

*Arkansas Headwaters
Recreation Area
2010 End of Year Report*



Welcome to the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area’s Annual Report for 2010. This annual report covers the activities of the AHRA from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010.

Commercial visitation, revenue and private boat numbers were slightly down for AHRA in 2010 as compared to 2009. A national economy stuck in a recessionary mode was the major factor contributing to the downturn.

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. In addition, with a revision of the AHRA management plan on the horizon, 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 temporary employees with specific job assignments. The many dedicated temporary employees at AHRA accomplish the visible fieldwork. In a typical season, AHRA employs nearly 30 temporary staff members. In 2010 AHRA employed 23 temporary staff members, one more than 2009. For 2010, 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, Glenn Cottone & Danielle Hill (Parks) |
| Administration: | Rose Bayless (Parks) |
| Commercial Agreements: | John Kreski (Parks) |
| Management: | Rob White, Tom Waters (Parks)
and John Nahomenuk (BLM) |

In 2010 two Colorado State Parks full-time staff changes occurred. The Assistant Park Manager position vacated in October 2008 was filled by Tom Waters in April and the River Ranger Supervisor position was vacated by Danielle Hill in June. AHRA Temporary River Ranger Andrew Maddox passed the Park Manager-I test for a full time ranger position and went into the law enforcement academy in August. Andrew was then notified that he would be assigned to the AHRA as the River Ranger Supervisor in February 2011.

2010 Special Activities

Event Name	Event Type	Event Location
Salida Pole, Pedal, Paddle	Adventure Race	Big Bend OHV
Gravity Play Sports	Adventure Race	BV to Fisherman's Bridge
BV Pro Rodeo	Kayak Freestyle Competition	BV Whitewater Park
Colorado School of Mines	Geophysics Field Camp	Hecla Junction
Colorado Whitewater Association	Kayak Instructional	Sec. 2c, 3, 4a, 4b
Dawson School	Down River Canoe & Kayak	Sect 4a
The America Cup International Fly Fishing Tournament	Fishing Tournament	Granite Wildlife Area
BV Raft Rodeo	Rafting Freestyle Competition	BV Whitewater Park
Pro Raft Race	Pro Sprint Raft Race	BV Whitewater Park
Colorado Rocky Mountain School	Kayak Team Training	Browns, Numbers, Gorge
Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival	Raft & Kayak Events	Royal Gorge and Cañon City
FIBArk Whitewater Festival	Raft & Kayak Events	Pine Creek, Salida to Cotopaxi
CO Springs Fire Dept.	Swiftwater Rescue Training	Spikebuck
CO Springs Fire Dept.	Swiftwater Rescue Training	Browns Canyon
CO Springs Fire Dept.	Swiftwater Rescue Training	Spikebuck
World Team Sports	Adventure Race	Granite to Pine Creek
GORETEX Trans Rockies Run	Trail Running Race	Railroad Bridge
Vettes on the Rockies	Scenic Drive	Collegiate Peaks Overlook
CKS	SUP Contest and Race Salida	Salida East
CKS	Kayak Freestyle Rodeo	BV River Park
Chaffee County SAR	OHV Training	Big Bend Track
Colorado Women Fly fishers	Volunteer Clean Up	Salida East to Wellsville
Time Inc Content Solutions	Photo Shoot	Stone Bridge

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

ACTIVITY*		2010 PEOPLE	2009 PEOPLE	'09 TO '10 % CHANGE
SIGHTSEEING		254,737	259,169	-1.8%
FISHING	Shore	60,403	68,191	-11.5%
	Boat	7,584	11,661	-35%
PICNICKING		40,871	42,520	-3.5%
BOATING **	Commercial	262,122	254,431	+3%
	Private	24,162	25,433	-5%
OTHER (Minerals, Visitor Center, Hunting and Swimming)		31,625	31,880	-1%
TRAIL		25,569	23,424	+9%
INTERPRETIVE		8,461	7,868	+7%
CAMPING		35,279	33,682	+4.75%
ACTIVITIES TOTAL		750,813	758,259	-1%

*May include participants in multiple activities

**Actual visitor number, includes guides and clients

AHRA Administrative Section

The Administrative section for 2010 was staffed by one full-time State Parks Program Assistant, Rose Bayless - two temporary administrative assistants; Heather Wright who works for State Parks 6 months from April through September and the Bureau of Land Management for 6 months from October through March; and Bob Dickey who worked from May through September - one summer GOCO Naturalist/Volunteer Coordinator, Leda Baca - and a BLM summer student employee to assist with outdoor recreation programs, Zach Short.

