

2013

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA ANNUAL REPORT



Royal Gorge Fire: June 2013



Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Forest Service
4/15/2014

Welcome to the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area’s Annual Report for 2013. This annual report covers the activities of the AHRA from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

Despite the fact that the Royal Gorge fire resulted in the closure of the Royal Gorge section of the Arkansas River for over a two week period of time, commercial boat numbers increased 4.7% and private boat numbers increased by 7.75% in 2013 as compared to 2012. The fact that over 14,610 acre feet of water was released in an attempt to maintain flows during the July 1 – August 15 time period is an important factor that contributed to this success, despite the fact that 2013 was not a banner water year by any stretch of the imagination.

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 2013 AHRA employed 25 temporary staff members and a volunteer internship. For 2013, the following full-time staff members supervised the work sections noted below:

AHRA Sections and Supervisors

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Maintenance: | John Fell and Ken Lindbloom (CPW) |
| Rangers: | Stew Pappenfort, Glenn Cottone, Andrew Maddox (CPW) |
| Administration: | Rose Bayless (CPW) |
| Commercial Agreements: | John Kreski (CPW) |
| Management: | Rob White, Tom Waters (CPW) and John Nahomenuk (BLM) |

In 2013 there were no Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) full-time staff changes.

2013 Special Activities

| Applicant Group Name | Event Type | Location |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Salida 3P | Pole Pedal Paddle | Big Bend |
| Colorado Whitewater Assoc. | Kayak Instruction | Various AHRA Sites |
| Paddlefest | Multiple Events | Buena Vista River Park |
| Devon Brecke | Wedding | Ruby Mountain Amphitheater |
| Gravity Play Sports | Adventure Race | Fisherman's Bridge |
| Royal Gorge WW Fest | WW Festival | Royal Gorge |
| Timberline Events LLC | Race | Railroad Bridge |
| Fremont County SAR | Swiftwater Rescue Training | Centennial Park, Cañon City |
| Denver Post Ride The Rockies | Bicycle tour | 5 Point Campground |
| Central Colorado Bike | Bike Trials Competition | Hwy 24, MM 195-196 |
| TransRockies Run | Trail Running Race | Railroad Bridge |
| FIBArk Boat Races Inc. | Whitewater Festival | Ark. River Pine Creek to Cotopaxi |
| Chaffee SAR North | Swiftwater Rescue Training | Rapid #4 |
| KMGH-TV | Honda TV Commercial | Hecla Junction |
| Colorado Springs Fire | S&R Train | Various |
| Salida SUP Sessions | SUP | Town and Salida East |
| Extreme Weight Loss 4 | Filming | Royal Gorge |

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

| ACTIVITY* | | 2013 PEOPLE | 2012 PEOPLE | '12 TO '13 % CHANGE |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|
| SIGHTSEEING | | 248,575 | 218,515 | +13% |
| FISHING | Shore | 68,060 | 64,814 | +4.75% |
| | Boat | 5,090 | 5,857 | -15% |
| PICNICKING | | 37,093 | 35,107 | +5.35% |
| BOATING ** | Commercial | 224,600 | 213,982 | +5% |
| | Private | 19,588 | 18,075 | +7.75% |
| OTHER (Minerals, Visitor Center, Hunting and Swimming) | | 42,445 | 38,183 | +17.2% |
| TRAIL | | 20,094 | 19,446 | +3.25% |
| INTERPRETIVE/EVENTS | | 15,577 | 13,903 | +10.75% |
| CAMPING | | 36,669 | 37,206 | -1.5% |
| ACTIVITIES TOTAL | | 717,791 | 665,088 | +7.34% |

*May include participants in multiple activities

**Actual number, includes guides, trainees and clients

AHRA Administrative Section

The Administrative section for 2013 was staffed by one full-time Colorado Parks and Wildlife Program Assistant I, Rose Bayless; two temporary Customer Service Representatives, Mari Griffin and Jamie Tackel; and temporary summer GOCO Naturalist/Volunteer Coordinator, Melissa Arentsen.

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 the upper Arkansas River valley and recreational activities including camping, boating, fishing, gold panning, hiking, biking, etc. They handle sales and recordkeeping for all AHRA revenues from commercial Special Use Agreements, notices of violation, special activity/event agreements, Park passes, camping permits, 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). AHRA administrative staff also sells BLM fuel wood permits, Christmas tree cutting permits, and placer area notifications.

