

The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area



2006 End of Year Report

Welcome to the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area's Annual Report for 2006. This annual report covers the activities of the AHRA from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006.

2006 was a very good year in terms of both commercial visitation and revenue for AHRA. Great water, a good economy and good early summer weather were major factors contributing to a very successful season.

The Citizens Task Force (CTF) continues to be an instrumental force behind the success of the AHRA. This advisory committee meets five times a year and provides recommendations to the management team on many critical and diverse issues facing the recreation area. It is expected that under the current management plan, the CTF will continue to play an important role for the partners that form AHRA – Colorado State Parks, BLM, Division of Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service. The Citizens Task Force is composed of two representative members from each of the following AHRA constituency groups:

Anglers	Private Boaters
Commercial Permittees	Local Governments
Environmentalists	River Front Property Owners
Water Users	

For the purpose of daily operation, AHRA is organized into work “sections”. Each of these sections has specific responsibilities and is staffed by both full-time and seasonal employees with specific job assignments. The many dedicated seasonal employees at AHRA accomplish the visible fieldwork. In a typical season, AHRA employs nearly 30 seasonal staff members. In 2006 AHRA employed 23 seasonal staff. For the majority of 2006, the following full-time staff members supervised the work sections noted below:

AHRA Sections and Supervisors

Maintenance -	John Fell and Ken Lindbloom (Parks)
Rangers -	Stew Pappenfort, Sean Shepherd & Glenn Cottone (Parks)
Administration -	Rose Bayless (Parks)
Commercial Agreements-	John Kreski (Parks)
Recreation Planning -	Position not filled (BLM)
Management -	Robert White, John Geerdes (Parks) and John Nahomenuk (BLM)

In 2006 only one significant Colorado State Parks full-time staff change occurred. In February Glenn Cottone filled the Land Ranger Supervisor position vacated by JW Wilder in July of 2005. The full-time BLM Contact Representative position eliminated in April 2005 has not been reinstated and so Heather Goodroe remains in the same capacity with the position being funded jointly by State Parks and BLM as alternating seasonal positions.

Overall AHRA visitation numbers in 2006 decreased slightly from 2005 by –1.58%. However, there were increased visitation numbers in camping, which saw 8,845 more visitors than in 2005 (+30.99%); in Boat Fishing, which saw 344 more visitors than in 2005 (+4.75%); in Commercial Boating, which saw 11,201 more visitors than in 2005 (+3.97%); and in the Minerals/Visitor Center/Hunting/Swimming category, which saw 1,820 more visitors than in 2005 (+6.25%).

Recreational Use of the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area Two-Year Comparison

ACTIVITY*	2006 PEOPLE	2005 PEOPLE	'05 TO '06 % CHANGE
SIGHTSEEING	252,132	273,664	-8.54%
FISHING	Shore	69,390	-5.11%
	Boat	7,241	4.75%
PICNICKING	42,173	45,660	-8.27%
BOATING	Commercial	282,381**	3.97%
	Private	29,385	-2.53%
OTHER (Minerals, Visitor Center, Hunting and Swimming)	29,131	27,311	6.25%
TRAIL	22,898	24,445	-6.76%
INTERPRETIVE	9,829	13,428	-36.62%
CAMPING	28,537***	19,692***	30.99%
ACTIVITY TOTAL	773,097	785,343	-1.58%

*May include participants in multiple activities

**Actual visitor number, includes guides and customers

***Number of nights camping

The following special activities took place within the Recreation Area in 2006.

<u>Special Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
• Clean Up/Green Up	Arkansas River
• Riverbank Cleanup – Trout Unlimited	Hayden Meadows to Parkdale
• Colorado Spider Survey	Park-wide
• Zebulon Pike Commemoration Christmas	Big Bend
• Pine Creek Raft Race	Pine Creek and Numbers
• Disabled Veterans Kayak Clinic	Salida Play Hole
• Swiftwater Rescue Training	Spikebuck, Browns Canyon
• Rubber Duck Race	Canon City
• Build Your Own Boat Race	Canon City
• FIbArk	Park-wide
• Royal Gorge Raft Race	Royal Gorge
• Kayak Demonstrations	Buena Vista Whitewater Park
• Ride the Rockies Bike Tour	Five Points Campground
• Fabian/Smart Wedding	Collegiate Peaks Overlook
• CWWA Training Camp	Park-wide
• Gold Prospectors of Colorado Picnic	Point Barr

Although overall recreational use was down 1.58% in 2006, AHRA revenues saw an encouraging 13.02% increase.

