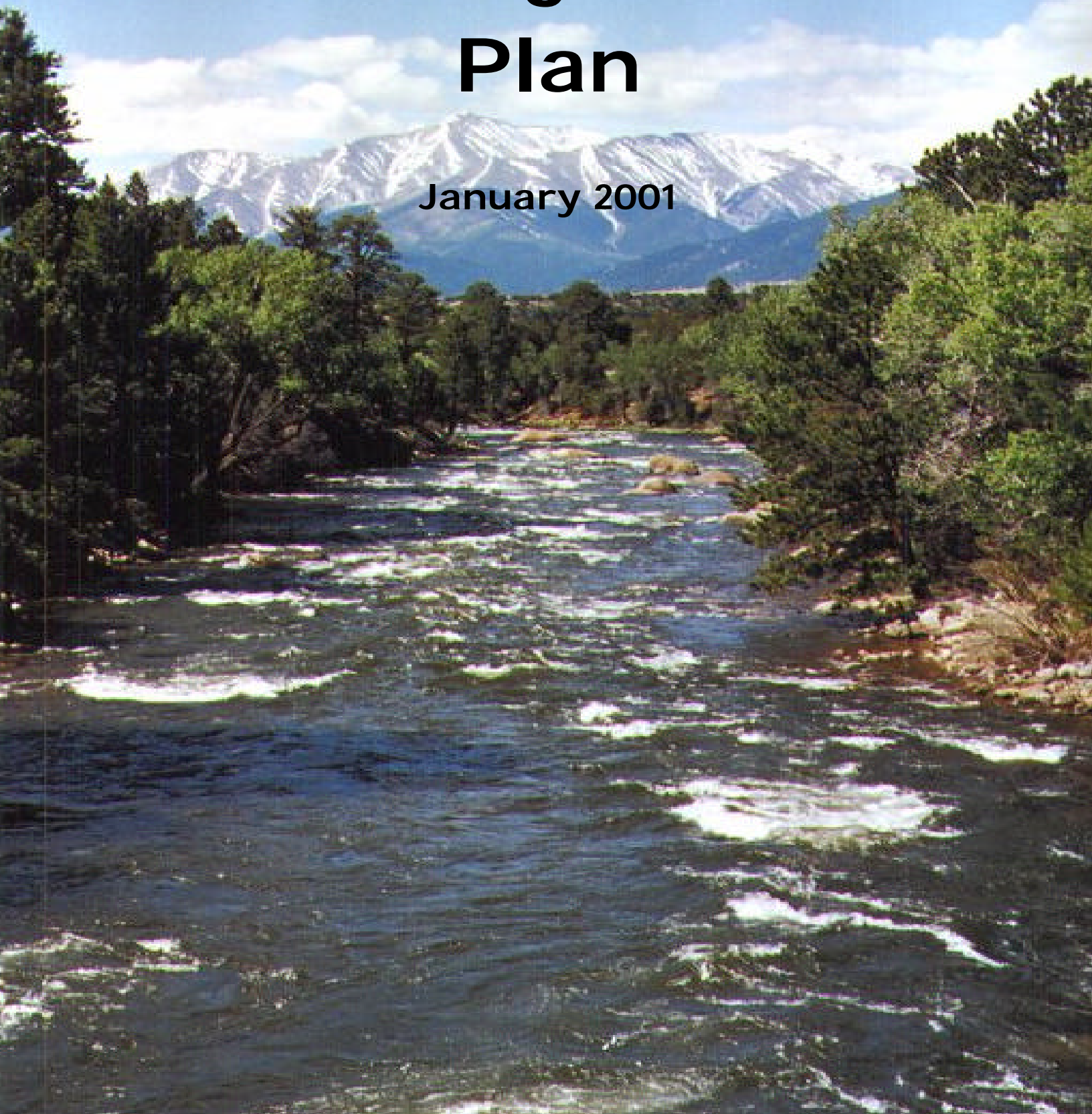


Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan

January 2001



ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA

A working partnership between Colorado State Parks and the Bureau of Land Management



Robert J. White
Park Manager

Dave Taliaferro
River Manager



January 19, 2001

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your use is the Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan. This document depicts the final plan revisions along with the supplemental environmental analysis and record of decision.

The document addresses those 760 comments raised during the 30 day public review as well as describes the responses and plan revision in light of those comments. We thank you for your interest in recreation management along the Arkansas River.

This plan includes a revised cooperative management agreement in Appendix A. We look forward to working with you in the future in the implementation of this plan. Again, thanks for your involvement with our planning process.

Sincerely yours,

Robert J. White
CDPOR Park Manager

Dave Taliaferro
BLM River Manager

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Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area Vision Statement

The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area shall be managed to emphasize its natural resources, resource sustainability, and the standards for public land health, recognizing and respecting private property, while embracing numerous recreational, educational, and commercial activities. Such management will require balancing the many uses that preserve the existing natural settings and conditions as well as recognizing existing agriculture, rural, and urban conditions throughout the river corridor. Maintaining these expectations and settings for visitors and residents alike will require individualized management through different sections of the river, in recognition of varying natural and manmade influences. Where conflict over goals and objectives occurs, balance and compromise should be found that recognizes the value of authorized recreational activities without diminishing the standards for public land health or the water resources.