Program Assistant Rose Bayless serves as secretary for the AHRA Citizen Task Force (CTF), and manages communications with the CTF concerning meetings, speakers, reports and other relative information.

The Administrative Section is responsible for reporting and reconciling all revenues received by AHRA from many different sources, as well as maintaining records and reports for budgets and expenditures from a number of funds, including grants. Administrative personnel function as the AHRA base radio dispatchers to field staff, provide administrative support to AHRA and BLM employees, and maintain current CPW website information for AHRA. The Administrative section also coordinates AHRA special events, such as Earth Day and the Annual Arkansas River Cleanup/Greenup; "Junior Rangers", "TOT's on Tuesdays" and other 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 training seasonal employees and interns; maintaining AHRA budget, visitation and revenue information and creating related reports; and providing human resources assistance for AHRA staff.

Administrative Services, Sales and Revenue Statistics (January through December 2013)

| 2013 | Activity | Compared to 2012 |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 369 | Annual and Multiple Passes Sold | +35% |
| \$20,725 | Revenue from Annual Passes Sold | +15% |
| 198 | Aspen Leaf, Lifetime and Multiple Passes Sold | +12% |
| \$10,950 | Revenue from Aspen Leaf Passes Sold* | +16% |
| \$95,112.96 | Revenue from Daily Individual and Vehicle Passes | +14% |
| \$88,807.06 | Revenue from Camp Permits and Reservations | +2.5% |
| 1658 | Boat, Snowmobile and OHV Registrations and Permits Sold | -6% |
| \$44,756.00 | Revenue from Registration Sales | -9% |
| \$15,527.99 | Misc. Revenues (Citations, Special Activities, Wildlife Licenses) | +37% |
| \$708,151.24 | Revenue from Commercial Agreements*** | +11% |

* Introduction of Lifetime Aspen Leaf Pass November 2010 – Issued many "Lifetime Aspen Free" in 2013

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

Administrative Section Visitor Contacts for 2013

| # Of People | Type of Activity | Compared to 2012 |
|-------------|------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 31,695 | Visitor Center | +10.9% |
| 1,450 | Personal Interpretation/Events | +6.3% |
| 12,730 | Non-Personal Interpretation/Media/Events | +22% |
| 2,657 | Environmental Education | +20% |

Volunteer Hours for 2013

| # of Hours | Type of Activity | Compared to 2012 |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| *5651 hrs | Volunteers (groups or individuals) | +2% |
| 538 hrs | AHRA Advisory Groups (CTF, RAAC) | +20.5% |
| 6189 hrs | Total Volunteer Hours in 2013 | +2% |

*AHRA did not have any volunteer camp hosts in 2013

AHRA's **Volunteer Program** hours were up 2% overall but we did not have volunteer campground hosts during the summer of 2013. In 2012, campground hosts contributed 770 hours, and if AHRA had these volunteer hours again in 2013, we would have seen an overall increase of 14.6%.

A variety of **Interpretive and Environmental Education** programs, hikes and events were presented to the public throughout 2013. GOCO Interpreter Melissa Arentsen 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 and Leadville to join Melissa 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 25 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, with "Bang and Twang" rifle and archery activities on July 13th with 75 participants, and a Teen Raft Trip on August 8th with 25 participants.

AHRA continued to be very active in 2013 with Project Wild, area schools, local recreation programs and other youth groups to provide environmental education that is consistent with their own curriculum. AHRA 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 staffing the Poncha Springs "Heart of the Rockies" visitor center", and many volunteers assisted with our 22nd Annual River Cleanup in May, and with special projects, events and programs. Volunteer Naturalist, Bob Hickey, was instrumental in many hikes and an automobile tour of AHRA, as well as assisting with the "Gathering of the Guides" workshop and other campground programs.

AHRA also participated in many community events including Paddlefest and Gold Rush Days in Buena Vista; Earth Day, the River Guide "Gathering of the Guides" workshop and FIBArk held in Salida; and the Canon City River Festival. AHRA, GARNA, and the FIBArk "Cruiser Crit" parade partnered together for the 22nd Annual National River CleanUp/GreenUp on May 18th.