AHRA YEAR 2006 REVENUES

Year 2006 By Month	Park Passes	Camping Permits/ Reservations	Registrations	Special Use Agreements	Other: Penalties, Donations, Misc.	TOTALS
January	\$2,004.39	\$64.00	\$1,163.75	\$350.00	\$43.00	\$3,582.14
February	\$1,599.40	\$36.00	\$956.00	\$25,748.13	\$39.00	\$28,382.53
March	\$2,521.37	\$292.50	\$2,176.25	\$22,016.97	\$68.00	\$27,046.09
April	\$6,647.79	\$2,419.50	\$2,967.75	\$22,332.84	\$66.00	\$34,435.88
May	\$13,114.17	\$8,543.50	\$3,657.75	\$15,053.07	\$390.75	\$40,434.49
June	\$21,941.10	\$13,157.65	\$5,563.00	\$256,511.00	\$108.10	\$297,563.50
July	\$17,029.21	\$13,740.99	\$5,704.50	\$6,100.00	\$273.69	\$42,682.80
August	\$11,763.75	\$9,582.34	\$4,085.00	\$16,857.92	\$59.00	\$42,562.70
September	\$5,379.05	\$6,251.00	\$2,441.75	\$4,244.68	\$3.00	\$18,375.48
October	\$3,001.34	\$2,671.00	\$984.75	\$144,499.80	\$10.00	\$151,159.89
November	\$1,328.39	\$339.90	\$1,115.00	\$192,045.36	\$0.00	\$194,838.55
December	\$1,681.79	\$24.00	\$2,404.75	\$41,205.53	\$43.00	\$45,316.07
TOTALS	\$88,011.65	\$57,122.38	\$33,220.25	\$746,965.30	\$1,060.54	\$926,380.12

AHRA YEAR 2006 EXPENDITURES** -COLORADO STATE PARKS ONLY-

Year 2006 By Month	Personnel	Operating	Utilities	Capital Equipment	Controlled Maintenance	Grants & Misc. Accounts	TOTALS
January	\$48,405.39	\$5,303.60	\$795.45	\$0	\$1,658.31	\$106.71	\$56,269.46
February	\$40,635.45	\$6,788.23	\$755.33	\$0	\$2,397.61	\$9,472.09	\$60,248.71
March	\$50,413.23	\$4,956.74	\$826.07	\$0	\$19,295.65	\$1,350.89	\$76,842.58
April	\$56,400.52	\$13,042.21	\$1,263.79	\$0	\$3,579.62	\$1,104.56	\$75,390.70
May	\$72,611.00	\$24,315.27	\$604.07	\$0	\$15,486.49	\$1,935.63	\$114,952.46
June	\$83,580.38	\$28,429.96	\$2,337.61	\$0	\$5,246.54	\$8,485.39	\$128,079.88
July	\$58,750.13	\$19,013.81	\$1,517.49	\$0	\$4,525.84	\$3,964.66	\$87,771.93
August	\$92,533.62	\$18,105.79	\$1,195.46	\$0	\$9,416.84	\$3,231.70	\$124,483.41
September	\$62,608.35	\$13,258.73	\$3,900.41	\$0	\$9,077.70	\$3,417.25	\$92,262.44
October	\$49,138.55	\$5,939.62	\$3,301.14	\$0	\$3,261.26	\$353.47	\$61,994.04
November	\$39,556.53	\$7,204.74	\$3,094.20	\$0	\$4,179.98	\$506.09	\$54,541.54
December	\$50,499.05	\$6,678.97	\$772.50	\$0	\$1,627.87	\$2,035.27	\$61,613.66
TOTALS	\$705,132.20	\$153,037.67	\$20,363.52	\$0	\$79,953.71	\$35,963.71	\$994,450.81
Total Expenditures for Water Purchases in 2006*							\$12,500.00
Grand Total							\$1,006,950.81

