

2011

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA ANNUAL REPORT



Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Forest Service
4/17/2012

Welcome to the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area’s Annual Report for 2011. This annual report covers the activities of the AHRA from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

Commercial visitation, revenue and private boat numbers were slightly down for AHRA in 2011 as compared to 2010. A national economy still stuck in a recessionary mode was one factor that contributed to this downturn, as well as the fact that high water kept commercial boating contractors out of the Royal Gorge and the Numbers for most of the month of June as well as almost half of the month of July.

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 getting closer to reality, the CTF will continue to play an important role for the partners that form AHRA – Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, 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 2011 AHRA employed 24 temporary staff members, one more than 2010. For 2011, 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, Andrew Maddox (Parks)
Administration:	Rose Bayless (Parks)
Commercial Agreements:	John Kreski (Parks)
Management:	Rob White, Tom Waters (Parks) and John Nahomenuk (BLM)

In 2011 there was one Colorado State Parks full-time staff change. Andrew Maddox completed the law enforcement academy in August 2010 and after that completed Parks specific training in Denver. He arrived at AHRA in February 2011 and filled the River Ranger Supervisor position.

2011 Special Activities

Event Name	Event Type	Event Location
Gravity Play Sports	Adventure Race	River from BV to FishBridge
Colorado Whitewater Association	Kayak Instruction	Lower Ark Big Bend-Parkdale
GORETEX Trans Rockies Run	Trail Running Race	Railroad Bridge
Arkansas River Trust	Kayak Race/Mtn Bike	Big Bend OHV
Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival	Kayak, Body Board, Raft	Royal Gorge
Sharp Entertainment/Travel Channel	Filming a raft demonstration	Centennial Park
Paddle Fest	Kayak/Freestyle/Raft Rodeo	BV River Park
FibArk	Boat Festival	Salida
Friends of the Arkansas River	Volunteer Clean Up	Pinnacle to Canon
Fremont S&R	Training	Sweetwater Campground
Colorado Springs Fire Department	Training	Parkdale/Browns
Denver Post Ride the Rockies	Bike	Hayden Meadows/Tiger Lilly
American Canoe Asc.	Canoe Championship	Salida WW Park
Colorado Kayak Supply	Stand Up Paddle Comp.	Salida WW Park

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

ACTIVITY*		2011 PEOPLE	2010 PEOPLE	'10 TO '11 % CHANGE
SIGHTSEEING		263,907	254,737	3.6%
FISHING	Shore	69,316	60,403	14.75%
	Boat	8,109	7,584	7%
PICNICKING		41,613	40,871	1.8%
BOATING **	Commercial	250,335	262,122	-4.5%
	Private	21,967	24,162	-9%
OTHER (Minerals, Visitor Center, Hunting and Swimming)		35,142	31,625	10%
TRAIL		25,520	25,569	-.2%
INTERPRETIVE/EVENTS		14,447	8,461	41%
CAMPING		38,265	35,279	8.5%
ACTIVITIES TOTAL		768,621	750,813	2.3%

*May include participants in multiple activities

**Actual visitor number, includes guides and clients

AHRA Administrative Section

The Administrative section for 2011 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 Linda Sapp who worked from May through September - one summer GOCO Naturalist/Volunteer Coordinator, Claire Davis - and a BLM summer student employee to assist with outdoor recreation programs, Elissa Martin.

The Administrative Section staff meet and greet visitors to the AHRA Visitor Center, deal with tens of 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, fish and game licenses, and also sell guide books, maps and other 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 Earth Day and the Annual Arkansas River Cleanup/Greenup; “Junior Rangers” and “Hanging Out – Outdoors” youth activities; 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; maintaining AHRA budget, visitation and revenue information; and providing human resources assistance for AHRA staff.

Administrative Services, Sales and Revenue Statistics (January through December 2011)

2011	Activity	Compared to 2010
368	Annual Passes Sold	-16.93%
\$21,935.00	Revenue from Annual Passes Sold	-2.55%
319	Aspen Leaf Passes Sold	21.75%
\$27,057.00	Revenue from Aspen Leaf Passes Sold*	404%
\$100,914.65	Revenue from Daily Individual and Vehicle Passes	8.9%
\$90,233.06	Revenue from Camp Permits**	5.35%
1,699	Boat, Snowmobile and OHV Registrations Sold	-10%
\$46,619.75	Revenue from Registration Sales	-10%
\$762,201.41	Revenue from Commercial Agreements***	2.24%