Attachment A

AHRA Boats Per Day (bpd) Capacities

Revised 2/1/2008

Sec.	Section Description	bpd Capacities		Other bpd Capacities	Use Seasons	Days in ea. Season	Commercial Launch Windows	Commercial & Private Rationing Exceptions / Special Considerations
		Private	Commercial					
1a	Leadville to Granite	10	0		Year-round	365	8:30 am - 11:00 am	--
1b	Granite to Numbers Site	350	30		May 15 - Sept 7	116	8:30 am - 11:00 am	Rationed Days: 1 safety boat per pod above allocation. Safety boats identified by a red vessel id tag on the front and rear grab loops of the boat.
		200	10		Sep 8 - May 14	249		
1c	Numbers Site to Railroad Bridge	320	90		May 15 - Sept 7	116	8:30 am - 2:00 pm	Rationed Days: 1 safety boat per pod above allocation. Safety boats identified by a red vessel id tag on the front and rear grab loops of the boat.
		200	10		Sep 8 - May 14	249	8:30 am - 11:00am	
1d	Railroad Bridge to Buena Vista	150	150		May 15 - Sept 7	116	8:30 am - 3:30 pm	--
		100	50		Sep 8 - May 14	249		
2a	Buena Vista to Fisherman's Bridge	150	450		May 15 - Sept 7	116	8:30 am - 3:30 pm	Rationed Days: Allow Kayak/Canoe instruction and private boating from 600 feet above the Midland Trail foot bridge to the Ramsour Bridge above capacities. (Buena Vista Open Boating Zone)
		100	50		Sep 8 - May 14	249		
2b	Fisherman's Bridge to Stone Bridge	240* / 150	360		May 15 - Sept 7	116	8:30 am - 3:30 pm	--
		100	50		Sep 8 - May 14	249		
2c	Stone Bridge to Big Bend	150	150		May 15 - Aug 15	93	8:30 am - 3:30 pm off river by 5:00 pm	Rationed Days: allow 1 commercial trip per day (4 boat max.) for pass through camping. Off Season Only.
		30	20		Aug 16 - May 14	272		
2d	Big Bend to Salida	150	150		May 15 - Aug 15	93	8:30 am - 3:30 pm off river by 5:00 pm	Rationed Days: allow 1 commercial trip per day (4 boat max.) for pass through camping. Off Season Only. Allow Kayak/Canoe instruction and private boating from the low head dam above Salida to Riverside Park above capacities. (Salida Open Boating Zone)
		30	10		Aug 16 - May 14	272		
3	Salida to Vallie Bridge	150	150		May 15 - Jul 14	61	8:30 am - 3:30 pm off river by 5:00 pm	Rationed Days: allow 1 commercial trip per day (4 boat max.) for pass through camping. Off Season Only.
		30	10		Jul 15 - May 14	304		
4a	Vallie Bridge to Texas Creek	100	150		May 15 - Aug 15	93	8:30 am - 3:30 pm off river by 5:00 pm	Rationed Days: allow 1 commercial trip per day (4 boat max.) for pass through camping. Off Season Only.
		30	10		Aug 16 - May 14	272		
4b	Texas Creek to Parkdale	150	300*	240**	May 15 - Sept 7	116	8:30 am - 3:30 pm off river by 5:00 pm	Rationed Days: 1 safety boat per pod above allocation. Safety boats identified by a red vessel id tag on the front and rear grab loops of the boat.
		40	30		Sep 8 - May 14	249		
5	Parkdale to Canon City	150	75		May 1 - May 19	19	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	Rationed Days: 1 safety boat per pod above allocation. Safety boats identified by a red vessel id tag on the front and rear grab loops of the boat.
		150	175		May 20 - Aug 15	88		
		150	125		Aug 16 - Sep 7	23		
		75	75		Sept 8 - Sep 30	23		
		75	30		Oct 1 - Apr 30	212		
6	Canon City to Lake Pueblo	40	40		Year-round	365	8:30 am - 3:30 pm	Allow kayak and canoe instruction from Canon City to Florence above capacities.

	Private	Commercial
In Season <i>weekend</i> bpd capacities	2,485	2,470
In Season <i>weekday</i> bpd capacities	2,395	2,410
Off Season bpd capacities	935	280

IN SEASON CHANGES: * Weekends & Holidays bpd capacity in season only.
 ** Weekday bpd capacity reduced by 20% in season only.

CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

A. INTRODUCTION

This plan revision effort began in the Spring of 1998 as a revision of the Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan [ARRMP], which was originally completed in October of 1989 as a part of the establishment of the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area [AHRA]. AHRA is a partnership between the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management [BLM] and the State of Colorado's Department of Natural Resource's Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation [CDPOR] to manage recreation resources and activities along 148 miles of the river from its headwaters near Leadville down to Pueblo Reservoir. This plan expands the scope of the recreation management partnership to include the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service [FS] and the State of Colorado's Department of Natural Resource's Division of Wildlife [CDOW].