*\$12,500 for storage of 600 acre feet carried over from 2005

**Does not include some pro-rated system wide Division expenditures

AHRA Ranger Section

The Ranger Section patrols all portions, both land and river, of the AHRA throughout the year. The three full-time staff members typically hire up to twelve seasonal staff members to assist them with their patrol responsibilities. The AHRA Seasonal Work Program (SWP) budget for FY 05/06 allowed eight, 40 hour per week seasonal rangers and one, 16 hour per week seasonal ranger to be hired during the 2006 summer season. The river section had four, 40 hour per week seasonal river rangers assigned to it and one, 40 hour per week Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) ranger. The land section had four seasonal rangers during the weekdays and one additional ranger to make five on weekends. There was a reduction of one river seasonal position and ½ land seasonal position from the 2005 summer season.

Seasonal rangers assigned to land-based operations are responsible for managing visitor use in the busy recreation sites and campgrounds and for collecting field revenue critical to AHRA operations. These vital field staff are the primary resource our visitors come into contact with during the summer months. Because of SWP budget and associated seasonal staff cuts, the seasonal staff were unable to maintain typical coverage of two shifts per day, seven days a week, patrolling both upstream and downstream of Salida. Even with some seasonal shifts covered by full-time supervisors, there were some weekdays with only one shift both up and downstream.

Four of the AHRA seasonal rangers specialize in whitewater boating activities on the river. Known as river rangers, they patrol whitewater sections of the Arkansas otherwise inaccessible to AHRA staff. These rangers actively monitor river flows and hazards, provide whitewater search and rescue support, inspect commercial and private boat trips for adequate safety equipment and operations, investigate boat accidents and provide expert river education to AHRA visitors in the field. As the Arkansas River is the most commercially rafted river in the world much of the river rangers' time is spent administering the state River Outfitter Licensing Program. In addition, river rangers also undertake a variety of resource related projects such as river camp and picnic site monitoring and the control of invasive plant species in remote sections of the recreation area.

The OHV ranger is part of a three-person multi-agency trail crew working in the Upper Arkansas Valley. The trail crew members represent Colorado State Parks, U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Funding for this collaborative effort comes from an OHV grant funded by OHV registrations. The trail crew maintains trails and OHV routes, provides input on new OHV routes, and enforces OHV registration requirements. The trail crew promotes motorized recreation by encouraging safe riding practices and Stay the Trail and Tread Lightly guidelines. The trail crew also works with local OHV riding clubs to promote volunteer opportunities by means of the U.S. Forest Service Adopt a Trail program.

The three full-time park rangers, the state park manager, and the assistant park manager are all certified Colorado peace officers. Additionally, all AHRA seasonal law enforcement rangers are Title 33 commissioned officers. When necessary, all rangers can take the appropriate law enforcement action necessary to protect our visitors, preserve the resource and ensure compliance with other administrative regulations. While law enforcement may not be the primary function of any ranger's job, it is an important and necessary responsibility of all rangers. It should also be noted that AHRA rangers work closely with other local, state and federal peace officers and resource managers in the performance of their duties.

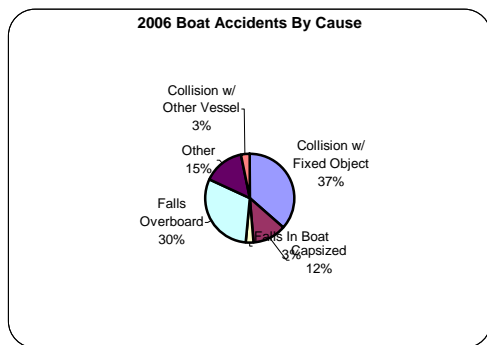
In the winter the full-time rangers continue to patrol AHRA sites along the river corridor. Additionally, rangers manage several snowmobile trail-grooming contracts and patrol snowmobile trails on Bureau of Land Management, National Forest and other public lands within the river corridor as part of the Colorado State Parks Snowmobile Program responsibilities. Winter is also the ideal time for rangers to complete most of their training and re-certifications, to organize and evaluate programs and plan for the up-coming high use season.