* Introduction of Lifetime Aspen Leaf Pass - \$175 Jan-June 2011; \$300 July-Dec 2011

** 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 2011

# Of People	Type of Activity	Compared to 2010
28,572	Visitor Center	9.05%
1,130	Personal Interpretation	5.02%
11,651	Non-Personal Interpretation	48.91%
1,666	Environmental Education	36.78%

Volunteer Hours for 2011

# of Hours	Type of Activity	Compared to 2010
*3332 hrs	Volunteers (groups or individuals)	10%
401 hrs	AHRA Advisory Groups (CTF, RAAC)	-4.5%
3733 hrs	Total Volunteer Hours in 2011	8.3%

*Total does not include Dept. of Corrections Crews or Community Service

A variety of **Interpretive and Environmental Education** programs and services were presented to the public throughout 2011. GOCO Interpreter Claire Davis captivated “junior rangers” with programs and activities such as “Wilderness Survival”, “Scats and Tracks”, “Water Word Search”, and “Scavenger Hunt”. Excited kids ages 5-11 beat a path each Wednesday morning in Salida and Thursday afternoon in Buena Vista to join Claire as she wove her web of magic and revealed nature’s secrets. The grand finale was the Junior Ranger raft trip on August 3, with 36 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 in 2010 through the Bureau of Land Management to initiate an outdoor recreation program for youth, and 2011 was the second year for “Hanging Out – Outdoors” which offered outdoor recreation opportunities for kids ages 12-17. Included in the grant was funding for a part-time (college) student employee, Elissa Martin, to assist with planning and implementation. The “Hanging Out” program activities included Zip Line, Geo-Cache/Map and Compass, Horseback Riding, Hiking, Fishing, Rappelling and Rafting. Due to aggressive advertising and marketing on the part of AHRA, we tripled the attendance from 2010 and were very pleased with our success. Without grant money for 2012, AHRA still plans to continue the “Hanging Out” program as part of our GOCO funded summer youth activities to introduce young people to the wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities available throughout the AHRA.

AHRA continued to be very active in 2011 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 Colorado Wildlife staff and GARNA to recruit volunteers to monitor bluebird houses at AHRA recreation sites for the National Bluebird Monitoring Project. We were also very fortunate to have some valuable and faithful volunteers to assist with special project, events and programs, and serve and campground hosts. AHRA sponsored visitor information volunteers at the Heart of the Rockies Visitor Center in Poncha Springs during the summer of 2011, their first season in the brand new visitor center at the junction of Highways 285 and 50. One of our volunteers, Bob Hickey, was recognized for his outstanding efforts at a DOVIA (Directors of Volunteers in Agencies) luncheon in Denver and also at a Parks luncheon at the Southeast Region office in Colorado Springs.

AHRA also participated in many community events including Paddlefest and Gold Rush Days in Buena Vista, and Earth Day, the Headwaters Institute Guide Training and FIBArk held in Salida. AHRA, GARNA, and the FIBArk “Cruiser Crit” parade partnered together for the 20th Anniversary National River CleanUp/GreenUp on May 21st.

AHRA YEAR 2011 REVENUES

Year 2011 By Month	Park Passes	Camping Permits/ Reservations	Registrations	Special Use Agreements	Penalties, DOW Sales, Special Activities, etc.	TOTALS
January	\$1,393.96	\$32.00	\$1,668.75	\$189.88	\$32.00	\$3,316.59
February	\$1,177.26	\$0.00	\$897.00	\$4,814.69	\$38.00	\$6,926.95
March	\$3,607.87	\$273.00	\$3,972.00	\$18,554.80	\$121.00	\$26,528.67
April	\$7,746.90	\$2,765.00	\$5,636.50	\$21,317.80	\$1,256.50	\$38,722.70
May	\$24,353.88	\$12,167.00	\$6,009.75	\$104,579.06	\$1,226.60	\$148,336.29
June	\$42,750.86	\$18,988.72	\$7,099.25	\$234,306.64	\$1,488.00	\$304,633.47
July	\$27,789.13	\$25,377.01	\$7,642.25	\$300.00	\$3,301.75	\$64,410.14
August	\$22,659.78	\$14,487.25	\$4,982.00	\$0.00	\$2,943.76	\$45,072.79
September	\$12,650.55	\$12,116.95	\$3,119.75	\$3,091.96	\$761.71	\$31,740.92
October	\$4,519.60	\$3,910.13	\$1,539.25	\$131,125.79	\$329.50	\$141,424.27
November	\$880.79	\$116.00	\$2,052.25	\$233,850.03	\$82.50	\$236,981.57
December	\$376.07	\$0.00	\$2,001.00	\$10,070.76	\$358.00	\$12,805.83
2011 TOTALS	\$149,906.65	\$90,233.06	\$46,619.75	\$762,201.41	\$11,939.32	\$1,060,100.19
2010 Revenue	\$122,529.49	\$85,650.31	\$51,807.00	\$745,498.92	\$14,437.88	\$1,019,923.26

