Untold Stories detail hidden chapters and contributions by underrepresented groups in natural resources history.

Stories are compiled by Warner College students on behalf of the Warner College Diversity and Inclusion Program.
WHAT'S IN A NAME?

NOCO'S "PINGREE" PROBLEM
The national movement to rename natural places that have derogatory names is gaining traction, and Northern Colorado is reckoning with the name, Pingree Park.

It's important to know who these areas are named for and the local movement to rename them.
These lands are the ancestral lands of the Eastern Shoshone, Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Ute Nations.

Before forced assimilation, removal, and genocide, these groups stewarded these lands, and the Pingree Park namings neglect this history.
The mountain valley, Pingree Park, and several other nearby areas, are named for George Pingree, a U.S. Army scout who took part in the Sand Creek Massacre in southeastern Colorado.

THE SAND CREEK MASSACRE

On November 29th, 1864, 230 Cheyenne and Arapaho people were murdered by U.S. Cavalry on orders from Governor John Evans, the namesake of Mount Evans.
Pingree was arrested following the massacre, and upon his release, established a logging business in the area that now bears his name.

Colorado State University came into possession of some of this area following a 1912 Congressional act that granted the land to CSU for establishment of a mountain research campus.
In 2015, CSU renamed the campus from CSU Pingree Park Mountain Campus to CSU Mountain Campus, removing the attribution to Pingree due to this history.
The area’s name is the responsibility of the U.S. Geological Survey. That agency will decide whether or not to change the name.

The No Pingree Task Force, a local group, advocates the area be renamed for Silas Solue, an Army Captain who opposed the Sand Creek Massacre. The group is also seeking input from local Indigenous leaders.
THE NAMES OF PLACES HOLD TREMENDOUS SIGNIFICANCE

As we engage in the outdoors, we must reflect on “what’s in a name” and consider how the names of places we visit potentially impact and exclude people of various identities and backgrounds.