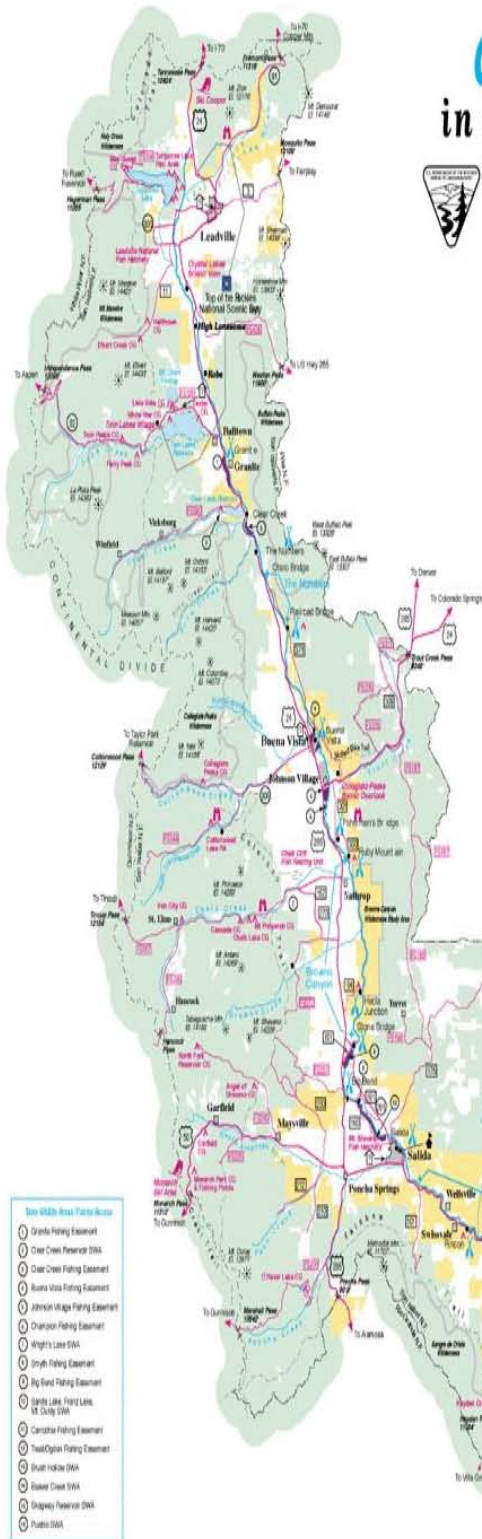
The 1989 Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan was a product of a very comprehensive public involvement process. Sixteen governmental entities and two citizen groups were involved in the original planning effort. Various recreational user groups, environmental organizations, conservation districts, industry associations and area residents also participated. This plan revision has attempted to match that effort with an extensive series of public involvement efforts. This plan revision process specifically utilized the AHRA Citizens Task Force to guide, lead and extensively participate in the plan revision process. On the following pages are a description of the river corridor setting, a mile by mile discussion of the river segment resources, a summary of recreation use along the river, the purpose and need for this plan revision, a listing of the public involvement steps for this plan revision, a summarized discussion of the issues covered in this plan revision, a description of the role of the Citizens Task Force, an analysis of alternatives considered in this revision process and various other applicable subjects to this plan revision. A Cooperative Management Agreement {See APPENDIX A} has been drafted to fully implement this ARRMP.

1. Location and Setting

The 148 mile Arkansas River corridor within the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area is one of the most diverse and attractive river corridors in Colorado. Descending from lofty mountain peaks near Leadville, the Arkansas flows through wide open grasslands at altitudes of 10,000 feet, traverses a varied range

of impressive and beautiful montane ecosystems on its way down hill and finally ends in a mature river system at Pueblo Reservoir. The corridor has remained remarkably pristine despite the fact that it has been modified by a railroad, a busy highway and substantial agricultural, residential and commercial development along much of its length. From top to bottom the river has a significant and vital impact on the valley economy and beyond because of water rights for irrigation, municipal and industrial purposes and for the sale and storage of water. Also, because of its natural beauty, biological productivity, steep gradient and diversity of river environments, the Arkansas River is much beloved by avid recreationists. The challenge for the AHRA is to satisfy recreational needs and at the same time maintain environmental quality as well as the quality of experiences along the river. See Illustration 1-1 for a graphical representation of the river corridor.

Outdoor Adventures in the Upper Arkansas Valley

[illegible]

Need to know more?

[illegible]

2. Resources by River Segment

From Leadville, the Arkansas River flows down through the communities of Granite, Buena Vista, Johnson Village, Salida, Swissvale, Howard, Coaldale, Cotopaxi, Texas Creek, Canon City and Florence. While some sections are bordered by roads and towns, other sections are more remote. Each has different resource and visitor use characteristics. Six distinct river segments have been recognized and are described below. These segments are also shown graphically in Illustration 1-2.