*AHRA revenues saw a 4% increase in 2011 as compared to 2010

AHRA YEAR 2011 EXPENDITURES -COLORADO STATE PARKS ONLY-

Year 2011 By Month	Full Time and Seasonal Personnel	Operating	Utilities	Capital Equipment	Controlled Maintenance	GOCO, Grants & Misc. Accounts	TOTALS
January	\$54,816.00	\$5,362.67	\$670.50	\$0	\$386.76	\$1,472.67	\$62,708.50
February	\$54,559.76	\$8,294.68	\$631.75	\$0	\$11,301.07	\$16,295.84	\$91,083.10
March	\$57,619.73	\$7,437.40	\$639.20	\$0	\$13,142.57	\$9,366.06	\$88,204.96
April	\$63,042.52	\$7,548.71	\$472.83	\$0	\$2,750.79	\$7,871.91	\$81,686.76
May	\$78,651.21	\$8,969.42	\$3,614.22	\$0	\$15,695.34	\$18,145.98	\$125,076.17
June	\$107,146.47	\$21,569.32	\$6,408.96	\$0	\$1,811.85	\$31,016.68	\$167,953.28
July	\$88,711.20	\$15,090.86	\$3,096.75	\$0	\$0	\$9,777.07	\$116,675.88
August	\$87,700.34	\$13,114.20	\$4049.07	\$0	\$0	\$9258.44	\$114,125.05
September	\$96,105.41	\$11,542.89	\$2,887.95	\$0	\$710.58	\$8,335.48	\$119,582.31
October	\$64,032.30	\$9,379.89	\$5,899.14	\$0	\$1,870.02	\$14,055.61	\$95,236.96
November	\$55,560.57	\$6,035.80	\$454.39	\$0	\$3,596.35	\$10,158.43	\$75,805.54
December	\$56,894.51	\$6,500.45	\$1,564.43	\$0	\$8,650.00	\$4,523.56	\$78,132.95
TOTALS	864,840.02	\$120,846.29	\$30,389.19	\$0	\$59,915.33	\$140,277.73	\$1,216,268.56
Total Expenditures for Water and Related Costs in 2011				Pueblo Board of Water Works			\$0
				Bureau of Reclamation			\$23,980.00
				USGS Water Gages			\$15,420.00
Grand Total							\$1,255,668.56

*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 10/11 allowed eight, 40 hour per week temporary rangers at the start of the 2011 summer season. The river section had four, 40 hour per week temporary rangers assigned to it. The land section had four, 40 hour per week temporary rangers. In addition to these eight TWP rangers there were two TWP Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Rangers, one more than the 2010 season. These positions were funded by an OHV grant and were supervised by the Land Ranger Supervisor. The OHV rangers worked with two OHV rangers assigned to the U.S. Forest Service funded by the same grant.

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.

Four 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, mitigate 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.

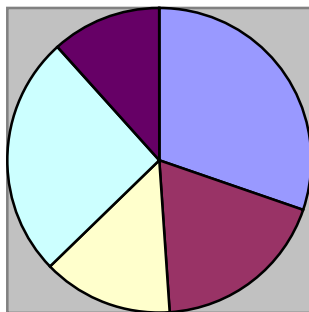
The OHV rangers are part of a four-person multi-agency trail crew working in the Upper Arkansas River Valley. The trail crew members represent Colorado State Parks and the U.S. Forest Service. Funding for this collaborative effort comes from an OHV grant funded by OHV registrations. The trail crew maintains 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. Full time rangers also conduct snowmobile patrols as well as 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	92
River Outfitter Office Records Inspections	18
River Assists	126
Search, Rescue and Recovery Operations	10
River Hazard Removal Operations	8



■ Collision w/ Fixed Object
■ Capsized
■ Falls In Boat
■ Falls Overboard
■ Other
■ Collision w/ Other Vessel

2011 BOAT ACCIDENTS BY CAUSE	
CAUSE	TOTAL
Collision w/ Fixed Object	13
Capsized	8
Falls In Boat	6
Falls Overboard	11
Other	5
Collision w/ Other Vessel	0
TOTAL ACCIDENTS	43

*There was one private river fatalities that occurred within the AHRA in 2011.