Summary of Public Safety Field Actions

River Outfitter Safety Inspections	95
River Outfitter Office Records Inspections	17
River Assists	139
Search, Rescue and Recovery Operations	7
River Hazard Removal Operations	18

*There have been no private river fatalities for the last three years within the AHRA.

*There was one commercial river fatality within the AHRA in 2006.



CAUSE	TOTAL
Collision w/ Fixed Object	12
Capsized	4
Falls In Boat	1
Falls Overboard	10
Other	5
Collision w/ Other Vessel	1
TOTAL ACCIDENTS	33

Note: Many “Collision with Fixed Object” accidents resulted in capsized, falls in boat, or falls overboard.

Investigated and Reported Incidents for the Year 2006

Reportable Commercial Boat Accidents	23
Other Commercial Accidents	1
Other Non-Commercial Accidents	8
Interagency Assists / SAR	8
Vandalism / Theft	6
Hazard Removal / HAZMAT	0
Other	6
Total	52

Note: the River Outfitting Licensing program investigated nine of the boat accidents that occurred in the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area

Citations Issued for the Year 2006

Year	2006
Pass/Permit Violations	29
Resource Protection Violations	30
Public Safety Violations	11
Records/Reporting Violations	6
OHV Violations	9
Snowmobile Violations	2
Other Violations	2
*Total	89
*Above total includes 17 citations to commercial outfitters	

AHRA Special Use Agreement Section

The Special Use Agreement Section exists to accurately and efficiently administer AHRA Special Use Agreements (Permits) as well as administer the Rationing Plan for Commercial Boating on the Arkansas River within the AHRA. AHRA had 86 commercial outfitters in 2006. Permitted outfitters provided various combinations of activities such as whitewater rafting, float fishing, walk and wade fishing, shuttle services and photo/video imaging to over 239,113 clients in 2006. In 2006 commercial use at AHRA increased by 3.9% from 2005. Gross revenue received from commercial operations within the AHRA in 2006 was 9.64% above revenue received in 2005. The Arkansas River remains the most commercially rafted river in the world.

This section also administers the AHRA Rationing Plan that regulates commercial boat per day (bpd) carrying capacities on twelve different river sections. In 2006, river sections had commercial bpd carrying capacities ranging from 360 bpd to 10 bpd with differing section specific boating restrictions.

In addition, this section develops data control methods and commercial use verification for Contractor Special Use Agreement compliance. Assisting in this program is a three person seasonal Count Crew responsible for collecting Spot Checks and maintaining an electronic database for Trip Log comparison. This section also has a seasonal Rationing Program Assistant, who is employed during both the winter and summer months to assist with annual boat allocations and oversee the Special Use Agreement Application program.

AHRA Commercial Special Use Agreements By Type

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Boating.....	55	55
Imaging.....	11	16
Walk and Wade Fishing.....	15	15
Shuttle Services.....	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
Total	86	91

Rationed Days By Section

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Section 1c – The Numbers.....	25	36
Section 2b – Browns Canyon.....	5	7
Section 2d – Big Bend to Salida.....	4	3
Section 3 – Salida to Vallie Bridge.....	36	24
Section 4a – Vallie Bridge to Texas Creek.....	0	4
Section 4b – Texas Creek to Parkdale.....	2	2
Section 5 – The Royal Gorge.....	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>
Total	83	90

AHRA Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management recreation staff continues to see some changes over what was reported in the 2005 report. BLM recreation staff members in 2006 were the River Manager, an individual participating in the BLM Student Training Employment Program (STEP), an individual participating in the BLM Student Career Experience Program (SCEP), a seasonal recreation trail crew member and a winter seasonal Administrative position (October 2006 – March 2007).