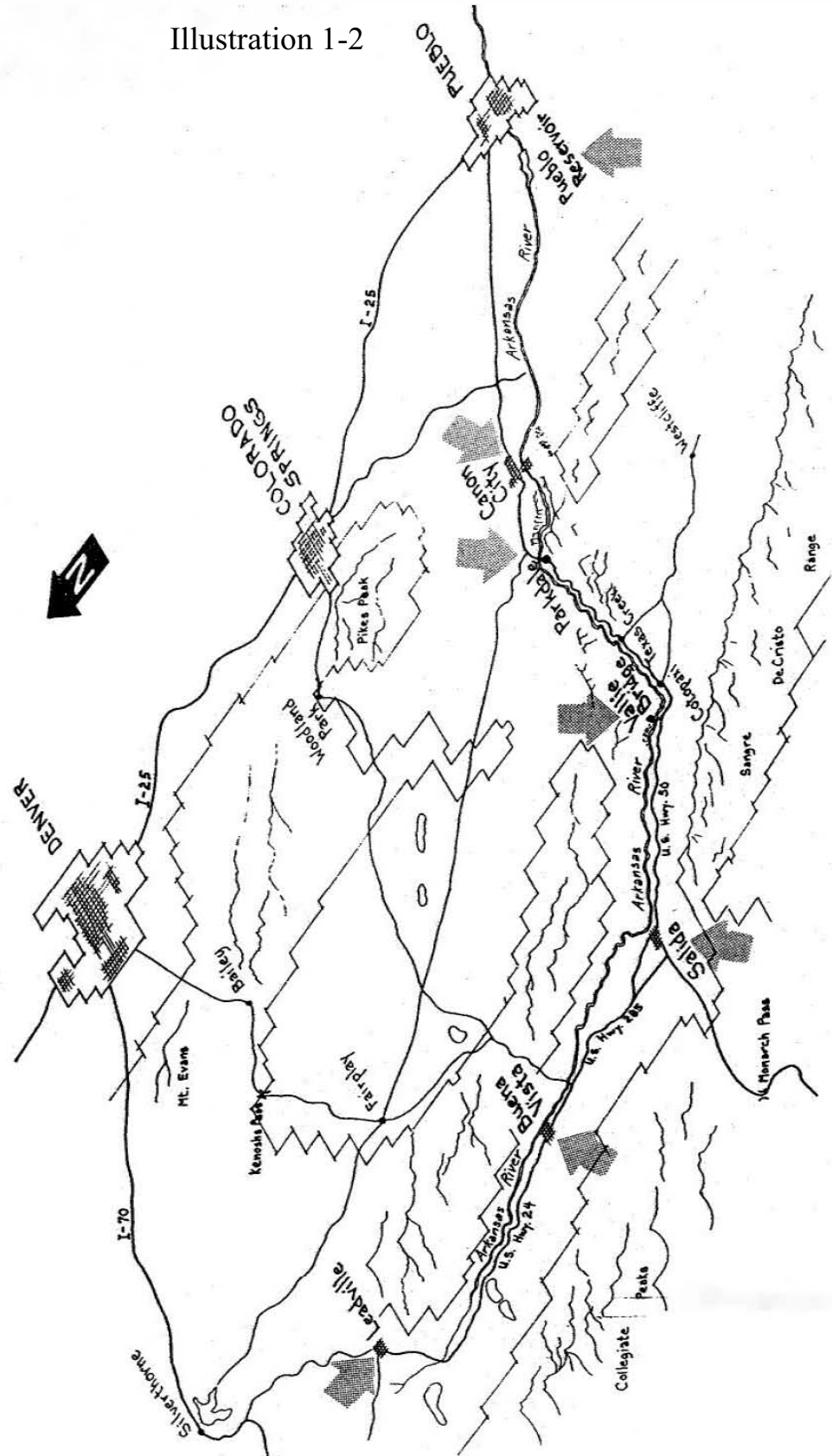
- Segment 1 Leadville to Buena Vista** - Ideally suited for technical private boating, this segment offers Class I through Class V rapids and vertical drops ranging from 26 to 66 feet per mile. Commercial boating occurs in the lower portion of this segment, along with many other activities, i.e. camping, fishing, picnicking, wildlife watching, recreational gold placering and hiking. The Granite, Numbers, Number 4 Put in, Railroad Bridge and Buena Vista Boat Ramp access points receive extensive use. River access lease sites have enhanced fishing opportunities along this segment of the river.
- Segment 2 Buena Vista to Salida** - The most heavily used portion of the river for commercial rafting trips, this segment offers Class III and IV rapids and a vertical drop of 30 feet per mile. Other activities include fishing, a considerable amount of historic private kayaking and rafting and some overnight camping trips. Recreation sites along this segment that offer boating opportunities are Fisherman's Bridge, Ruby Mountain, Hecla Junction, Stone Bridge, Big Bend and the Salida Boat Ramp. Other activities occur at these sites as well, i.e. fishing, camping, hiking, picnicking, wildlife watching and recreational gold placering. River access lease sites have enhanced fishing opportunities along this segment of the river.
- Segment 3 Salida to Vallie Bridge** - Fishing is the dominant use in this segment, although private and commercial boating does occur, as well as special events i.e. the annual FIBArk race. This segment lies adjacent to US Highway 50 and offers mostly quiet water. The vertical drop is 24 feet per mile. Many of the recreation sites along this segment offer boating opportunities, i.e. Salida East, Rincon and Vallie Bridge and most of these sites, along with others, i.e. Point Barr, also offer picnicking, fishing, camping, hiking, wildlife watching and recreational gold placering. River access lease sites have enhanced fishing opportunities along this segment of the river.
- Segment 4 Vallie Bridge to Parkdale** - A heavily used segment for commercial and private boating, this portion of the river lies adjacent to US Highway 50 and has rapids up to Class IV. The vertical drop is 30 feet per mile. The Canyon Trading Post, Lone Pine, Texas Creek, Pinnacle Rock, Salt Lick, Five Points, Spikebuck and Parkdale recreation sites provide extensive access to the river. These sites, along with various other smaller less developed sites, i.e. Loma Linda, Fernleaf Gulch, Maytag, etc., provide for picnicking, fishing, camping, hiking, wildlife watching and recreational gold placering.
- Segment 5 Parkdale to Canon City** - Running through the Royal Gorge, this segment offers very technical whitewater, Class III, IV, and V rapids, with a vertical drop of 50 feet per mile. It is potentially quite hazardous at both low and high water flows. This segment provides commercial boating as well as private boating opportunities. Grape Creek and the Canon City Boat Ramp are the recreation sites in this segment. Other recreation activities available at these sites include picnicking, fishing, hiking, wildlife watching and recreational gold placering.
- Segment 6 Canon City to Pueblo Reservoir** - This segment differs from the previous five in that it is characterized as a plains river, dropping only 15 vertical feet per mile and offering Class I rapids. Ideally suited for canoeists and other boaters desiring a tranquil river trip, it offers fishing, wildlife watching and picnicking opportunities. Access to the river in this segment is somewhat limited at this time, occurring principally at the Canon City Boat Ramp, several municipal parks and at the Pueblo Reservoir boat ramp.

Illustration 1-2

Illustration 1-2

ARKANSAS RIVER RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN
Planning Area

Pueblo Reservoir
Segment #6
Canon City
Segment #5
Parkdale
Segment #4
Vallie Bridge
Segment #3
Salida
Segment #2
Buena Vista
Segment #1
Leadville



3. Recreation Use Summary

Recreation visitation of all forms has increased since this recreation area began. The following table describes in summary form the recreation use within the river corridor from 1990 through 2000. The details of this recreation use in the recreation area are presented in APPENDIX B on a yearly and activity basis.