AHRA YEAR 2013 REVENUES

| Year 2013 By Month | Park Passes | Camping Permits/ Reservations | Registrations | Special Use Agreements | Penalties, License Sales, Special Activities, COSAR, etc. | TOTALS |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| January | \$730.40 | \$48.00 | \$993.00 | \$774.54 | \$63.40 | \$2,609.44 |
| February | \$848.50 | \$32.00 | \$574.75 | \$1,376.39 | \$87.50 | \$2,919.14 |
| March | \$2,970.80 | \$194.00 | \$4,402.00 | \$28,338.56 | \$373.75 | \$36,279.11 |
| April | \$5,962.86 | \$2,290.87 | \$4,727.75 | \$13,940.33 | \$1,616.00 | \$28,537.81 |
| May | \$20,245.40 | \$14,462.83 | \$6,369.25 | \$84,210.00 | \$1,684.50 | \$126,971.98 |
| June | \$31,563.28 | \$19,756.61 | \$7,312.00 | \$188,435.39 | \$2,748.00 | \$249,815.28 |
| July | \$24,928.73 | \$22,253.99 | \$7,551.50 | \$1,200.00 | \$3,160.49 | \$59,094.71 |
| August | \$17,816.73 | \$18,357.56 | \$4,018.50 | \$1,550.00 | \$2,409.47 | \$44,152.26 |
| September | \$9,081.62 | \$8,749.20 | \$3,583.75 | \$18,636.52 | \$2,182.68 | \$42,233.77 |
| October | \$4,344.75 | \$2,274.00 | \$954.00 | \$110,282.28 | \$461.00 | \$118,316.03 |
| November | \$1,144.30 | \$288.00 | \$2,440.25 | \$257,446.73 | \$713.00 | \$262,032.28 |
| December | \$755.89 | \$100.00 | \$1,829.75 | \$1,960.50 | \$191.00 | \$4,837.14 |
| 2013 TOTALS | \$120,393.26 | \$88,807.06 | \$44,756.50 | \$708,151.24 | \$15,570.11 | \$974,579.77 |
| 2012 TOTALS | \$102,081.54 | \$86,913.75 | \$48,669.25 | \$625,380.97 | \$12,111.70 | \$875,175.21 |

*AHRA revenues saw an overall --- **10.2% increase** in 2013 as compared to 2012

AHRA YEAR 2013 EXPENDITURES – CPW ONLY

| Year 2013 By Month | Full Time and Seasonal Personnel | Operating | Utilities | Capital Equipment Projects | Controlled Maintenance | GOCO, Grants & Misc. Accounts | TOTALS |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| January | \$62,009.64 | \$6,800.83 | \$728.45 | | \$15,877.13 | \$2,083.46 | \$87,499.51 |
| February | \$59,046.44 | \$8,365.70 | \$628.91 | | \$16,719.95 | \$2,458.65 | \$87,219.65 |
| March | \$61,019.83 | \$4,818.04 | \$539.24 | | \$420.58 | \$3,760.43 | \$70,558.12 |
| April | \$66,509.60 | \$9,562.75 | \$760.01 | - | \$1,479.29 | \$2,120.71 | \$80,432.36 |
| May | \$79,815.19 | \$17,591.35 | \$521.00 | - | \$34,272.03 | \$13,896.72 | \$146,096.29 |
| June | \$95,922.62 | \$19,999.15 | \$7,110.71 | - | \$64,603.74 | \$13,618.90 | \$201,255.12 |
| July | \$91,493.79 | \$14,551.22 | \$2,092.31 | | \$9,241.73 | \$8,376.31 | \$125,755.36 |
| August | \$94,021.95 | \$20,279.43 | \$7,946.25 | | \$3,010.95 | \$16,846.64 | \$142,105.22 |
| September | \$83,772.75 | \$11,612.69 | \$1,237.21 | \$274,742.36 | \$2,875.67 | \$8,718.29 | \$382,961.97 |
| October | \$67,980.30 | \$8,225.25 | \$1,242.58 | | \$136.16 | \$6,634.24 | \$84,218.53 |
| November | \$64,334.32 | \$8,336.95 | \$2,149.64 | - | \$404.26 | \$2,399.42 | \$77,624.59 |
| December | \$62,680.45 | \$4,925.71 | \$971.18 | | \$5,457.70 | \$3,661.59 | \$77,696.63 |
| TOTALS | \$888,606.88 | \$135,069.07 | \$25,927.49 | \$274,742.36 | \$154,499.19 | \$84,575.36 | \$1,563,420.35 |
| Total Expenditures for Water and Related Costs in 2013 | | | | Southeast Colorado Water Cons. District | | | \$ 1,000.00 |
| | | | | Bureau of Reclamation | | | \$27,980.00 |
| | | | | Consulting | | | \$ 4,427.00 |
| | | | | Pueblo Board of Water Works | | | \$ 4,983.00 |
| | | | | USGS Water Gages | | | \$15,720.00 |
| Grand Total | | | | | | | \$1,617,530.35 |

