

2015

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA ANNUAL REPORT



Hecla Junction Campground Improvements



*Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Forest Service*

03/04/2016

Welcome to the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area’s (AHRA) Annual Report for 2015. This annual report covers the activities of the AHRA from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

With an above average snowpack and the resulting run-off, an improved economy and stable fuel prices helped increase summer vacation travel in 2015, which resulted in commercial boat number increase of 4.1% and private boat numbers increases of 2.6% in 2015 as compared to 2014.

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 2015, the CTF will continue to play an important role for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. 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 2015, AHRA employed 26 temporary staff member and 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 2015 there were no Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) full-time staff changes.

2015 Special Activities

Applicant Group Name	Event Type	Location
Timberline Events LLC	Race	Railroad Bridge
Colorado Whitewater Association	Kayak Instruction	Various River Sections
Yabe-Hansen Wedding	Wedding	Pinnacle Rock to Parkdale
Down River Rendezvous	Raft Demos	Parkdale and Royal Gorge
Adventure Xstream Race	Adventure Race	Fisherman's Bridge
Boy Scout Troop 67 BV, CO	Scout Camping	Ruby Mountain
Chaffee SAR South	Motorized Training	Big Bend Track
Paddlefest	Boating Competitions	Buena Vista Whitewater Park
Fly Fishing 101	CPW Fly Fishing Class	Parkdale
FIBArk	Boating competitions	Salida Whitewater Park
TransRockies Run	Trail Running Race	Railroad Bridge Campground
Denver Post Ride the Rockies	Bike Tour	5 Points
Celebration of Life	Memorial Gathering	Parkdale
Colorado Springs Fire	SAR Training	Browns Canyon
Beyond Productions	Filming	South Main - BV
Sharp Entertainment	Filming	Salida Whitewater Park
Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival	Boating Competitions	Royal Gorge and Cañon City
Csdizmadi-Lords wedding	Wedding	Ruby Mountain Amphitheater
The Sierra Club	BCNM Celebration	Ruby Mountain
Obernyer Wedding	Wedding	CPO
Beyond Productions	Filming	Parkdale Bridge and RGR Beach
Colorado Springs Fire	SAR Training	Spikebuck
U.S. Forest Service	UTV Training	Big Bend Track

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

ACTIVITY*	2015 PEOPLE	2014 PEOPLE	'14 TO '15 % CHANGE	
SIGHTSEEING	297,207	289,958	+2.5%	
FISHING	Shore	82,720	75,157	+10%
	Boat	5,337	5,189	+2.9%
PICNICKING	43,949	42,877	+2.5%	
BOATING **	Commercial	249,621	239,794	+4.1%
	Private	22,867	22,280	+2.6%
OTHER (Minerals, Visitor Center, Hunting, Other)	39,683	38,715	+2.5%	
TRAIL	24,336	23,743	+2.5%	
INTERPRETIVE/EVENTS	16,524	16,121	+2.5%	
CAMPING	41,898	40,876	+2.5%	
ACTIVITIES TOTAL	814,577	794,710	+2.5%	

*May include participants in multiple activities

**Actual number, includes guides, trainees and clients

AHRA Administrative Section

The Administrative section for 2015 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, Kate Spinelli.

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.

Administrative Services, Sales and Revenue Statistics
(January through December 2015)

2015 2014	Activity	Compared to
489	Annual and Multiple Passes Sold	+14%
\$29,075	Revenue from Annual Passes Sold	+15%
225	Aspen Leaf, Lifetime and Multiple Passes Sold	+2%
\$10,350	Revenue from Aspen Leaf Passes Sold*	+12%
\$106,255.06	Revenue from Daily Individual and Vehicle Passes	-2%
\$115,228.80	Revenue from Camp Permits and Reservations	+21%
1765	Boat, Snowmobile and OHV Registrations and Permits Sold	+3%
\$47,430.25	Revenue from Registration Sales	+4%
\$15,081.98	Misc. Revenues (Citations, Special Activities, Wildlife Licenses)	-3%
\$770,458.28	Revenue from Commercial Agreements***	-.005%