The BLM River Manager is responsible for the overall operation and the maintenance of this unique multi-agency partnership. He works side by side with the Colorado State Park Manager to assure that the decisions within the ARRMP are fully implemented, as well as working with a multitude of other agencies, interest groups and organizations. He is also responsible for the maintenance and enhancement, where possible, of the overall health of the public lands along the river corridor. The River Manager receives management recommendations from the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area Citizens Task Force. The BLM River Manager is responsible to the Royal Gorge Field Office Manager (Roy Masinton) located at the BLM headquarters in Canon City, CO.

The duties associated with the Outdoor Recreation Planner position that has been vacant since early 2004 are now being carried out by staff located at the headquarters office. The recreation staff located at the headquarters office consists of a lead Outdoor Recreation Planner (responsible for overall program guidance and budget), another Outdoor Recreation Planner, a Recreation Park Ranger and a SCEP position. This centralized approach allows for assignments to be made depending on an employee's particular skills and strengths.

SCEP – Elliott Hinckley was selected to fill the Student Career Employment Program position. Elliott is completing his Master's degree in Recreation Resource Management at Utah State University. The SCEP position requires the student to complete 640 hours of mentoring, and if successful, will be offered a position (budget allowing) with BLM upon graduation. Elliott is expected to graduate in December of 2007. Duties this position will be responsible for include management of the BLM upland recreation program associated with the Arkansas River corridor. Currently this position is targeted to work out of the headquarters office. This position is directed to work closely with AHRA staff, other Federal and state agencies, local entities and user groups on issues regarding public lands within the river corridor. This includes project planning, grant acquisition, input into NEPA documents, resource monitoring and providing resource protection to the two units of BLM Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) and to four Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

The Recreation Technician, worked this year under BLM's Student Training Experience Program (STEP). This position provides assistance to visitors in BLM uplands and carries out patrols and maintenance on public lands immediately adjacent to AHRA sites along the river corridor. It provides support for OHV partnership projects, coordinates volunteer resource improvement projects and works to support AHRA in the Geographical Information System process. It also collects data for the Global Position System in order to record the locations of roads, trails and other recreational use sites within the river corridor. Data collected will be used to support the Travel Management Planning process. The position is also part of an AHRA team that performs resource monitoring (in its ninth year) of lunch and campsites within Browns Canyon.

The BLM Contact Representative position was eliminated in April of 2005. Heather Goodroe continues to work as a seasonal BLM and a seasonal State Parks employee to fulfill these duties during 2006. This employee meets and greets visitors to the AHRA Visitor Center and provides a full range of information services on recreational activities including camping, boating, fishing, gold panning, hiking and biking. She handles sales and bookkeeping, including revenues from concession agreements, retail GARNA items, park passes and recreational vehicle registrations. She acts as radio dispatcher to staff in the field and provides administrative support to all AHRA employees as needed. She also files, docket and maintains the law enforcement penalty assessments, trains seasonal employees and maintains park visitation and revenue information.

In 2006, staff members worked closely with Congressman Hefley to produce a Proposed Browns Canyon Wilderness Map to show what the Proposed Wilderness Area may look like. Local meetings were also held by Senator Allard's staff and with Senator Salazar. These meetings conveyed the overwhelming support at the local level for the Bill. The House held a Subcommittee Hearing regarding the Browns Canyon Wilderness Legislation in the fall of 2006. A last minute intervention by the National Rifle Association in opposition of the Bill stemmed from the proposed closure of a portion of FS Road 184 (the Turret Trail). The Bill never made it out of Committee and died when the 108th Congress ended. It remains hopeful that a similar Bill will be introduced in the next Congress.