The Administrative Section staff meet and greet visitors to the AHRA Visitor Center, deal with thousands of phone calls and provide a full range of information services on recreational activities including camping, boating, fishing, gold panning, hiking, biking, etc. They handle sales and recordkeeping for all AHRA revenues from commercial agreements, penalty assessments, special activity agreements, State Park passes, camping permits and off-highway vehicle, snowmobile and boat registrations, and also sell guide books, trail maps and a variety of items provided by the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA).

Administrative personnel function as the base radio dispatchers to AHRA field staff and provide administrative support to AHRA State Park and BLM employees. The Administrative section also coordinates AHRA special events, such as the Annual Arkansas River Cleanup/Greenup, Junior Rangers, campground and environmental education programs, administers the AHRA Volunteer Program, and organizes a variety of meetings throughout the year. Other duties include docketing and maintaining law enforcement penalty assessment records, training seasonal employees, volunteer recruitment and maintaining AHRA budget, visitation and revenue information.

Administrative Services, Sales and Revenue Statistics (January through December 2010)

2010	Activity	Compared to 2009
443	Annual Passes Sold	-2.42%
\$22,510.00	Revenue from Annual Passes Sold	-2.49%
262	Aspen Leaf Passes Sold	-16.83%
\$6,693.00	Revenue from Aspen Leaf Passes Sold	-14.63%
\$93,326.49	Revenue from Daily Individual and Vehicle Passes	-6.37%
\$85,650.31	Revenue from Camp Permits**	+7.81%
1,888	Boat, Snowmobile and OHV Registrations Sold	+2.66%
\$51,807.00	Revenue from Registration Sales	+6.92%
\$745,498.92	Revenue from Commercial Agreements***	-1.48%

** 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 2010

# Of People	Type of Activity	Compared to 2009
26,200	Visitor Center	0%
1076	Personal Interpretation	+35%
7824	Non-Personal Interpretation	+30%
1218	Environmental Education	+11%

Volunteer Hours for 2010

# of Hours	Type of Activity	Compared to 2009
4521 hrs	Volunteers (groups or individuals)	52%
420 hrs	AHRA Advisory Groups (CTF, RAAC)	21%
4921 hrs	Total Volunteer Hours in 2010	33%

A variety of **Interpretive and Environmental Education** programs and services were presented to the public throughout 2010. Junior Ranger programs took the lead with GOCO Interpreter Leda Baca fascinating kids with programs such as “Don’t Take the Arkansas River Rocks for Granite”, “Scats and Tracks”, “Water’s the Matter”, and “Scavenger Hunt”. Children ages 5-10 stormed the gates each Wednesday morning in Salida and Thursday afternoon in Buena Vista to watch Leda weave her web of magic and to investigate nature’s secrets. The grand finale was the Junior Ranger raft trip on August 4, with 34 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.

AHRA received a grant through the Bureau of Land Management to initiate an outdoor recreation program for youth, and 2010 was the pilot year for “Hanging Out – Outdoors” for kids ages 12-17. Included in the grant was funding for a part-time (college) student employee to assist with planning and implementation. The “Hanging Out” program included Geo-Cache/Map and Compass, Rappelling, and Rafting and we are looking forward to 2011 to increase the momentum of this great opportunity to introduce young people to the wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities available throughout the AHRA.

AHRA continued to be very active in 2010 with Project Wild, area schools, local recreation programs and other youth groups to provide environmental education that is consistent with their own curriculum. AHRA also teamed up with the Division of Wildlife to recruit volunteers to monitor bluebird houses at AHRA recreation sites for the National Bluebird Project.

