Reflections
Look at Mud Lake. In the oval below, draw only the things that you see reflected in the water.

Mystery Animal
These are signs of wild animals you might find at Mud Lake. Draw a line connecting each sign to its appropriate animal.

- teeth marks on bark
- woodpecker
- scat with berry seeds
- elk
- holes in a tree
- black bear

Think Like an Elk
Imagine you are an elk. Draw an elk track on your map (above) at each of the following locations after you visit them. There are many options, so have fun!

- A tree to rub your antlers on
- A place to drink some water
- A nice spot on the ground for you to sleep
- A good place for you to call other elk with your bugle (make a loud whistling noise)

Map Activity!

4 Mystery Animal

5 Think Like an Elk

6 Reflections
Look at Mud Lake. In the oval below, draw only the things that you see reflected in the water.
Wow, You Look Different!

These pictures show the same tiger salamander at two different times of its life. Some animals change so much as they grow that they look like completely different animals. This is called metamorphosis!

Circle the two animals listed below that go through metamorphosis.

Frog Human Coyote

Lodgepole Pine

Find a lodgepole pine (see picture). These trees have very straight trunks and were used to make teepee poles by some Native Americans. Can you think of 3 other uses?

________________________
________________________
________________________

Buried Treasure

Many miners tunneled into the earth hoping to strike it rich by finding gold, silver, and other valuable minerals. Pretend you are a miner and look on the ground for a rock that might be containing gold, silver, and other valuable minerals. Describe what you observe.

Color ___________________________________________
Shape and Size _______________________________________
Texture ____________________________________________

Nature Detectives Club

Mystery Guides can be found at:
1) Agricultural Heritage Center
2) Bald Mountain Scenic Area
3) Betasso Preserve
4) Caribou Ranch Open Space
5) Carolyn Holmberg Preserve
6) Heil Valley Ranch
7) Mud Lake Open Space
8) Pella Crossing
9) Walden Ponds

Due to safety concerns for your family and our staff during the pandemic, we are temporarily suspending the collection of mystery guides and distribution of prizes.

Grown-ups, please provide the following information:

Detective’s name: ________________________________________ Age: ______
Address: __________________________________________________________
City, State: _________________________________________________________
Zip code: _______________________________ Phone: __________________________

BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org
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Mystery Guide

Take this Mystery Guide and a pen or pencil with you as you explore. To complete your Nature Detective training at this park, complete at least 3 of the 6 activities.

Inside you will find a map of the park, which will serve as a guide. Some activities correspond to locations on the map, and some activities can be done anywhere.

Feel free to get help from grown-ups on this, but remember, these activities are for you! You can write or draw anywhere in this mystery guide. The more thoughtful and artistic, the better!

Your Case: Mud Lake Open Space

Moose, elk, snowshoe hares, long-tailed weasels, and bobcats live in the forest around this lake. The forest is made up mostly of lodgepole pine trees, but also aspens, ponderosa pines, and many other types of trees. The shallow lake is home to crayfish, tiger salamanders, ducks, and frogs.