Administrative Services, Sales and Revenue Statistics (January through December 2006):

2006	Activity	Compared to 2005
443	Annual Passes Sold	102.28%
\$10,235.00	Revenue from Annual Passes Sold	8.71%
240	Aspen Leaf Passes Sold	35.59%
\$4,871.00	Revenue from Aspen Leaf Passes Sold	30.52%
\$72,905.65	Revenue from Daily Individual Passes	6.59%
\$57,122.38	Revenue from Camp Permits*	1.14%
1937	Boat, Snowmobile and OHV Registrations Sold	2.54%
\$33,220.25	Revenue from Registration Sales	2.84%
\$746,965.30	Revenue from Commercial Agreements**	15.53%

*Reservation Revenue is included in this total

** Total includes administrative fees and fines not reflected under the Special Use Agreement Section summary

Administrative Section Visitor Contacts for 2006

# Of People	Type of Activity	Compared to 2005
23,344	Visitor Center	+16%
1,922	Personal Interpretation	-41.6%
6,318	Non-Personal Interpretation	-31.4%
1,589	Environmental Education	+72%

Volunteer Hours for 2006

# of Hours	Type of Activity	Compared to 2005
2569 hrs	Volunteers (groups or individuals)	60.7%
712 hrs	AHRA Advisory Groups (CTF, RAAC)	-8
3281 hrs	Total Volunteer Hours in 2006	40.5%

A variety of **Interpretive and Environmental Education** programs and services were presented to the public throughout 2006. Junior Ranger programs took the lead with GOCO Interpreter Phyllis Cron fascinating kids with programs such as: “Close Encounters of the Scaly Kind”; “Don’t Bug Me”; “Birds on the Brain”; and “Spider Sniffing”. Children ages 5-12 stormed the gates each Wednesday morning in Salida and Thursday afternoon in Buena Vista to watch Ranger Phyllis weave her web of magic and to investigate nature’s secrets. The grand finale was the Junior Ranger raft trip on August 9, with 30 participants. It was many a child’s first time on the river, and although the stretch of river from Johnson’s Village to Fisherman’s Bridge is a gentle one, the kids were thrilled and had the time of their lives.

The “icing on the cake” for the Junior Ranger program was notification that AHRA received the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAAE) 2006 Environmental Education Award for Excellence in the government category. The award ceremony for this statewide recognition took place March 2, 2007.

AHRA continued to be very active in 2006 with Project Wild, area schools, local recreation programs and other youth groups to provide environmental education that is consistent with their own curriculum. AHRA Interpreter Phyllis Cron worked with several local organizations to host the first annual “JUST DO IT! Teen Raft Trip” for local kids from financially disadvantaged families, and we hope to continue and expand this for 2007.

AHRA participated in many community events including the FIB-Ark Parade in Salida. AHRA and GARNA (Greater Arkansas River Nature Association) partnered on many educational and interpretive programs, projects and events such as the 15th Annual National River Clean-up. GARNA also assists AHRA with grant writing and administration, interpretive signs and displays, and the GARNA sales outlet at the AHRA Visitor Center, which consistently grows in sales and popularity with the public.

AHRA Maintenance Section

The Maintenance Section is responsible year-round for the routine daily site cleaning, repair, and improvements for the entire recreation area from the Crystal Lakes Recreation Site near Leadville, to the Parkdale Recreation Site near Canon City.

The maintenance section is extensively involved in site improvements and modifications suggested by our visitors, outfitters, and staff. During 2006, these improvements included boat ramp rehab projects at Railroad Bridge and Spikebuck, road improvements at Hecla Junction, the Numbers and Parkdale, refinishing of picnic tables, wood treatment, sign post replacement, road and parking lot maintenance, drainage, signage, weed control/re-vegetation, fencing, landscaping and trail maintenance and development. Welcome and fee/information sign design, construction, and installation/replacement continued to be a large part of the maintenance objective this past year. This section also oversees the maintenance, repairs and reporting for all Fleet vehicles and AHRA heavy equipment.

Extensive utilization of Department of Corrections Sign Shop, volunteer groups, community service workers, and Youth Corps helped AHRA achieve many of its maintenance goals in 2006.

