

2012

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA ANNUAL REPORT



*Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Forest Service
4/24/2013*

Welcome to the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area's Annual Report for 2012. This annual report covers the activities of the AHRA from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.

Commercial visitation, revenue and private boat numbers were down approximately 18% for AHRA in 2012 as compared to 2011. Fires and a poor snowpack (low water) were two of the most important factors that contributed to this 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 the AHRA management plan revision process starting in 2013, 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 2012 AHRA employed 26 temporary staff members. For 2012, 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 2012 there were no Colorado Parks and Wildlife full-time staff changes.

2012 Special Activities

| Event Name | Event Type | Event Location |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Denver Museum of Nature & Science | Colorado Spider Survey | Park Wide |
| Central Colorado Bike Trials | Trials Comp | Across from Lower Play Hole BV |
| Paddle Fest | Freestyle Kayak | BV River Park |
| Paddle Fest | Kayak/Raft Rodeo | BV River Park |
| Royal Gorge WW Festival | Race/Raft Rodeo/Etc. | Canon City/Royal Gorge |
| Colorado WW Association | Kayak Instruction | Arkansas River |
| Chaffee/Lake ARES | Search and Rescue | Stone Bridge |
| GARNA | Lecture and Hike | Ruby Mountain |
| Central Colorado Bike Trials | Bike Trials | MM 195 |
| FibArk | Slalom Feestyle/Down River | Salida WW Park |
| CKS | SUP Comp | Salida WW Park/Salida East |
| TransRockies | Running | RailRoad Bridge |
| Tracy Scott Schott Productions | Filming | Parkdale |
| Central Colorado Bike Trials | Bike Trials | MM 195 |
| Merrell Footwear | Filming | BV WW Park |

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

| ACTIVITY* | | 2012 PEOPLE | 2011 PEOPLE | '11 TO '12 % CHANGE |
|--|------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|
| SIGHTSEEING | | 218,515 | 263,907 | -17.2% |
| FISHING | | | | |
| | Shore | 64,814 | 69,316 | -6.5% |
| | Boat | 5,857 | 8,109 | -4.7% |
| PICNICKING | | 35,107 | 41,613 | -15.6% |
| BOATING | | | | |
| ** | Commercial | 213,982 | 250,335 | -17.25% |
| | Private | 18,075 | 21,967 | -9.5% |
| OTHER (Minerals, Visitor Center, Hunting and Swimming) | | 38,183 | 35,142 | +24% |
| TRAIL | | 19,446 | 25,520 | -23.8% |
| INTERPRETIVE/EVENTS | | 13,903 | 14,447 | -3.75% |
| CAMPING | | 37,206 | 38,265 | -2.75% |
| ACTIVITIES TOTAL | | 665,088 | 768,621 | -13.3% |

*May include participants in multiple activities

**Actual visitor number, includes guides, trainees and clients

AHRA Administrative Section

The Administrative section for 2012 was staffed by one full-time Parks and Wildlife Program Assistant I, Rose Bayless. AHRA's Customer Service Representative, Heather Wright, left in March to work for the City of Salida after working at AHRA for 13 years for both CPW and BLM. She was replaced by temporary employee Mari Griffin and a second summer temporary assistant Ingrid DeChatelets. The Administrative section also had one temporary summer GOCO Naturalist/Volunteer Coordinator, Claire Davis.

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, 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 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 "TOT's on Tuesdays" youth activities; campground and environmental education programs; administers the AHRA Volunteer Program; and organizes a variety of meetings and events 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 2012)

| 2012 | Activity | Compared to 2011 |
|--------------|--|------------------|
| 243 | Annual Passes Sold | -33% |
| \$18,000.00 | Revenue from Annual Passes Sold | -27% |
| 135 | Aspen Leaf Passes Sold | -67.75% |
| \$9,220.00 | Revenue from Aspen Leaf Passes Sold* | -66% |
| \$82,891.99 | Revenue from Daily Individual and Vehicle Passes | -18% |
| \$86,913.75 | Revenue from Camp Permits** | -3.7% |
| 1,223 | Boat, Snowmobile and OHV Registrations Sold | -18% |
| \$48,733.00 | Revenue from Registration Sales | +4.5% |
| \$19,293.66 | Misc. Revenues (Citations, Special Activities, Licenses) | +77.8% |
| \$625,380.97 | Revenue from Commercial Agreements*** | -18% |

* Introduction of Lifetime Aspen Leaf Pass November 2010 – Issued many "Lifetime Aspen Free" in 2012