AHRA also participated in many community events including Paddlefest and Gold Rush Days in Buena Vista as well as the Headwaters Institute Guide Training and FIBArk, both held in Salida. AHRA, GARNA, FIBArk “Cruiser Crit” and the Salida Police Dept. Bike Rodeo partnered together for the 19th Annual National River CleanUp/GreenUp on May 15th. GARNA also assists AHRA with the GARNA sales outlet at the AHRA Visitor Center, which is popular with visitors in the summer. Finally, it should be noted that AHRA assisted the Chaffee County Visitors Bureau during the summer of 2010 with volunteers who provide the workforce at the Heart of the Rockies Visitor Center in Poncha Springs.

AHRA YEAR 2010 REVENUES

Year 2010 By Month	Park Passes	Camping Permits/ Reservations	Registrations	Special Use Agreements	Penalties, DOW Sales, Special Activities, etc.	TOTALS
January	\$1,563.97	\$42.00	\$1,249.50	\$9.00	\$660.41	\$3,524.88
February	\$1,120.00	\$36.00	\$916.75	\$9,985.23	\$46.00	\$12,103.98
March	\$1,796.65	\$132.00	\$2,775.50	\$18,757.71	\$205.00	\$23,666.86
April	\$7,098.97	\$1,936.00	\$6,873.25	\$10,401.61	\$424.55	\$26,734.38
May	\$15,874.95	\$12,349.57	\$5,519.50	\$133,754.84	\$1,348.35	\$168,847.21
June	\$33,377.16	\$15,956.02	\$8,669.00	\$194,572.31	\$1,545.50	\$254,119.99
July	\$27,899.69	\$24,080.12	\$8,349.25	\$700.00	\$3,296.23	\$64,325.29
August	\$17,683.11	\$16,160.30	\$6,416.25	\$2,549.05	\$2,366.51	\$45,175.22
September	\$10,046.83	\$11,368.30	\$3,857.00	\$12,995.87	\$1,010.99	\$39,278.99
October	\$3,661.63	\$3,103.00	\$1,710.50	\$129,304.96	\$89.00	\$137,869.09
November	\$1,457.64	\$403.00	\$3,651.00	\$226,415.63	\$3,508.00	\$235,435.27
December	\$948.89	\$84.00	\$1,819.50	\$6,052.71	\$142.50	\$9,047.60
2010 TOTALS	\$122,529.49	\$85,650.31	\$51,807.00	\$745,498.92	\$14,643.04	\$1,020,128.76
<i>2009 Revenue</i>	<i>\$133,331.11</i>	<i>\$79,412.64</i>	<i>\$48,456.00</i>	<i>\$756,666.77</i>	<i>\$15,158.90</i>	<i>\$1,033,025.17</i>

*AHRA revenues saw a 1% decrease in 2010 as compared to 2009

AHRA YEAR 2010 EXPENDITURES -COLORADO STATE PARKS ONLY-

Year 2010 By Month	Full Time and Seasonal Personnel	Operating	Utilities	Capital Equipment	Controlled Maintenance	GOCO, Grants & Misc. Accounts	TOTALS
January	\$54,806.46	\$3,601.15	\$1,281.54	0	\$2,744.00	-\$85.73	\$62,347.42
February	\$53,000.68	\$4,604.62	\$639.32	0	\$5,875.38	\$2,798.01	\$66,918.01
March	\$51,968.18	\$1,979.33	\$864.12	0	\$4,569.91	\$17,066.59	\$76,448.13
April	\$61,137.10	\$8,083.49	\$498.00	0	\$13,256.16	\$5,006.08	\$87,980.83
May	\$86,410.16	\$10,330.91	\$598.90	0	Incl. June	Incl. June	\$97,339.97
June	\$92,170.53	\$64,964.68	\$10,086.07	0	\$30,556.17	\$63,602.86	\$261,380.31
July	\$82,784.26	\$14,844.91	\$1,312.61	0	\$6,212.73	\$1,849.92	\$107,004.43
August	\$100,336.36	\$17,097.00	\$6,804.61	0	\$25,599.36	\$6,296.87	\$156,134.20
September	\$72,061.87	\$10,872.67	\$2,722.22	0	\$86,095.19	\$75,856.63	\$247,608.58
October	\$57,653.35	\$9,744.14	\$692.52	0	\$24,000.00	\$64.34	\$92,154.35
November	\$50,865.88	\$9,917.31	\$374.86	0	-\$2,469.14	\$3,986.74	\$62,495.65
December	\$51,207.70	\$9,385.98	\$744.06	0	\$2,093.74	\$7,293.25	\$70,724.73
TOTALS	\$814,222.53	\$165,426.19	\$26,618.83	0	\$198,533.50	\$183,735.56	\$1,388,536.61
Total Expenditures for Water and Related Costs in 2010							
				Pueblo Board of Water Works			\$ 6,000.00
				Bureau of Reclamation			\$21,000.00
				USGS Water Gages			\$15,000.00
Grand Total							\$1,430,536.61