AHRA State Park Management

The State Park Manager and Assistant Park Manager oversee and coordinate the daily visitor service and maintenance operations and overall programs and projects for the entire work unit described above. They are the communication link between field staff and the Southeast Region office in Colorado Springs and State Park offices in Denver and Littleton. They also work closely with the Bureau of Land Management, the Division of Wildlife and the US Forest Service to insure that management plan goals and directives are being met and to implement the Arkansas River Voluntary Flow Program each year. Most importantly, they work with the public to provide the many community and resource wide coordination activities and efforts needed throughout the 150-mile river corridor and continue to develop and enhance communication and cooperation among visitors as well as current and potential partners.

This year, as in past years, AHRA staff continued to maintain the essential quality of management practices and public services that help conserve the Arkansas River and its unique features for everyone's enjoyment.

2006 Annual Report Accomplishments

- ❖ Hosted the 15th Annual Arkansas River Clean-up/Green-up
- ❖ Hosted AHRA Volunteer Program Open House
- ❖ Completed instructor training for the Division's Boating Safety Class
- ❖ Radio promotion for Arkansas Headwaters on "The Fan" radio show
- ❖ Hosted Swiftwater Rescue training 3-day
- ❖ First Aid / CPR / AED recertification for L.E. staff
- ❖ L.E. staff attended and completed rifle, shotgun, and less lethal training in Pueblo
- ❖ Received four new AED's from Summit County Public Access Defibrillation Project
- ❖ Completed Upper Arkansas Motorized Trail Crew grant application for 07-08 season
- ❖ Hosted the 17th Annual Outfitters Workshop
- ❖ Coordinated a Colorado Cares volunteer project in Browns Canyon
- ❖ Continued an aggressive tamarisk and noxious weed control campaign on lands under AHRA jurisdiction
- ❖ Began reconstruction of the Salida East site including new boat ramp, entrance road and parking area
- ❖ Worked with volunteers from CWWA to construct steps at Browns Creek landing
- ❖ Youth Corps completed fencing and trail improvement projects at Hayden Meadows
- ❖ Continued reconditioning of picnic tables within the Recreation Area
- ❖ Attended the Governor's Tourism Conference in Keystone
- ❖ Participated in the Colorado Conference for Volunteerism
- ❖ Assisted with the re-design of the AHRA State Parks web site
- ❖ Responded to a number of river related search and rescue operations
- ❖ Removed a variety of debris (tires, refrigerators, rims, washers, dryers, vehicles, trees, etc.) from various portions of the Arkansas River
- ❖ Maintained and cleared 1288 miles of OHV routes in the Upper Arkansas Valley
- ❖ Revised all Attention Boaters signs throughout the Recreation Area to include new maps, river mileage and GIS information
- ❖ Submitted insurance claim on Hecla Junction damage from August 2006 flood, working with CWWB on a damage plan for the recreation site

- ❖ Completed revisions to the SUA, Riders and the Rationing Plan as discussed during 2006 RAAC meetings
- ❖ Began research on management solutions to inner tube problems experienced within the AHRA
- ❖ Continual grading of roads and picnic areas with AHRA
- ❖ Rebuilt Spikebuck boat ramp and parking area near boat ramp
- ❖ Continued to investigate and cite where possible “pirate” commercial whitewater and float fishing trips within the AHRA
- ❖ Constructed various sections of buck and rail fencing at AHRA recreation sites for resource protection
- ❖ Successfully negotiated an agreement between RGX and AHRA to allow commercial photographers and outfitter access to the Royal Gorge RGX property for imaging and rescue related purposes
- ❖ Completed Rincon boat ramp / parking lot/ road improvements
- ❖ Completed Fisherman’s Bridge boat ramp / step improvement project
- ❖ Completed Railroad Bridge boat ramp / picnic area improvements

This concludes the 2006 Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area Annual Report. If you should have any questions regarding this report please contact Rob White, the AHRA Park Manager, or John Nahomenuk, the AHRA River Manager at (719)539-7289 or via e-mail at ahra@state.co.us. Additional copies of this report can be downloaded from www.parks.state.co.us/Arkansas/Publications.