** 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 2012

| # Of People | Type of Activity | Compared to 2011 |
|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 28,572 | Visitor Center | 4.75% |
| 1,364 | Personal Interpretation | 17.15% |
| 10,404 | Non-Personal Interpretation | -10.7% |
| 2,135 | Environmental Education | 22% |

Volunteer Hours for 2012

| # of Hours | Type of Activity | Compared to 2011 |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| *5639 hrs | Volunteers (groups or individuals) | 69.25% |
| 433 hrs | AHRA Advisory Groups (CTF, RAAC) | 7.85% |
| 6072 hrs | Total Volunteer Hours in 2012 | 62.65% |

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

AHRA's **Volunteer Program** hours increased by over 62% in 2012! This was due to expanding existing volunteer projects and creating new opportunities.

A variety of **Interpretive and Environmental Education** programs, hikes and events were presented to the public throughout 2012. 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 8, with 26 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 continued the "Hanging Out – Outdoors" program for youth ages 12-17, which was funded in 2010 and 2011 by a grant from the Bureau of Land Management and by AHRA GOCO funding in 2012. Recreation activities in 2012 included Archery, Horseback Riding, Hiking, Fishing, Rappelling and Rafting. "TOT's on Tuesdays" was offered for the first time in 2012 for children age 2-4 years, and parents were very excited to give their little ones this wonderful chance to begin exploring their natural surroundings.

AHRA continued to be very active in 2012 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 CPW 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 projects, events and programs, and serve as campground hosts. Volunteer Naturalist, Bob Hickey, AHRA sponsored visitor information volunteers at the Heart of the Rockies Visitor Center in Poncha Springs during the summer of 2012, their first full season in the brand new visitor center at the junction of Highways 285 and 50.

AHRA also participated in many community events including Paddlefest and Gold Rush Days in Buena Vista; Earth Day, the River Guide Workshop and FIBArk held in Salida; and the Canon City River Festival. AHRA, GARNA, and the FIBArk "Cruiser Crit" parade partnered together for the 21st Annual National River CleanUp/GreenUp on May 19th.

AHRA YEAR 2012 REVENUES

| Year 2012 By Month | Park Passes | Camping Permits/ Reservations | Registrations | Special Use Agreements | Penalties, License Sales, Special Activities, COSAR, etc. | TOTALS |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| January | \$1479.00 | \$160.00 | \$957.50 | \$984.00 | \$60.50 | \$3,641.00 |
| February | \$879.75 | \$0 | \$638.00 | \$0 | \$7,893.41 | \$9,411.16 |
| March | \$5456.06 | \$585.50 | \$4835.25 | \$21,813.62 | \$369.50 | \$33,059.93 |
| April | \$10,687.72 | \$4837.08 | \$7013.75 | \$11,029.32 | \$1122.00 | \$34,689.87 |
| May | \$17,930.38 | \$13,369.00 | \$6888.00 | \$69,322.35 | \$926.00 | \$108,435.73 |
| June | \$23,365.24 | \$18,588.98 | \$8033.50 | \$268,299.28 | \$2140.50 | \$320,427.50 |
| July | \$19,334.00 | \$22,807.28 | \$6386.75 | \$0 | \$1650.50 | \$50,178.53 |
| August | \$15,657.94 | \$15,150.06 | \$5203.50 | \$0 | \$2189.75 | \$38,201.25 |
| September | \$9202.44 | \$8737.10 | \$4102.75 | \$7246.48 | \$905.00 | \$30,193.77 |
| October | \$4312.82 | \$2075.75 | \$1610.00 | \$39,192.89 | \$1836.25 | \$49,027.71 |
| November | \$1198.30 | \$436.00 | \$885.00 | \$195,080.21 | \$85.00 | \$197,684.51 |
| December | \$608.34 | \$167.00 | \$2180.00 | \$4541.16 | \$115.25 | \$7611.75 |
| 2012 TOTALS | \$110,111.99 | \$86,913.75 | \$4,8734.00 | \$617,509.31 | \$19,293.66 | \$882,562.71 |
| 2011 TOTALS | \$149,906.65 | \$90,233.06 | \$46,619.75 | \$762,201.41 | \$11,939.32 | \$1,060,100.19 |