Table 1-1 Recreation Use Within AHRA

Activity	Annual Vistors											Totals	
	1990 *	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Visitors	%
Sightseeing	68,743	126,878	149,962	168,975	180,372	186,421	192,157	206,414	215,955	247,598	266,676	2,010,151	33
Fishing Shore	14,102	18,846	20,904	22,166	23,495	23,753	27,667	34,286	40,823	50,367	66,426	342,840	5
Fishing Boat	853	1,582	1,885	1,850	2,341	1,787	3,109	4,403	5,634	6,538	6,631	36,613	1
Picnicking	14,044	18,672	22,420	24,548	25,962	26,291	27,699	29,938	32,377	34,524	44,160	300,635	5
Boating-Commercial	178,690	189,678	219,894	226,506	244,144	242,624	276,125	283,862	301,390	293,848	301,152	2,757,913	44
Boating-Private	19,043	19,704	17,360	25,052	24,855	25,273	25,829	24,178	29,401	28,550	28,105	267,350	4
Other {hiking,biking, hunting, horseback riding, mining, swimming, OHV}	6,432	10,744	15,320	15,650	19,246	18,812	22,517	25,098	28,415	39,793	35,269	237,296	4
Interpretive	1,216	1,216	971	974	1,821	1,094	2,163	1,752	4,737	10,781	11,574	38,583	1
Camping	8,748	9,737	11,674	12,644	13,880	13,418	14,749	16,148	20,331	26,618	22,973	170,920	3
Total	311,871	396,812	460,393	498,891	536,116	539,473	592,015	626,079	679,068	738,617	782,966	6,162,301	100

* 1990 figures are for May through December only

B. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

A Recreation Area Management Plan for management of recreation use on public lands adjacent to the Arkansas River was completed by the BLM in 1982. While several elements of that original plan were implemented in the form of facility development, maintenance improvements and visitor information materials, much still remained to be done. A planning process, which began in 1986, was completed in 1989 with the finalization of a comprehensive river management plan, "The Final Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan". This plan was completed by BLM with lots of cooperation from user groups, other agencies and a Citizen Task Force. This plan, which established a partnership between CDPOR and the BLM, has accomplished much in the last ten years. The majority of the planning decisions within the 1989 plan have been implemented to the degree that on a national basis this partnership is looked at as an exemplary success story in river management between a state and a federal entity.

However, recreation visitation has increased since this plan began. Issues have arisen that need answers, and critical and complex management issues have developed that must be dealt with. See APPENDIX C for a detailed description of this very extensive public involvement process. The following Table 1-2 lays out that planning process by general steps.

Table 1-2 River Plan Revision Planning Process

Planning Process Step	Process Summary	Time line
Step #1	Issue development for plan revision {public scoping process, open houses, issue categorization & draft issue development}	August 1998 - December 1998
Step #2	Development of final issues & rough draft proposed revisions {writing revisions, public workshops process, CTF workshop & informal sharing of revisions}	January 1999 - October 1999
Step #3	Development of Draft Plan Revision & Preliminary Supplemental Environmental Assessment {writing, sharing & obtaining public comments on the draft document}	November 1999 - August 2000
Step #4	Development of the Final Plan Revision/Supplemental Environmental Assessment {responding to comments, final reviews & writing of final document}	September 2000 - December 2000
Step #5	Adoption of Revised Plan, Decision Record Signing & publishing process.	January 2001 - February 2001

This plan revision process has led to the development of the following preamble to an AHRA river plan vision statement:

This preamble is written with the aid of ten years of experience in managing the various issues along the various river segments. One high priority goal given the managers, among others, was to manage for intensive recreation. From this perspective the management has been a success judging by the expressed feelings of the major user groups on the river. Regulations are in place to control and distribute use in the corridor. Facilities have been built that enhance the quality of the experience for a wide range of users, a permanent AHRA Headquarters has been constructed in Salida and there is a staff which oversees and maintains these sites and uses. Also, to the credit of everyone, the health of the river's riparian areas has improved despite significantly increased use in this same time period. So, from a development point of view, most of the primary goals of the original management plan have come to fruition. Legitimate questions arise, "Where do we go from here?, How do we acknowledge and improve coordination with other agencies? and What plans should be in place to use and at the same time maintain the quality of this public treasure?"

In addition to the plan revision preamble, the following **VISION STATEMENT** was developed to act as a guide for what the next ten years of river management should bring to the Arkansas River corridor:

The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area shall be managed to emphasize its natural resources, resource sustainability and the standards for public land health, recognizing and respecting private property, while embracing numerous recreational, educational and commercial activities. Such management will require balancing the many uses that preserve the existing natural settings and conditions as well as recognizing existing agriculture, rural and urban conditions throughout the river corridor. Maintaining these expectations and settings for visitors and residents alike will require individualized management through different sections of the river, in recognition of varying natural and manmade influences. Where conflict over goals and objectives occurs, balance and compromise should be found that recognizes the value of authorized recreational activities without diminishing the standards for public land health or the water resources.

C. CITIZENS TASK FORCE

The AHRA Citizens Task Force [CTF] has been functioning since 1990 as an advisory group to the BLM River Manager and the State Park Manager. This task force, comprised of seven interest areas, has adjusted roles, functions and processes as described below:

The Role of the Citizens Task Force is to:

- Provide advice to the AHRA in application of the Recreation Management Guidelines developed from the Standards for Public Land Health;
- Assist AHRA in maintaining a watershed focus;
- Provide recommendations to AHRA on growth, value and potential development issues within the recreation area;
- Assist AHRA in resolving other management problems along the river corridor as they arise;
- Assist in providing an open communication link to all interested parties affected by management decisions;
- Provide support to the AHRA Management Plan and implementation of plan goals and objectives.

The Citizens Task Force is to be composed of seven {7} representative groups with fourteen members:

1. Two anglers {representing all fishing types-Fly, Bait, Lure, etc.};
2. Two commercial permittees {AHRA Agreement Holders with an AHRA Agreement in good standing};
3. Two private boaters {representing all boating types-Kayak, Raft, etc.};
4. Two environmentalists {representing environmental organizations};

5. Two water users {representing all types, i.e. Municipal, Agriculture, Industrial, etc.};
6. Two river front property owners {representing ranching and non-ranching river property ownership};
7. Two local government representatives {members of the Upper Arkansas Council of Governments}.