*Does not include 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. In the past, the three full-time staff members hired up to twelve temporary staff members to assist them with their patrol responsibilities. The AHRA Temporary Work Program (TWP) budget for FY 09/10 allowed eight, 40 hour per week temporary rangers at the start of the 2010 summer season. A ninth temporary river ranger was added the last week in June. Therefore, the river section had five, 40 hour per week temporary rangers assigned to it. The land section had four, 40 hour per week temporary rangers. In addition to these nine TWP rangers there was one TWP Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Ranger that was funded by an OHV grant. This position was supervised by the Land Ranger Supervisor. Because of reduced budgets, AHRA continues to struggle to regain its former TWP ranger staffing levels.

Temporary 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 TWP budget and associated seasonal staff cuts, the temporary staff was unable to maintain ideal coverage of two shifts per day, seven days a week, patrolling both upstream and downstream of Salida. Even with some temporary shifts covered by full-time supervisors, there were some weekdays with only one shift both up and downstream.

Five of the AHRA temporary 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 United States, 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.

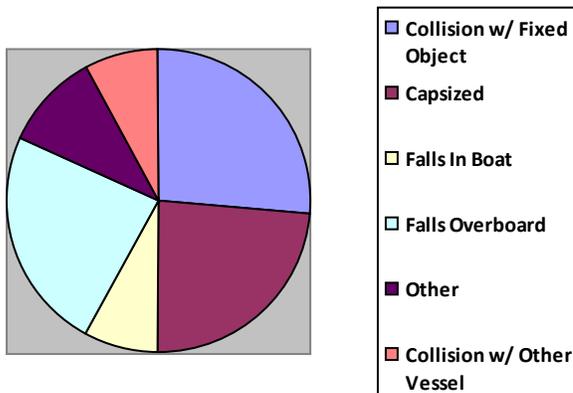
The OHV ranger is part of a three-person multi-agency trail crew working in the Upper Arkansas River Valley. The trail crew members represent Colorado State Parks and the U.S. Forest Service. Funding for this collaborative effort comes from an OHV grant funded by OHV registrations. The trail crew maintains trails and OHV routes, provides input on new OHV routes, and enforces OHV registration and equipment 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 temporary law enforcement rangers are limited commission, Title 33 officers who enforce only Parks and Wildlife laws. 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. Winter search and rescue activities usually amount to assisting other agencies with motorists that end up in the river and snowmobile patrols/avalanche rescue activities. 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	83
River Outfitter Office Records Inspections	5
River Assists	148
Search, Rescue and Recovery Operations	11
River Hazard Removal Operations	8



2010 BOAT ACCIDENTS BY CAUSE	
CAUSE	TOTAL
Collision w/ Fixed Object	10
Capsized	9
Falls In Boat	3
Falls Overboard	9
Other	4
Collision w/ Other Vessel	3
TOTAL ACCIDENTS	38

*There were four private river fatalities that occurred in three accidents within the AHRA in 2010.

*There was one commercial river fatality within the AHRA in 2010.

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

2010 Investigated and Reported Incidents

Reportable Commercial Boat Accidents	37
Private Boat Accidents	4
Other Commercial Accidents	7
Other Non-Commercial Accidents	0
OHV Accidents	1
Interagency Assists / SAR	5
Vandalism / Theft	8
Hazard Removal / HAZMAT	0
Other	2
Totals	64

2010 Citations Issued

Year	2010
Pass/Permit Violations	370
Resource Protection Violations	20
Public Safety Violations	3
Records/Reporting Violations	3
OHV Violations	9
*Total	405
*Above total includes 4 citations to commercial outfitters	