* Introduction of Lifetime Aspen Leaf Pass November 2010 - Issued many “Lifetime Aspen Free” in 2015

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

Administrative Section Visitor Contacts for 2015

# Of People	Type of Activity	Compared to 2014
35,170	Visitor Center	+10.9%
1,440	Personal Interpretation/Events	+0%
13,830	Non-Personal Interpretation/Media/Events	+8%
2,924	Environmental Education	+10%

Volunteer Hours for 2015

# of Hours	Type of Activity	Compared to 2014
*6709 hrs	All Volunteers (groups or individuals)	+6%
596 hrs	AHRA Advisory Groups (CTF, RAAC)	+10.7%

*AHRA did not have any volunteer camp hosts in 2015

AHRA’s **Volunteer Program** hours were up 6% overall. Volunteers at the annual Arkansas River Cleanup/Greenup events contributed ---- hours; campground hosts contributed 996 hours; and Court Ordered volunteers contributed 780 hours.

A variety of **Interpretive and Environmental Education** programs, hikes and events were presented to the public throughout 2015. GOCO Interpreter Kate Spinelli 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 morning and afternoon in Buena Vista and Leadville to join Kate 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.

Little tots ages 2-4 were captivated each Tuesday with “TOTS on Tuesday”. Their rapt attention was matched with that of their accompanying parents, who had lots of fun with crafts and nature walks.

AHRA continued to be very active in 2015 with 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 faithful volunteers who continue to staff Poncha Springs’ “Heart of the Rockies” visitor center”, and hundreds of volunteers assisted with our 24th Annual River Cleanup on May 16th, and with a variety of special projects, events and programs. Volunteer Naturalist, Bob Hickey, was instrumental in leading many hikes and an automobile tour of AHRA, as well as assisting with the “Gathering of the Guides” workshop and other campground programs.

Community events included Paddlefest and Gold Rush Days in Buena Vista; Earth Day, “Gathering of the Guides” workshop and FIBArk in Salida; and the Canon City River Festival. AHRA, GARNA, and the FIBArk “Cruiser Crit” parade partnered together for the 24th Annual National River CleanUp/GreenUp in May.

AHRA YEAR 2015 REVENUES

Year 2015 By Month	Park Passes	Camping Permits/ Reservations	Registrations	Special Use Agreements	Penalties, License Sales, Special Activities, COSAR, etc.	TOTALS
January	\$922.00	\$112.00	\$1,640.00	\$0.00	\$86.00	\$2760.00
February	\$2,270.00	\$322.00	\$610.00	\$3,659.25	\$176.00	\$7,037.25
March	\$6,589.06	\$1,692.00	\$5,065.25	\$33,942.34	\$971.50	\$48,260.15
April	\$10,074.00	\$4,132.80	\$6,365.00	\$39,911.35	\$1,471.25	\$61,954.40
May	\$18,079.00	\$11,448.90	\$5,470.00	\$61,202.43	\$1,751.25	\$97,951.58
June	\$28,943.00	\$22,565.70	\$6,975.00	\$212,785.87	\$3,129.25	\$274,398.82
July	\$28,309.00	\$26,974.60	\$5,820.00	\$2,096.00	\$1,996.00	\$65,195.60
August	\$26,580.00	\$24,449.60	\$5,575.00	\$4,287.75	\$3,231.23	\$64,123.58
September	\$14,607.00	\$16,384.20	\$3,395.00	\$4,746.85	\$1,336.25	\$40,469.30
October	\$6,635.00	\$6,557.00	\$1,000.00	\$221,113.42	\$531.25	\$235,836.67
November	\$1,749.00	\$435.00	\$3,460.00	\$156,184.17	\$872.00	\$162,700.17
December	\$923.00	\$155.00	\$2,055.00	\$30,528.85	\$174.00	\$33,835.85
Contra Adjustment	\$7,201.59					+\$7,201.59
2015 TOTALS	\$145,680.06	\$115,228.80	\$47,430.25	\$770,458.28	\$15,725.98	\$1,101,724.96
2014 TOTALS	\$143,599.39	\$95,229.96	\$45,350.00	\$774,487.36	\$16,127.76	\$1,074,794.47