The Appointment Process for the Citizens Task Force:

- Members of recognized organizations or user groups may be used as a pool from which Citizens Task Force members are selected.
- Candidates for the Citizens Task Force should be able to demonstrate interest and experience with the issues of their constituency throughout the river corridor.
- Members must be capable of representing their respective interests while working as productive members in a team setting.
- Every effort should be made to advertise widely when vacancies exist so that Citizens Task Force members represent a wide range of opinions and users within their constituency.
- The following organizations are identified and selected to serve as a clearing house for selection of nominees by ALL parties interested in the selection process. They are to serve as a central and existent organization for individuals and/or members of other similar interest organizations to contact and then TOGETHER, collectively select nominees. The identified organization is consequently not to make the decision on their own, but rather to coordinate the nomination process. They are:

Anglers – Colorado Trout Unlimited in Denver, as well as the public, will help develop nominees. The CDOW Area Manager in Salida will participate in the selection of the nominees for these two positions.

Commercial Permittees – Arkansas River Outfitter Association in Salida, the Colorado River Outfitter Association in Denver, as well as the public, will help develop nominees.

Private Boaters – Colorado Whitewater Association in Denver, as well as the public, will help develop nominees. Both rafters and kayakers must be equitably represented.

Environmental – Colorado Environmental Coalition in Denver, as well as the public, will help develop nominees.

Water Users – Colorado Water Congress in Denver, as well as other water users, will help develop nominees.

River Front property owners - Colorado Cattlemen's Association in Denver, as well as the public, will help develop nominees. These members will be residents of different counties if possible.

Local Governments - Upper Arkansas Council of Governments headquartered in Canon City will develop nominees.

- Annually review at a CTF meeting the groups selected above for applicability.
- The AHRA BLM River Manager and the AHRA State Park Manager will make recommendations to the BLM Field Office Manager and the CDPOR South Region Assistant Manager for the final appointments to the Citizens Task Force from referred nominees.
- Appointments to the Citizens Task Force will be for a term of two {2} years. Citizens Task Force members may be re-nominated for additional terms and shall serve staggered terms with their fellow representative.

The Agency Representation/Ad Hoc Membership and Function for the CTF:

1. The FS District Rangers, the SECWCD Manager, the CDOW Salida Area Wildlife Manager, the BOR Project Manager, the BLM Field Office Associate Manager, the State Parks South Region Assistant Manager, the UACOG Director, County Commissioners for Lake, Chaffee, and Fremont Counties, the chairperson of the Lake County Open Space Coalition and others as appropriate should represent their agency and have an Ad Hoc membership on the CTF;
2. These ad hoc members will be encouraged to discuss respective agency issues with AHRA managers and attend CTF meetings to provide input and discussion on the issues that concern their mission, agency or organization;

3. The main function of these ad hoc members is to provide a link between their agency or group and the AHRA;
4. The City governments and the Chambers of Commerce for Leadville, Buena Vista, Salida and Canon City will be added to the mailing list and also receive all documents for their review.

Other Considerations/Directions for the CTF:

- The CTF will meet 5 times per year except when specific needs of the AHRA require special meetings;
- The CTF members will be polled as to their opinions, and their reasons for same, regarding all decisions of substance relating to the AHRA, with the outcome of this to become a part of the public record;
- The CTF will elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson on an annual basis;
- The chairperson and vice-chairperson, along with the BLM River Manager and State Park Manager, will develop the meeting agendas;
- The chairperson and vice-chairperson, along with the BLM River Manager and State Park Manager, will develop and disseminate adequate public notices and press releases;
- The agendas for all CTF meetings will include a specific time for receiving public input;
- The chairperson or their designated representative will conduct all meetings;
- CTF members are expected to attend all meetings except when extenuating circumstances prohibit such;
- The CTF will determine if a vacancy exists when a CTF member has missed two {2} or more meetings in a calendar year;
- CTF Members who travel over 25 miles on a regular basis to attend meetings

will
be paid for that mileage at the prevailing rate by BLM;

- When meals or refreshments are required as a function of attendance at a meeting
the CDPOR will pay for such;
- All CTF members will receive a CDPOR Annual Pass each year they actively
serve.

D. PLAN REVISION ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

This plan revision considered only a no action alternative to the proposed actions within the “preferred alternative”. The rationale for this was that with the 20+ months of extensive public involvement, i.e. four public issue open houses, 9 issue development workshops, over 40+ public briefings/agencies meetings, the Citizen Task Force issue and plan revision retreat, etc., no clear alternative to the proposed plan revision except the no action alternative appeared to make sense. BLM policy suggests that we look at a no change/no action alternative. Within the 41 significant plan issues that emerged during the process that affected changes within the management plan, none potentially could be partially implemented or broken into logical portions to build a separate alternative. It seemed to be that to force another alternative into the extremely complex planning process was not a logical choice, therefore no other alternatives were analyzed.

E. APPLICABLE MANDATES & AUTHORITIES

The various applicable mandates, laws, guidance, regulations, etc., are referenced for BLM, CDPOR, CDOW and the FS within the original plan and within the revised Cooperative Management Agreement located in APPENDIX A of this plan.

F. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION & AMENDMENTS

The decisions, capacities and development outlined in the revised plan are consistent with the intent of the vision statement. Plan implementation will begin for the majority of decisions immediately upon completion of signatures on the signatory page of the revised plan, on the EA decision record, on the CMA signatory page and/or as otherwise shown within this revised plan. Those items that are related to carrying capacity will be effective with the 2001 boating season.

