, bunkhouse, grain building, chicken house, garage, granary, outhouse, cave, cemetery, and stone corrals adorn the property and illustrate significant advances in agricultural and architectural technology during the early agricultural era (circa 1875-1938). Castlewood Canyon actually starts on Prairie Canyon Ranch and runs another 4 miles or so north through the State Park west of Hwy 83.

The land is also rich in archaeological resources, with evidence of human occupation up to 9000 years ago.

Sampling the Open Space Day Programs...

See the amazing, endangered American Milking Devon Cattle of Three Eagles Ranch. These cattle go back to the days of the Pilgrims. Historical Programmer Jerry Persall presents Kit Carson’s Colorado Connections: Bent’s Old Fort to Daniels Park. Storytelling will take place at 10:30 AM and 11:30 AM at the lower level of the magnificent period barn.

Larkspur Historical Society demonstrates and displays Pioneer Spinning and Fire Arms with Susan and John Hultman. Larkspur also demonstrates the art of Dill Pickling.

Learn and see the amazing raptors of our land, presented by HawkQuest.

See Douglas County Open Space recreated blacksmith shop and talk about Open Space and Land Conservancy and historic preservation in Douglas County with Open Space folks and Douglas County Historic Preservation Board members.

See the Indian Grounds and step inside a teepee of Jerry Wlodarek, learning some of the culture of our Native Americans. Also see the restored Blacksmith Shop on the ranch and see how horseshoes were made.

Boots and Saddles Therapeutic Center will be at the Ranch with a miniature horse...this is one you wouldn’t want to take on the trail ride!

The Open Space Day at Prairie Canyon Ranch is always a fun event with something for the whole family. Mark this one on your “To do” calendar. ...See you at the Ranch!

http://www.historicdouglascounty.org