*AHRA revenues saw an overall --- 2.5% increase in 2015 as compared to 2014

AHRA CALENDAR YEAR 2015 EXPENDITURES - CPW ONLY

Year Totals	Temporary Personnel	Operating	Utilities	Capital Projects/ Equipment	Controlled Maintenance	GOCO, Grants & Misc. Accounts	TOTALS
2015 TOTALS	\$255,584.93	\$150,147.19	\$32,020.04	\$446,000.00	\$48,165.76	\$47,981.00	\$979,898.92
Total Expenditures for Water and Related Costs in 2015				Southeast Colorado Water Cons. District			\$1,750.00
				Bureau of Reclamation			\$53,685.00
				Ordway Water Lease			\$89,000.00
				Pueblo Board of Water Works			\$5,299.00
				USGS Water Gages			\$9,758.00
Grand Total							\$1,155,575.92

*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 for the 2014 summer season. In 2015 the procurement of Youth Internship Program

(YIP) grants allowed three additional temporary ranger positions. The river section had six, 40 hour per week temporary rangers assigned to it. The land section had five, 40 hour per week temporary rangers. In addition to these eleven 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 a similar grant. YIP funding allowed AHRA to hire a winter temporary ranger in the later part of 2015 and continuing into 2016. We are hopeful that YIP funding will continue to support staffing at these levels.

Temporary rangers assigned to land-based operations are responsible for managing visitor use in the busy recreation sites and campgrounds and for collecting field revenue critical to AHRA operations. This vital field staffs are the primary personnel our visitors come into contact with during the summer months. At these staffing levels 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.

Six 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. The 2015 boating season saw near record high flows. Even with such high flows the number of serious accidents was reduced to less than half of the 2014 incidents.

As the Arkansas River is one of the most commercially rafted rivers in the United States, much of the river rangers' time is spent administering the State River Outfitter Licensing Program. Removing tree hazards from the river when a public safety concern is present, also occupied a significant amount of river ranger time. 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.

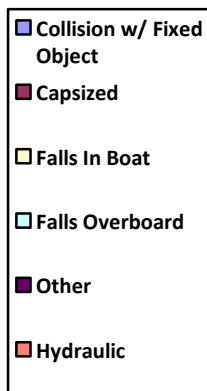
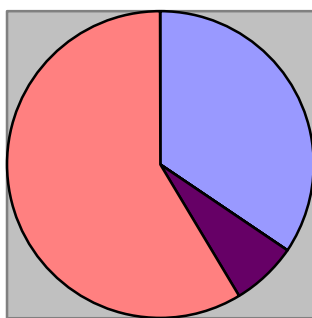
The OHV rangers are part of a four-person multi-agency trail crew working in the Upper Arkansas River Valley. The trail crew members represent Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service. Funding for this collaborative effort comes from an OHV grant funded by OHV registrations. The trail 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 three 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	111
River Outfitter Office Records Inspections	15
River Assists	355
Search, Rescue and Recovery Operations	13
River Hazard Removal Operations - River	21



CAUSE	TOTAL
Collision w/ Fixed Object	10
Capsized	0
Falls In Boat	0
Falls Overboard	0
Other	2
Hydraulic	17
TOTAL ACCIDENTS	29

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

2015 Investigated and Reported Incidents

Reportable Commercial Boat Accidents	26
Private Boat Accidents	2
Other Commercial Accidents	2
Other Non-Commercial Accidents	0
OHV Accidents	0
Interagency Assists / SAR	8
Vandalism / Theft	10
Hazard Removal / HAZMAT - Land	1
Other	2
Totals	51
Above incidents include 2 fatalities investigated	