The AHRA managers and the CTF will continue to monitor the river management plan on an annual basis, analyzing the potential need for plan amendments or revisions. Plan amendments should be considered at such times that use and/or resource monitoring shows that there is an apparent need to amend or change a decision within this revised plan. It was necessary to amend the original plan during the first ten years and it is logical to assume that something will come up that was not anticipated and/or monitoring shows a need to change or modify with regards to the decisions within this plan. The vision statement will guide the managers in this process.

CHAPTER 2

PROPOSED PLAN REVISION

A. INTRODUCTION

The proposed plan revision is a mix of the various management options discussed during the plan revision process and sets the course for future recreation management on the Arkansas River over the next ten year period. The plan was developed under the premise that all existing uses would be recognized and accommodated to the extent possible. It assigns management prescriptions for developed sites and carrying capacities for all segments of the river corridor.

Due to the increase in Arkansas River recreation use since the first plan was developed, a major issue addressed by the plan was the issue of direct management controls, including how much and what type of recreation use would be accommodated at what time. The plan provides for optimum levels of a variety of recreation uses on the Arkansas River while minimizing recreation user conflicts. This requires placing limits on activities which have the potential to eliminate other uses. This is being done in light of the newly developed "Vision Statement" presented earlier in Chapter 1. When coupled with the other management prescriptions, the carrying capacities in this plan specify the appropriate boating volumes which will allow other recreationists to continue enjoying the river.

The BLM, CDPOR, CDOW and FS, known in this plan as the partners, will ensure that a careful assessment is made of how visitor use dynamics interrelate with plan design prior to initiating changes in direct use regulations. Elements of plan design (boating season dates, launch windows, etc.) that can be directly implemented by all commercial river outfitters will be implemented immediately, unless specifically timed. These elements will continue to be included as "boiler plate" stipulations within each of AHRA's individual outfitter special use concession agreements. River corridor and developed recreation site carrying capacities cannot be directly implemented in this way. Instead, use has been and will continue to be monitored to be sure plan objectives are being met. Specific procedures for allocating use within the prescribed capacities have been and will continue to be developed in accordance with AHRA policy and with input from the Citizens Task Force. Those procedures for commercial boating, which are contained within "The AHRA Rationing Plan", do not require a plan amendment, but rather they are a separate addendum to this plan.

The plan specifies management for the river corridor and provides for development of a Cooperative Management Agreement {CMA} that will serve as the implementing contract. The plan will be implemented as a partnership between BLM, CDPOR, CDOW and the FS. See APPENDIX A for a copy of the CMA. Upon signing the CMA, the partnership agreement becomes effective and the plan becomes fully implementable unless otherwise specified or timed. CDPOR will be the on-the-ground recreation manager, providing on-water and land-based recreation management throughout the river corridor including the lands under special use agreement with the FS. CDOW will provide the lead in managing wildlife and related activities on lands and waters within the river corridor. The BLM and FS will continue to manage other multiple uses and work with the other partners to ensure compliance with the provisions of the plan and CMA. All four agencies will function as joint administrators in evaluating the adequacy of the plan, its implementation and the need for future amendments.

B. AREAWIDE MULTIPLE USE GOALS

1. Livestock Use: Provide for continued utilization of forage, water, livestock fords and trailing areas at current use levels throughout the river corridor, except at intensively developed sites where exclosures are needed to prevent user/livestock conflicts. Meet allotment management needs for livestock watering. Management decisions and actions for the recreation area within the cooperative management agreement lands and the R&PP leased developed recreation sites will not conflict with those livestock decisions described within the BLM Resource Management Plan [RMP]. Those recreation decisions within the BLM RMP that relate to recreation use along the river and potential conflicts with livestock use will be implemented. This guidance does not necessarily apply to CDPOR owned properties or lands under special use agreement with the FS.
2. Wildlife Management: Provide for continued wildlife habitat protection and improvement projects. Mitigate conflicts between recreation users and wildlife species to ensure their continued existence. Protect bighorn sheep habitat and prevent user conflicts between bighorn sheep and recreation users. The recreation area partners will reexamine and modify, if needed, the existing memorandum of understanding agreement [MOU] between BLM/CDOW. The AHRA Cooperative Management Agreement [CMA] clarifies the roles and responsibilities for wildlife management along the river corridor within AHRA. This updated CMA will replace the CDPOR/CDOW MOU.
3. Fisheries Management: Provide for continued protection of fisheries and aquatic

habitat. Provide for improvement projects to reduce impacts from increasing river recreation use, existing heavy metals problems, potential sedimentation stemming from developments and possible changes in water quality. Strive for compatibility of sports fishermen with other recreation users. The recreation area partners will reexamine and modify, if needed, the existing MOU between BLM/CDOW. The CMA clarifies the roles and responsibilities for fisheries management in the river and the closely associated streams within AHRA.

4. Threatened and Endangered Species: Provide for the conservation of federal and state-listed plants, animals, aquatic ecosystems and plant associations that are rare, endemic or threatened. Ensure that crucial habitats of threatened, endangered and sensitive species are managed and/or conserved to maintain or expand their existence. The recreation area partners, working closely with various other agencies {i.e. BOR, USFWS, CNAP, etc.} will reexamine and modify, if needed, existing MOUs or prepare new ones as needed in order to clarify roles and responsibilities for management of federal/state listed species, associations, etc. within AHRA.

5. Wilderness Management: Protect the primitive values of adjacent wilderness study areas [WSA] and maintain existing opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Recreation area partners will carry out monitoring and management to ensure that all activities adjacent to or within the Browns Canyon and McIntyre Hills WSAs are non-impairing to wilderness values.

6. Forestry: Maintain existing forestry resources for non-consumptive use to enhance recreation opportunities. This guidance does not necessarily apply to lands under special use agreement with the FS.

7. Cultural Resources: Protect cultural resources from vandalism and development, both within and immediately adjacent to the river corridor. Build an awareness and appreciation of cultural and natural history resources through visitor services (e.g. interpretation, information, etc.). The recreation area partners will carry out the needed actions/methods for implementation of the recreation area's interpretive plan.