*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 allowed for eight, 40 hour per week temporary rangers at the start of the 2013 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 personnel 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. Night shifts occurred on Friday, Saturday and holiday evenings and were staffed by one TWP and one full-time ranger. The shortening of TWP seasons and shifting duties to full-time staff during the shoulder seasons seems to be the preferred method of staying within the TWP budget.

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 Parks and Wildlife 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.

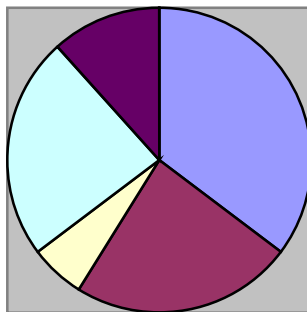
The three full-time park rangers, the state park manager, and the assistant park manager are all certified Colorado peace officers. Additionally, all AHRA temporary law enforcement rangers are limited commission, Title 33 officers who enforce only Colorado Parks and Wildlife laws and regulations. When 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 Parks and Wildlife 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 | 94 |
| River Outfitter Office Records Inspections | 22 |
| River Assists | 178 |
| Search, Rescue and Recovery Operations | 4 |
| River Hazard Removal Operations - River | 17 |



| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Collision w/ Fixed Object | 6 |
| Capsized | 4 |
| Falls In Boat | 1 |
| Falls Overboard | 4 |
| Other | 2 |
| Collision w/ Other Vessel | 0 |

| 2013 BOAT ACCIDENTS BY CAUSE | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| CAUSE | TOTAL |
| Collision w/ Fixed Object | 6 |
| Capsized | 4 |
| Falls In Boat | 1 |
| Falls Overboard | 4 |
| Other | 2 |
| Collision w/ Other Vessel | 0 |
| TOTAL ACCIDENTS | 17 |

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

2013 Investigated and Reported Incidents

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Reportable Commercial Boat Accidents | 13 |
| Private Boat Accidents | 1 |
| Other Commercial Accidents | 4 |
| Other Non-Commercial Accidents | 0 |
| OHV Accidents | 0 |
| Interagency Assists / SAR | 3 |
| Vandalism / Theft | 8 |
| Hazard Removal / HAZMAT - Land | 0 |
| Other | 4 |
| Totals | 33 |

2013 Citations Issued

| Year | 2013 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Pass/Permit Violations | 344 |
| Resource Protection Violations | 6 |
| Public Safety Violations | 19 |
| Records/Reporting Violations | 10 |
| OHV Violations | 8 |
| *Total | 387 |
| *Above total includes 21 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 2013. 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 182,479 paying clients in 2013. In 2013, commercial use at AHRA INCREASED by 6.23% as compared to 2012. Gross revenue received from commercial operations within the AHRA in 2013 was 17% ABOVE revenue received in 2012. 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 2013, 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>2012</u> | <u>2013</u> |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Boating | 53 | 53 |
| Imaging..... | 25 | 25 |
| Walk and Wade Fishing..... | 15 | 15 |
| Shuttle Services..... | 3 | 3 |
| Rock Climbing, Hiking & Mt. Biking..... | <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> |
| Total | 102 | 103 |

Rationed Days By Section

| | <u>2012</u> | <u>2013</u> |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Section 1c – The Numbers | 9 | 9 |
| Section 2b – Browns Canyon | 9 | 9 |
| Section 2d – Big Bend to Salida..... | 9 | 9 |
| Section 3 – Salida to Vallie Bridge..... | 47 | 47 |
| Section 4b – Texas Creek to Parkdale..... | 4 | 4 |
| Section 5 – The Royal Gorge | <u>14</u> | <u>14</u> |
| Total | 92 | 92 |

AHRA Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management recreation staff continues to see some changes over what was reported in the 2012 report. BLM recreation staff members in 2013 were the River Manager, a seasonal park ranger whose focus was on wilderness characteristic inventory, and a seasonal administrative position.