2015 Citations Issued

Year	2015
Pass/Permit Violations	306
Resource Protection Violations	9
Public Safety Violations	5
Records/Reporting Violations	9
*Total	329
*Above total includes 12 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 59 commercial contractors in 2015. Permitted contractors provided various combinations of activities such as whitewater rafting, float fishing, walk & wade fishing, shuttle services, rock climbing, hiking, Mt. biking, food vendor and photo/video imaging to over 199,625 paying clients in 2015. In 2015, commercial use at AHRA INCREASED by 2.88% as compared to 2014. Gross revenue received from commercial operations within the AHRA in 2015 was 3.97% ABOVE revenue received in 2014. 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 2015, 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 two person temporary Count Crew responsible for collecting Spot Checks and maintaining an electronic database for Trip Log comparison. This section also has one temporary Rationing Program Assistant, which is employed during a nine month program through the winter months and part of 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>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Boating	50	49
Imaging.....	26	26
Walk and Wade Fishing	15	15
Shuttle Services	5	6
Rock Climbing, Hiking & Mt. Biking.....	6	4
Food Vendor.....	0	1
Total	102	101

Rationed Days By Section

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Section 1c – The Numbers	9	7
Section 2b – Browns Canyon	10	5
Section 2d – Big Bend to Salida.....	10	9
Section 3 – Salida to Vallie Bridge.....	50	46
Section 4a – Vallie Bridge to Texas Creek	0	11
Section 4b – Texas Creek to Parkdale.....	4	2
Section 5 – The Royal Gorge	14	13
Total	97	93

AHRA Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management recreation staff continues to see some changes over what was reported in the 2014 report. The BLM recreation staff members in 2015 were the River Manager and a seasonal (6 months) administrative position that is responsible for the operation of the front desk of the AHRA Visitor Center.

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 BLM River Manager is responsible to the Royal Gorge Field Office, Assistant Field Office Manager for Renewable Resources 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.

Jamie Tackel was our Administrative Assistant in 2015. Jamie was 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. Jamie is the first line of contact for visitors in need of information whether in person or on the phone. She also sells Colorado off highway vehicles, boats and snowmobile registrations. Hunting and fishing licenses are also available at the AHRA Visitor Center. Jamie also issues permits for firewood gathering, Christmas trees and recreational mining. Mari left her position at AHRA on September 30 to work in the private sector. Jamie Tackel replaced Mari and began working year round.

The Royal Gorge Field Office began the preparation of the Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan (RMP) in 2015. The RMP is the overriding document that will guide the management of the BLM lands for the next 20 years. The river plan will be adopted into the RMP.

The second revision of the Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan started in late 2015. This update will focus on issues that were not addressed during the first revision that was approved in January 2001.

The Browns Canyon National Monument was created through a Presidential Proclamation on February 19, 2015. The national monument will have its own management plan prepared. The monument will be managed by BLM, USFS in partnership with CPW.

The “Over the River” project continues to be on hold pending the outcome of a lawsuit. No construction will occur until the lawsuit is 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 Pink House Recreation Site in 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 2015 the maintenance section extensively utilized Department of Corrections Sign Shop and Labor Crews, volunteer groups (10 hrs.), community service workers (62 hrs.). The Department of Corrections Labor Crews contributed 722 hours towards grounds maintenance of land under AHRA jurisdiction. In addition the maintenance staff provided 246 hours of weed control efforts. During 2015 the maintenance department accomplished the following:

- Recreation Area and Visitor Center maintenance.
- Coordinated DOC labor crew spring and fall clean up.
- Working with CDOT on highway signage for AHRA.
- Sign designing with Department of Corrections Sign Shop on signage for AHRA.
- Continued to improve our AHRA signage throughout the park.
- Attended PRT training in Fresco.
- Interviewed applicants for temporary summer positions.