*There were two commercial river fatalities within the AHRA in 2011.

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

2011 Investigated and Reported Incidents

Reportable Commercial Boat Accidents	38
Private Boat Accidents	2
Other Commercial Accidents	5
Other Non-Commercial Accidents	2
OHV Accidents	1
Interagency Assists / SAR	9
Vandalism / Theft	7
Hazard Removal / HAZMAT	8
Other	2
Totals	74

2011 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 3 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 63 commercial contractors in 2011. Permitted contractors provided various combinations of activities such as whitewater rafting, float fishing, walk and wade fishing, shuttle services, rock climbing, hiking, Mt. biking and photo/video imaging to over 210,147 clients in 2011. In 2011, commercial use at AHRA DECREASED by 1.30% as compared to 2010. Gross revenue received from commercial operations within the AHRA in 2011 was 2.04% BELOW revenue received in 2010. 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 2011, 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 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>2011</u>
Boating.....	55	54
Imaging.....	27	26
Walk and Wade Fishing.....	15	15
Shuttle Services.....	3	3
Rock Climbing, Hiking & Mt. Biking.....	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	102	95

Rationed Days By Section

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Section 1c – The Numbers.....	6	6
Section 2b – Browns Canyon.....	9	9
Section 2d – Big Bend to Salida.....	7	7
Section 3 – Salida to Vallie Bridge.....	48	48
Section 4b – Texas Creek to Parkdale.....	2	2
Section 5 – The Royal Gorge.....	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>
Total	85	85

AHRA Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management recreation staff continues to see some changes over what was reported in the 2010 report. BLM recreation staff members in 2011 were the River Manager, a seasonal park ranger, a seasonal Student Career Employment Program (SCEP) interpreter and a winter seasonal administrative position (October 2011 – March 2012).

The BLM River Manager (John P. Nahomenuk) works side by side with the Colorado State Park Manager (now Colorado Parks and Wildlife) 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 Resources Supervisor located at the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office in Canon City, CO. Keith E. Berger is the Royal Gorge Field Office Manager.

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.

Elisa Martin (SCEP) was responsible for BLM's "Hangin Out Outdoors" program. This program was for youth's between the ages of 14 and 21 and consisted of programs that would engage youth's in outdoor activities such as: Rock climbing, rafting, horseback riding, etc.. the program was a huge success with over 100 youths participating.

Heather Wright continued to work as the seasonal BLM Recreation Technician and Parks and Wildlife Administrative Program Technician during the 2011 season. Her year-round support to the Administrative section and AHRA provides much needed consistency to our very busy office.

BLM released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Christo and Jeanne-Claude Over the River (OTR) art project in late 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 2015 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 2011, one of these major improvements was an extensive re-construction of Hecla Junction, which included re-vegetation of disturbed areas including hydro-mulching, construction of a split rail fence, and six new interpretive signs. All facility changing rooms received a wood preserving treatment. All of our traffic counters were upgraded with new battery boxes that will prevent moisture causing corrosion. Designed and installed new locking security devices on our solar system boxes to prevent thefts. Downriver vault toilet doors were professionally refinished and painted by contractor. Pinnacle Rock vault toilet/changing facility had roof replaced by contractor. Designed and had Department of Corrections Metal Shop construct Park Regulation brochure boxes for each recreation site. Implemented safety inspection recommendations by adding bollards around natural gas meter and enclosure cages around overhead chain driven door closers. AHRA continues to work with CDOT on new highway signs for AHRA sites, as well as implementing new signage and replacing sign logos to represent the merger of Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

AHRA's maintenance staff and Department of Corrections Labor Crews contributed over 550 hours towards noxious vegetation control on lands under AHRA jurisdiction. The maintenance section extensively utilized Department of Corrections Sign Shop and Labor Crews, volunteer groups, community service workers, and Youth Corps to assist AHRA in achieving many of its maintenance goals in 2011.