AHRA Special Use Agreement Section

The Special Use Agreement Section exists to accurately and efficiently administer AHRA Special Use Agreements as well as administer the Rationing Plan for Commercial Boating on the Arkansas River within the AHRA. AHRA had 102 commercial contractors in 2010. Permitted contractors provided various combinations of activities such as whitewater rafting, float fishing, walk and wade fishing, shuttle services and photo/video imaging to over 212,920 clients in 2010. In 2010 commercial use at AHRA increased by 2.75% from 2009. Gross revenue received from commercial operations within the AHRA in 2010 was 0.09% above revenue received in 2009. This total includes revenue only from total gross receipts and does not include administrative and assessment fees. The Arkansas River within the AHRA remains the most commercially rafted river in the United States.

This section also administers the AHRA Rationing Plan that regulates commercial boat per day (bpd) carrying capacities on thirteen different river Sections. In 2010, 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 four person temporary Count Crew responsible for collecting Spot Checks and maintaining an electronic database for Trip Log comparison. This section also has two temporary Rationing Program Assistants, one of which is employed during the winter months, and one of which is employed during the summer months, to assist with annual boat allocations and oversee the Special Use Agreement Application program.

AHRA Commercial Special Use Agreements By Type

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Boating.....	55	55
Imaging	27	22
Walk and Wade Fishing.....	15	15
Shuttle Services.....	3	3
Rock Climbing, Hiking & Mt. Biking.....	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	102	95

Rationed Days By Section

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Section 1c – The Numbers.....	6	13
Section 2b – Browns Canyon.....	9	12
Section 2d – Big Bend to Salida	7	4
Section 3 – Salida to Vallie Bridge.....	48	49
Section 4b – Texas Creek to Parkdale	2	3
Section 5 – The Royal Gorge.....	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>
Total	85	95

AHRA Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management recreation staff continues to see some changes over what was reported in the 2009 report. BLM recreation staff members in 2010 were the River Manager, a seasonal park ranger and a winter seasonal administrative position (October 2010 – March 2011).

The BLM River Manager (John P. Nahomenuk) works side by side with the Colorado State Park Manager to assure that the decisions within the Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan (ARRMP) are fully implemented, as well as working with a multitude of other agencies, interest groups and organizations unique to this multi-agency partnership. 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 AHRA Citizens Task Force. The BLM River Manager is responsible to the Royal Gorge Field Office Renewable Resource Supervisor, Leah Quesenberry, located at the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office in Canon City, CO. Keith Berger became the new Royal Gorge Field Office Manager with the retirement of Roy Masinton.

Starr Jamison, who was in the BLM Student Career Employment Program (SCEP) as a Recreation Technician in 2009, left that position and it has remained vacant throughout 2010. Janine Prout (seasonal Park Ranger) is our main public contact representative and spends a great deal of her time patrolling the uplands making contacts with the recreating public. She is also responsible for maintaining facilities. Janine spends a great deal of her time leading volunteers in trail building, clean-up and construction and maintenance projects. Janine also played a critical role in continuing to implement the Arkansas River Travel Management Plan. Janine receives assistance from the recreation staff out of Canon City.

Heather Wright continued to work as the seasonal BLM Recreation Technician and State Parks Administrative Program Technician during the 2010 season. Her year-round support to the Administrative section and AHRA provides much needed consistency to our very busy office.

BLM continues to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Christo and Jeanne-Claude Over the River (OTR) art project. The final EIS is expected to be released to the public sometime in the spring of 2011. Though Jeanne-Claude passed away in 2009, Christo continues to move forward with the project. The proposal calls for draping approximately 6 miles of the Arkansas River (between Salida and Canon City) with translucent fabric. All costs to the BLM associated with the project are paid for by the proponent. The art display, if approved, would not be viewed until 2014 at the earliest.