- Reinforced fence around AHRA shop parking area.
- Continued research and development for a more secure pay tube system.
- Erected buck & rail fence above Ruby Mt. recreation site to designate the newly established Browns Canyon National Monument.
- Constructed a signage array designating the Browns Canyon National Monument.
- Replaced fluorescent lamps with LED lamps at all of the AHRA campground solar systems.
- Installed warning sign at the Canyon City dam indicating boat chute.
- Rebuilt Silver Bullet portage trail due to high water erosion.
- Installed bollard at Kobe road.
- Observed the installation of a CXT at the Arkansas River Ranch.
- Conducted a building site analysis with American Electric and Xcel Energy for a LED conversion of our fluorescent lights.
- Constructed solar LED light system for fish hatchery low head dam illuminated sign.
- Managed the Hecla Campground Project
- Organized and instructed an Avalanche Training with Chaffee County Search and Rescue
- Designed and planned for improvements at the Arkansas River Ranch
- Worked with engineers for modifications to the Silver Bullet
- Took an AIARES Avalanche Level 1 Course
- Planned for the new campground and renovation project at Ruby Mtn.
- Maintained and rebuilt roads and parking areas
- Worked on estimate and plan for decontamination of the Texas Creek house
- Worked with LCI to clean out of the Sediment Traps at Hecla
- Worked on design and concept for a ramp and parking at the new property by Texas Creek
- Remodeled shop areas
- Worked on the Salida Boat Chute Sign Project
- Purchased new welding equipment
- Repaired flood damage on the Pt. Bar Road, CPO, Parkdale, Ruby and Hecla
- Assisted with a recovery in Browns Canyon
- Maintained ramps and areas affected by high water
- Prepared for and constructed a Buck n Rail fence at Monument parking area
- Re-built the portage trail at the Silver Bullet and graded the Scarett's driveway
- Assisted River crew with hazard tree removal
- Attended a Project Management Workshop in Denver
- Built a new weight rack for the plow truck
- Designed and built a new platform for the water truck
- Worked on plans and lay out for the Rincon Shade Shelter
- Met with Shaun Gordon for plan and design of the ramp at Rincon
- Worked on an estimate of repairs to the Pt. Barr road
- Managed and worked with the Youth Corps at Hayden Meadows
- Worked on the replacement bumper/winch for Andrew's truck
- Started construction with ACA at Ruby Mountain Campground
- Attended 16 hr course for EMT Continuing Education Units
- Snow removal at the Visitor Center and sites

- Scheduled maintenance of fleet vehicles and equipment

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 U.S. 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.

2015 Annual Report Accomplishments

- Worked on Big Bend, Fisherman's Bridge, Stone Bridge, Salida East, Rincon, Trading Post and Collegiate Peaks Overlook parking and roads
- Prepared nominations for CPW Partnership Awards.
- Issued volunteer parks passes for Poncha Springs Visitor Center volunteers
- Reviewed and commented on Bighorn Sheep panel for Ruby Mt. and Monarch Kiosk
- Met with Engineers at the Silver Bullet for future modifications
- Assisted State Patrol with a car in the river near Wellsville
- Hosted SE Region snowmobile riding clinic
- Removed telephone pole from Spikebuck
- Completed REAP and expense sheets for CPW/BLM office share.
- Worked on programs and preparations for April 25 Earth Day Festival
- Worked on estimates and design for the Salida Boat Chute
- Worked on estimate and plan for decontamination of the Texas Creek house
- Repaired chainsaws and purchased two replacement saws
- Removed trees from Canyon Trading Post
- Submitted railroad crossing applications to Union Pacific for Kobe area crossings
- Inspect Big Bend OHV Track
- Provided feedback for park pass sales procedures
- Replacing solar fluorescent lamps with LED lamps at all campground sites
- Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival safety
- Maintained ramps and areas affected by high water

- Worked on the Salida Boat Chute sign project
- Planned Browns Canyon National Monument rafting event
- Hosted Browns Canyon National Monument rafting trip
- Planned and prepared for work with the Youth Corps at Hayden Meadows
- Put together a cost estimate for tree removal in Cañon City
- Removed trees from river on Sackett, Screen Door, and Widow Maker and a rope from Pinball
- Mowed the trail at Hayden Meadows
- Assisted with install of the CXT at Hayden Meadows

This concludes the 2015 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>.