The BLM River Manager (John P. Nahomenuk) works side by side with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife 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, Assistant Field Office 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 District Manager who oversees the Royal Gorge and San Luis Valley Field offices.

Janine Snyder (seasonal Park Ranger) was our main public contact representative in 2013 and spends a great deal of her time patrolling the uplands and making contacts with the recreating public. She is also responsible for maintaining trails and facilities. Janine's main project last year focused on conducting the Wilderness Characteristic Inventory for the Royal Gorge Field Office. This inventory looked at BLM lands that were Roadless and were greater than 5,000 acres in size. These lands also need to have outstanding opportunities for solitude, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation and feature naturalness, with any work by humans being substantially unnoticeable. Janine receives assistance from the recreation staff out of Canon City.

Mari Griffin is our Administrative Assistant. Mari is funded six months through BLM and six months through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Her year-round support to the Administrative section and AHRA provides much needed consistency to our very busy office. Mari is the first line of contact for visitors in need of information or to register Off Highway Vehicles and boats. Mari also issues permits for firewood gathering, Christmas trees and recreational mining.

The Over the River project continues to be on hold pending the outcome of various lawsuits. No construction will occur until these lawsuits are settled and only if the decision is in favor of the Over the River Corporation.

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 2013 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 1000 hours towards grounds maintenance of land under AHRA jurisdiction. In addition the maintenance staff provided 1200 hours of weed control efforts. During 2013 the maintenance department accomplished the following:

- Maintained track and parking area at Big Bend
- Met with CDOT to discuss install of Welcome To sign at Salida East
- Built Lower Stone Bridge Boat Ramp
- Ordered a new maintenance truck
- Approved the bid for purchase of a new trailer
- Looked at plan and design for ramp improvements at Pathfinder, Pink House and Spike Buck
- Interviewed applicants for temporary summer positions
- Designed Ruby Mt. fishing easement map and sign
- Attended PRT training in Grand Jct.
- Reconstructed the Lower Stone Bridge Boat Ramp
- Worked on plan and design for proposed improvements on the Pike Property Recreation Area and Visitor Center maintenance
- Installed solar systems at various recreation sites
- Installed CPW logos on car
- Coordinated DOC labor crew spring clean up
- Worked on Roads and Parking lots at CPO, Ruby, Fisherman's, Hecla, Stonebridge, Salida East, and Parkdale recreation sites
- Repaired flood damage at Ruby, Hecla, Stone Bridge and Parkdale recreation sites

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.

2013 Annual Report Accomplishments

- Updated TWP Hiring Forms and Job Descriptions for 2013, posted jobs on AHRA and CPW website
- Completed "On our Screen" survey
- Attended Winter Skills Training Academy
- Participated in Employee Recognition Group
- Worked on SUA Red Line version including Rock Climbing certification requirements
- Prepared 2013 invoices
- Published Use Reports on Boating, Walk/Wade, Private boating and Float Fishing
- Coordinated Earth Day activities for April 20, 2013
- Researched GIS coordinates for monitoring Arkansas River Ranch and completed reports
- Sent out nomination notices, letters and news release for CTF vacancies
- Completed mandatory Computer Security Training
- Received Admin Rights and Access to TLS Product Program/Screen
- Processed CTF nomination forms
- Closed out 2012 AHRA volunteer hours from Data Base with Vicki Leigh's data
- Updated and copied new Temporary Employee Hiring Packets, started distributing to 2013 temps
- Met with Trey Shelton, CMC, regarding CMC offering Rock Climbing course
- Worked with Peak Fly Fishing regarding transferring South Platte To Peak Fly Fishing
- Authorized 2013 SUA Contractors
- Continued to worked with Jim Langdon and Kirk Teklits on the SUA on-line application
- Attended the High school Career Fair in Leadville
- Attended the Canon City Tourism Expo
- Attended the DTR Programming Project

- Finished and distributed 2012 AHRA End of Year Report
- Worked with GARNA on River Cleanup Plans
- One AHRA LE state member attended FBI Instructor School
- Completed Temporary Ranger/Staff Training
- Coordinated the Third Grade Raft Trip
- Worked with KMGH for Honda commercial
- LE staff attended a Jet Boat Operations Class
- Worked on Royal Gorge Fire Issues
- Investigated the Crystal Lake property ownership and nearby access

This concludes the 2013 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: <http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/Parks/ArkansasHeadwatersRecreationArea>.