*AHRA revenues saw an overall 16.75% decrease in 2012 as compared to 2011

AHRA YEAR 2012 EXPENDITURES – CPW ONLY

| Year 2012 By Month | Full Time and Seasonal Personnel | Operating | Utilities | Capital Equipment | Controlled Maintenance | GOCO, Grants & Misc. Accounts | TOTALS |
|--|---|--------------|-------------|---|---------------------------|--|----------------|
| January | \$56,634.11 | \$6,546.53 | \$638.53 | - | \$90.74 | \$2,661.29 | \$66,571.20 |
| February | \$56,892.25 | \$6,674.23 | \$542.44 | - | \$1,725.24 | \$2,536.26 | \$68,370.42 |
| March | \$58,389.92 | \$6,491.03 | \$766.06 | - | \$89.97 | \$367.23 | \$66,104.21 |
| April | \$65,011.81 | \$11,442.11 | \$1,164.17 | - | \$55,803.00 | \$1,538.34 | \$134,959.43 |
| May | \$94,684.60 | \$21,923.26 | \$1,550.58 | - | \$12,451.82 | \$15,472.14 | \$146,082.4 |
| June | \$93,793.87 | \$33,460.62 | \$3,556.31 | - | \$45,079.36 | \$14,630.45 | \$190,520.61 |
| July | \$98,192.83 | \$18,193.05 | \$1,425.02 | - | \$10,313.71 | \$8,264.93 | \$136,389.54 |
| August | \$92,324.17 | \$19,137.40 | \$1,202.96 | - | \$18,147.35 | \$8,074.83 | \$138,886.71 |
| September | \$80,795.72 | \$16,227.35 | \$6,781.56 | - | \$148,643.47 | \$6,378.33 | \$258,826.43 |
| October | \$63,069.52 | \$10,510.24 | \$1,288.72 | - | \$2,225.89 | \$7,948.49 | \$85,042.86 |
| November | \$58,396.97 | \$8,159.02 | \$2,302.08 | - | - | \$1,545.72 | \$70,403.79 |
| December | \$59,414.67 | \$8,478.51 | \$3,238.88 | | \$31,356.41 | \$3,894.47 | \$106,382.94 |
| TOTALS | \$877,600.44 | \$167,243.35 | \$24,457.31 | | \$325,926.96 | \$73,312.48 | \$1,468,540.54 |
| Total Expenditures for Water and Related Costs in 2012 | | | | Southeast Colorado Water Cons. District | | | \$ 4,837.63 |
| | | | | Bureau of Reclamation | | | \$26,980.00 |
| | | | | Ordway | | | \$25,000.00 |
| | | | | Salida | | | \$ 2,000.00 |
| | | | | USGS Water Gages | | | \$15,420.00 |
| Grand Total | | | | | | | \$1,544,778.17 |

*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 eight, 40 hour per week temporary rangers at the start of the 2012 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. 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.

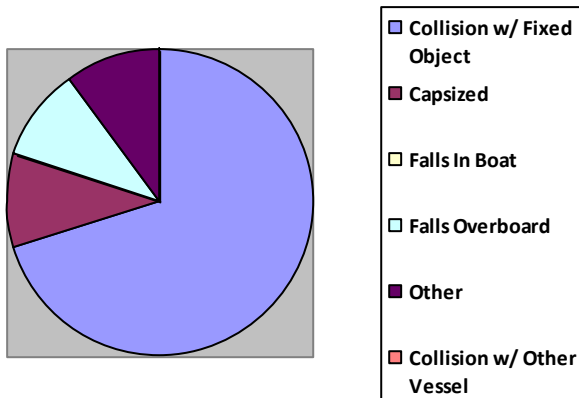
The OHV rangers are part of a four-person multi-agency trail crew working in the Upper Arkansas River Valley. The trail crew members represent Colorado State Parks and the U.S. Forest Service. Funding for this collaborative effort comes from an OHV grant funded by OHV registrations. The trail crew maintains 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 in Chaffee, Lake, Gunnison and Saguache counties 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 upcoming high use season.

Summary of Public Safety Field Actions

| | |
|--|-----|
| River Outfitter Safety Inspections | 70 |
| River Outfitter Office Records Inspections | 7 |
| River Assists | 183 |
| Search, Rescue and Recovery Operations | 6 |
| River Hazard Removal Operations - River | 13 |



| 2012 BOAT ACCIDENTS BY CAUSE | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| CAUSE | TOTAL |
| Collision w/ Fixed Object | 7 |
| Capsized | 1 |
| Falls In Boat | 0 |
| Falls Overboard | 1 |
| Other | 1 |
| Collision w/ Other Vessel | 0 |
| TOTAL ACCIDENTS | 10 |