Project Maintenance

- Big Bend Track maintenance
- Worked with contractor for Big Bend sidewalk
- Worked with Langston and engineers on the Hecla Drainage Project
- Worked on drainage project at Hecla CG
- Attended PRT training in Denver
- Mobilized road grader from Mueller
- Repaired road grader from Mueller
- Set Welcome sign at Spikebuck and installed traffic counter loop
- Built rock steps and retainer wall at Rincon with LCI
- Worked on estimates for water usage permit
- Worked on Big Bend Track and source pit
- Worked with LCI on the install of new boat ramp at Big Bend
- Worked with Kaess on filling sediment trap at Hecla
- Prepared for Hydro Mulching at Hecla and Stone Bridge
- Installed split rail fence at Hecla
- Mobilized Mueller's grader to 11-Mile
- Built eddy at Texas Ck.
- Installed erosion matting at Hecla
- Finished buck n rail at Big Bend and Vallie Bridge
- Worked with engineers to improve the sediment trap at Hecla
- Worked with Shaun Gordon and met with R&R Construction for in stream improvements, sediment basin adjustments and armoring ramp at Hecla
- Met with Mike Tezak Construction for improvements to Lone Pine
- Looked at moving and improving the amphitheater at Ruby Mt.
- Worked on weed management throughout the entire park

- Dealt with hydraulic fluid spill at Vallie Bridge caused by Fremont County Road and Bridge Department
- Worked on landscaping at Hecla beach area and near the restroom
- Built a retainer wall for access to the sediment basin at Hecla
- Installed retainer walls on the upstream side of Hecla ramp
- Planned and marked route for new trail at Five Points CG with PM V
- Worked with CYCA on preplanning and for new trail at Five Points
- Landscaped and built a rock wall around the bus parking area at Hecla
- Worked with contractor on paving V.C. parking
- Prepared for and helped teach Avalanche Course
- Serviced all small engines
- Worked on the inventory, repair and maintenance of AHRA trailers
- V.C. drainage work on maintenance parking area
- Rock work at Big Bend
- Assisted with rescue operations
- Cleaned the visitor center and sites
- Scheduled maintenance of fleet vehicles
- Routine maintenance on heavy equipment
- Plowed and shoveled snow at the VC and sites
- Road and parking maintenance

AHRA State Park Management

Park Manager, Rob White, and Assistant Park Manager, Tom Waters, 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 Colorado Parks and Wildlife offices in Denver and Littleton. They also work closely with the Bureau of Land Management 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 152-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.

2011 Annual Report Accomplishments

- ❖ Hosted the 20th Annual Arkansas River Clean-up/Green-up
- ❖ Hosted the 22nd Annual Contractors Workshop
- ❖ Hosted "Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day" event in conjunction with IMBA
- ❖ Gave out 17 pfd's to youths as part of the Lifejacket Giveaway Program

- ❖ 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
- ❖ Completed improvements to Visitor Center parking area and drainage
- ❖ Assisted Colorado State Patrol with USAPCC bike race
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Hosted 3-Day Swiftwater Rescue training course for AHRA staff, Salida Fire Department and other federal and state agencies
- ❖ Hosted 2-day Avalanche Field Rescue training
- ❖ Worked closely with FIBArk race coordinators to increase and assist with safety during river race events
- ❖ Through AHRA’s FIBArk Sponsorship, AHRA 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 3,400 miles of trail, made 2,182 contacts and worked on trail projects throughout the Upper Arkansas River Valley
- ❖ The OHV crew assisted with a special trail clearing saw project at Cheyenne Mountain State Park
- ❖ AHRA’s maintenance staff and Department of Corrections Labor Crews contributed over 550 hours towards noxious vegetation control on lands under AHRA jurisdiction.
- ❖ Worked on a plan for parking and boater access at Railroad Station in Canon City
- ❖ Rob White, John Nahomenuk, John Kreski and Andrew Maddox attended the 2011 Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA) Conference
- ❖ Attended meetings regarding the proposed Over The River project by Christo
- ❖ Conducted a Browns Canyon monitoring trip with BLM
- ❖ Completed construction for the Hecla Junction Drainage Project
- ❖ Hosted River Ranger Rendezvous for the South West Chapter of the RMS
- ❖ Photograph and monitor Hecla Junction construction
- ❖ Trail Building workshop USFS
- ❖ Over the River project for Southeast Region office
- ❖ Responded to and removed a raft stuck in Salida low-head dam
- ❖ Almost 2 dozen youth PFD’s given out through PFD give-a-way program
- ❖ Finished VOC project application for Ruby Mountain amphitheater
- ❖ Found methamphetamine making ingredients at an abandoned camp
- ❖ Organized a Cub Scout service project at Hecla Junction
- ❖ Recovered and returned stuck kayak below Spikebuck
- ❖ Attended Chaffee County Search and Rescue dedication ceremony for Vern Kelso

This concludes the 2011 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 BLM 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/.