AHRA Maintenance Section

The Maintenance Section is responsible for year-round 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 maintenance, improvements and modifications suggested by our visitors, outfitters and staff. During 2010, these improvements included the installation of two CXT's at Five Points Day Use site, construction of a retaining wall and fence behind the maintenance shop, completing a weed control project with help from a Colorado Dept of Agriculture grant, erecting two different sections of buck & rail fence on BLM

land across from Fisherman's Bridge, installing newly designed "Attention Boater" signs at boat launch sites, installing low head dam "Caution" signs, planting 100 willows and 10 alder trees at Hecla Junction with Trout Unlimited volunteers, treating park wood structures with preservative treatment, refinishing picnic tables, installing fire rings at select undeveloped sites, began the down river vault toilet door painting project, creating a new parking area and building buck and rail fence at Vallie Bridge, wood treatment on the fencing and improving site drainage at the Visitor Center, rock work and track maintenance at Big Bend, campground improvements and drainage improvements at Hecla Junction, and road and parking lot maintenance at multiple sites as well as the day to day cleaning and maintenance of the recreation area.

While AHRA's maintenance staff contributed over 500 hours towards noxious vegetation control on lands under AHRA jurisdiction, we had an additional 300 hours of volunteer labor. AHRA also received a \$3500 Colorado Dept. of Agriculture grant to work on specific species such as yellow toadflax, dalmation toadflax, tamarisk, hoary cress, and Russian knapweed.

Extensive utilization of Department of Corrections Sign Shop and Labor Crews, volunteer groups, community service workers, and Youth Corps helped AHRA achieve many of its maintenance goals in 2010.

AHRA State Park Management

Park Manager, Rob White, and Assistant Park Manager, Tom Waters, who joined AHRA in May 2010, 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 Upper Arkansas River Voluntary Flow Management Program (VFMP) 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.

2010 Annual Report Accomplishments

- ❖ Hosted the 19th Annual Arkansas River Clean-up/Green-up
- ❖ Hosted the 21st Annual Contractors Workshop
- ❖ Built a buck and rail fence at Fisherman's Bridge on BLM land for National Public Lands Day, and a group of Cub Scouts did a cleanup at Hecla Junction.
- ❖ AHRA recognized "World Rivers Day" with a resource awareness event beginning at Hecla Junction and ending with a float trip from Hecla Junction to Stone Bridge
- ❖ AHRA staff participated in several environmental education and water safety presentations for local elementary schools
- ❖ Coordinated a Junior Rangers and "Hanging Out – Outdoors" raft trips
- ❖ Built new parking area, buck and rail fence and rock work at Vallie Bridge
- ❖ Completed improvements to Visitor Center parking area and drainage, back entrance access and perimeter fence
- ❖ Assisted with recovery operations at Frog Rock
- ❖ Represented State Parks at the Fall Color Tour OHV ride in Buena Vista
- ❖ Completed OHV State Trail Grant Applications
- ❖ Performed track maintenance and rock work at Big Bend OHV area
- ❖ Completed OHV sound testing at Four-Mile with USFS and BLM
- ❖ Hosted 3-Day Swiftwater Rescue training course for AHRA staff, Salida Fire Department and other federal and state agencies
- ❖ Worked closely with FIBArk race coordinators to increase and assist with safety during river race events
- ❖ Through AHRA's FIBArk Sponsorship, AHRA, GARNA and the Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas hosted a booth during the 4-day festival
- ❖ AHRA attended "Gold Rush Days" in Buena Vista and offered a gold panning demonstration for kids and adults
- ❖ The multi-agency OHV trail crew patrolled, maintained, rerouted and cleared over 2,844 miles of trail, made 1206 contacts and worked on trail projects throughout the Upper Arkansas River Valley
- ❖ AHRA maintenance staff contributed over 500 hours towards noxious vegetation control on lands under AHRA jurisdiction, and we had an additional 300 hours of volunteer labor
- ❖ Worked on a plan for parking and boater access at Railroad Station in Canon City
- ❖ Rob White, John Nahomenuk and John Kreski attended the 2010 Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA) Conference
- ❖ Attended meetings regarding the proposed Over The River project by Christo
- ❖ Developed a spreadsheet for monitoring dispersed campers along the river
- ❖ Conducted a Browns Canyon monitoring trip with BLM
- ❖ Assisted with Droney Gulch Natural Area survey
- ❖ Organized "Take a Kid Mountain Biking" event
- ❖ Completed construction plans for the Hecla Junction Drainage Project and began preliminary work
- ❖ Investigated and assisted with search and recovery of Pine Creek fatality
- ❖ Participated in river search and rescue operation near Florence
- ❖ Conducted an investigation regarding a snowmobile fatality

This concludes the 2010 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/.