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

2012 Investigated and Reported Incidents

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Reportable Commercial Boat Accidents | 10 |
| Private Boat Accidents | 0 |
| Other Commercial Accidents | 6 |
| Other Non-Commercial Accidents | 3 |
| OHV Accidents | 1 |
| Interagency Assists / SAR | 9 |
| Vandalism / Theft | 7 |
| Hazard Removal / HAZMAT - Land | 8 |
| Other | 2 |
| Totals | 46 |

2012 Citations Issued

| Year | 2012 |
|--|------------|
| Pass/Permit Violations | 321 |
| Resource Protection Violations | 6 |
| Public Safety Violations | 10 |
| Records/Reporting Violations | 1 |
| OHV Violations | 4 |
| *Total | 342 |
| *Above total includes 2 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 62 commercial contractors in 2012. Permitted contractors provided various combinations of activities such as whitewater rafting, float fishing, walk & wade fishing, shuttle services, rock climbing, hiking, Mt. biking and photo/video imaging to over 171,787 clients in 2012. In 2012, commercial use at AHRA DECREASED by 17.25% as compared to 2011. Gross revenue received from commercial operations within the AHRA in 2012 was 18% BELOW revenue received in 2011. 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 2012, 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>2011</u> | <u>2012</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Boating..... | 54 | 53 |
| Imaging | 26 | 25 |
| Walk and Wade Fishing..... | 15 | 15 |
| Shuttle Services..... | 3 | 3 |
| Rock Climbing, Hiking & Mt. Biking..... | 4 | 6 |
| Total | 102 | 102 |

Rationed Days By Section

| | <u>2011</u> | <u>2012</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Section 1c – The Numbers..... | 6 | 9 |
| Section 2b – Browns Canyon..... | 9 | 9 |
| Section 2d – Big Bend to Salida | 7 | 9 |
| Section 3 – Salida to Vallie Bridge..... | 48 | 47 |
| Section 4b – Texas Creek to Parkdale | 2 | 4 |
| Section 5 – The Royal Gorge..... | 13 | 14 |
| Total | 85 | 92 |

AHRA Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management recreation staff continues to see some changes over what was reported in the 2011 report. BLM recreation staff members in 2012 were the River Manager, a seasonal park ranger who's focus was on Travel Management inventory, and a seasonal administrative position (October 2012 – June 2013).

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, Assistance Field Manager for Renewable Resources (Melissa Garcia) located at the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office in Canon City, CO. Keith E. Berger is the Royal Gorge Field Office Manager and Tom Heinlein is the new District Manager who oversees the Royal Gorge and San Luis Valley Field offices.

Janine Prout (seasonal Park Ranger) was our main public contact representative in 2012 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 also played a critical role in continuing to implement the Arkansas River Travel Management Plan and in 2012 she was also responsible for inventorying roads and trails to begin another Travel Management Plan mainly north of Cotopaxi and the South Park area. Janine receives assistance from the recreation staff out of Canon City.

Mari Griffin is our new Administrative Assistant, replacing Heather Wright, who took a full time position with the City of Salida. Mari is funded 6 months through BLM and 6 months through Parks and Wildlife. Her year-round support to the Administrative section and AHRA provides much needed consistency to our very busy office.

The Over the River project continues to be on hold pending the outcome of a review by the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). It was speculated that IBLA would issue a decision by the end of the 2012 calendar year, but as of this writing IBLA has still not issued any type of decision. There are also 2 lawsuits pending that would need to be resolved depending on IBLA's ruling.

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. To assist AHRA in achieving many of its maintenance goals in 2012 the maintenance section extensively utilized Department of Corrections Sign Shop and Labor Crews, volunteer groups, community service workers. The

Department of Corrections Labor Crews contributed 482 hours towards noxious vegetation control on lands under AHRA jurisdiction. In addition the maintenance staff provided 720 hours of weed control efforts. During 2012 the maintenance department accomplished the following:

- Created quarterly maintenance work plan for 2012.
- Organized defensive driving training for southeast regional staff.
- Attended training for interviewing and resume writing.
- Attended AWWA training to maintain class D water certification.
- Attended PRT training in Denver.
- Photo documented old CDOT signs upriver for replacement.
- Photo documented new AHRA downriver CDOT signs.
- Small water system training.
- Completed online solar system class.
- Attended Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management Area meeting in Canon City.
- Attended 4th Annual Arkansas River Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership (ARKWIPP) Conference in Avondale.
- Attended Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management meeting/training (CEU's for Qualified Supervisor) at Canon City.
- Re-vegetation at Lone Pine, Rincon, Newsome property, and Hecla.
- Wood staining three panel sign frames, "Welcome To" sign frames, kiosk, and changing rooms.
- Gmail training.
- Pay tubes re-painted.
- Installed track map signs at Big Bend OHV.
- Replaced seven sections of "Attention Boater" signs with updated maps and text.
- Added new "FEE" sign text change for Aspen Leaf passes.
- Replaced CPW & BLM decals on "Entering/Leaving Public Lands" signs.
- Installed Public Mining Area Entering/Leaving signs and rebuilt sign frame/lexan cover for gold panning information at Point Barr.
- Installed new CPW and BLM logos at Crystal Lakes.
- Per request of commercial boat companies moved all signs at Salt lick to increase size of parking lot.
- Used DOC inmate crews for fall grounds maintenance – 482 hours.
- Brick repairs for vault toilet/changing room partitions completed by Dave Gibbons.
- Refurbish web coat picnic tables.

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.

2012 Annual Report Accomplishments

- ❖ Hosted the 21th Annual Arkansas River Clean-up/Green-up
- ❖ Reviewed film locations for Regis University film student request
- ❖ Obtained visitor count numbers for Ruby, Fisherman's Bridge, and Hecla
- ❖ Completed statewide DTR radio interoperability training
- ❖ Organized defensive driving training for southeast regional staff for March
- ❖ Photo documented new AHRA downriver CDOT signs
- ❖ Snow removal at the VC and sites
- ❖ Installed new Storm Drains at the VC
- ❖ Cut and removed hazard trees at Trading Post
- ❖ Prepared and planned for work at Texas Ck. Boat Ramp
- ❖ Completed section operational report for 2012 and compiled AHRA staff worksheets
- ❖ Compiled park pass/camp permit sales numbers for BLM
- ❖ Registered National Public Lands Day event in coordination with BLM/Nomi
- ❖ Maintain and rebuild the rock work and eddy at Texas Ck. Boat Ramp
- ❖ Worked on roads and parking at Stone Bridge, Fisherman's and Pinnacle
- ❖ Issued the 2012 Rationing Report FINAL
- ❖ Worked with Kirk Teklits on building ahraoutfitters.org
- ❖ Processed outfitter applications and payments
- ❖ Rebuilt access road to Lone Pine CG
- ❖ Backfilled retainer wall at Hecla ramp
- ❖ Met with LCI for Lone Pine improvements
- ❖ Earth Day event at Scout Hut in Salida
- ❖ Attended Teaching Outside the Box CAEE Interp. Training
- ❖ Scheduled maintenance of fleet vehicles
- ❖ Routine maintenance on heavy equipment
- ❖ Solar system installation and start up down river
- ❖ Visitor Center sprinkler systems start up
- ❖ May 29-30 GOCO Interpretive Training at Sylvan
- ❖ Assisted with Ruby Mountain Amphitheater VOC project
- ❖ Updated Bus Driver's Guide
- ❖ Leave No Trace open house and training
- ❖ Safety and Welcome sign project
- ❖ Irrigate newly seeded areas of the park
- ❖ Apply new CPW decals to vehicles
- ❖ Herbicide application and weed identification training
- ❖ Mari and Ingrid did FAM tours with AHRA staff
- ❖ Set up and manned FIBArk Booth with GARNA
- ❖ Provided safety for FIBARK downriver race

- ❖ Moved and hauled materials for the contractor at the Amphitheater
- ❖ Worked with SWYCC at Hecla
- ❖ Graded roads at Hecla and Stone Bridge
- ❖ White stripes re-painted at Five Points day use parking lot
- ❖ Assisted Chaffee S&R at Clear Creek Reservoir
- ❖ Completed and submitted several news releases on rafting and interp programs
- ❖ Ran ads for AHRA youth and public programs on KWAZ/KSBV radio
- ❖ Posted and updated fire restriction information as things continually changed
- ❖ Weed management
- ❖ Continuing to work on New Database Design Specifications
- ❖ Trouble shooting problems with solar systems
- ❖ Installed Carsonite Boundary Signs
- ❖ Volunteer National Public Lands Day Project, Ruby Mt Trail
- ❖ OHV Color Tour “Booth” in Buena Vista
- ❖ Maintained track and parking area at Big Bend
- ❖ Refurbish web coat picnic tables
- ❖ Fall shut down of portions of the park facilities
- ❖ Reviewed AHRA map for needed updates and changes
- ❖ Submitted AHRA advertising for Winter Fun and Fishing Guides
- ❖ Maintained track and parking area at Big Bend
- ❖ Built rock walkway for the Amphitheater
- ❖ Contacted Lori Morgan to send AHRA brochures to out of state CPW trade shows

This concludes the 2012 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/.