8. Visual Resources: Ensure that all facility developments are designed to be visually harmonious with adjacent environs.

9. Minerals: Minimize conflicts between anglers, river boaters, recreational gold panners and suction dredgers so that these uses can co-exist. Recognize valid existing and future commercial mining operations. The recreation area partners will carry out actions that further implement the USFS/BLM recreational gold panning joint procedures and guidance. See APPENDIX E for a copy of this guidance.

10. Land Use/Realty: Provide for existing rights and accommodate public needs for new rights-of-way within the river corridor. Retain public lands within the corridor in federal public ownership unless exchanged for more important river corridor property. Allow leases, permits and easements as necessary to accomplish BLM management objectives outlined in necessary land use/realty actions. Acquire parcels which are needed to accomplish objectives through exchanges or direct acquisition. The recreation area partners will carry out actions that further implement the land use/realty related decisions described within the BLM RMP. This guidance does not necessarily apply to those lands under special use agreement with the FS.

11. Soil and Vegetation: Minimize natural and man-caused soil erosion and vegetation loss at developed recreation sites and other high-use areas. Incorporate wise soil and vegetation conservation practices into all new development projects. Noxious weed management is a mandate of federal, state and local governmental entities. AHRA will pursue all collaborative efforts to facilitate noxious weed control. See APPENDIX F for a copy the Recreation Management Guidelines.

12. Water: Protect in-stream water quality by providing adequate human and solid waste disposal facilities at all intensively used recreation sites. Require commercial outfitters to provide for on-water use sanitation as specified within their AHRA special use concession agreement. Minimize non-point source pollution from all recreation sites by maintaining conditions identified in the Recreation Guidelines of the Standards for Public Land Health. Rehabilitate and revegetate, to the degree possible, recreation sites that currently may not meet the Recreation Guidelines of the Standards for Public Land Health.

13. Air: Maintain air quality standards throughout the corridor and maintain visibility standards adjacent to Browns Canyon and the McIntyre Hills Wilderness Study Areas.

C. AREADWIDE RECREATION GOALS

The following goal statements reflect agency policies and mission statements. They also project a picture of what the future character of the river and its associated recreation opportunities will be.

1. Instill a wise river and public land use ethic in all users in regards to river etiquette, respect for private lands, outdoor ethics, etc. In cooperation with the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association [GARNA], all the recreation area partners will disseminate and encourage use of the “Arkansas River Guide’s Guide” [ARGG].

2. Develop an educational/interpretive program (for use at developed sites) to instruct users about resource use, special or unique aspects of the resource, outdoor ethics and/or user etiquette. In cooperation with GARNA, all the recreation area partners will

carry out actions that further implement the recreation area's interpretive plan as well as encourage extensive use of the ARGG and other educational tools.

3. Minimize adverse effects of recreation use and reduce conflicts between recreationists, other land users and public and private landowners. In cooperation with all other partners, agencies and user groups along the river {i.e. Trout Unlimited, USBOR, commercial rafting companies, GARNA, U.S. Corps of Engineers, etc.} the recreation area partners will work to implement needed actions for lessening these potential conflicts, e.g. increased land identification signing, acquiring easements or lands and extensive use of the ARGG and other educational tools.

4. Reduce problems of river recreation user trespass on private lands, especially trespass related to river access. In cooperation with other partners, agencies and user groups along the river, the recreation area partners will work to implement needed actions for lessening conflicts over trespass for river access, e.g. increased land identification signing, acquiring easements or property if necessary and extensive use of the ARGG and other educational tools.

5. Protect the rights of public land users to utilize public resources for a variety of multiple uses within and adjacent to the river corridor.

6. Gain a better understanding of the needs and requirements of public and private landowners along the river. In cooperation with other partners, public agencies, GARNA, Cattlemans Associations, Homeowner Associations, etc., the recreation area partners will carry out actions that promote mutual cooperation, as well as encouraging use of the ARGG and other educational tools.

7. The recreation area partners will continue to respect the rights and property of the railroads within the river corridor. A mutually benefitting agreement will be pursued between the recreation area and the Royal Gorge Scenic and the Rock-n-Rail Railroads that provides for clarification of issues relating to this railroad segment in the Royal Gorge between the Parkdale recreation site and Canon City.

8. Respect consumptive water users' rights and structures (e.g., working closely with the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, other irrigation districts, state and federal agencies, municipalities, the Upper Arkansas River Water Conservation District, etc.). Seek the cooperation of water owners and the funding sources to maintain water levels to benefit biological and recreational needs. The recreation area partners will work with these same water owners to request their VOLUNTARY participation in the upper Arkansas River Annual Flow Program.

9. Work with municipal water owners to provide river recreation access along the Arkansas River corridor where needed, i.e. City of Aurora in Lake County, Pueblo Board of Water Works near Clear Creek and the City of Colorado Springs near the Otero Pump Station.

10. Ensure existing and future water uses are consistent with the Colorado State Constitution and statutes. The recreation area partners will work with state and federal water agencies to ensure that water use meets legal requirements.

11. Recognize that federal and state highways, as well as county and city roads, provide the primary and in some cases the only, means of access for residents, recreationists and others who use the area. The recreation area partners will cooperatively work toward the identified actions related to recreation acceleration/deceleration lanes within the recreation area and specifically those actions between county roads and state highways within the recreation area. The recreation area partners will pursue the concern that some of the sites along US Highway 50 should be partially supported by CDOT transportation funds, assuming that a substantial portion of the visiting public are doing so in relation to highway travel and not recreational access to the river.

12. Improve coordination among local communities, the Governor's office, CDPOR and CDOT to integrate the management of state and federal highways with recreation management in the river corridor. The recreation area partners will cooperatively work toward the identified actions related to enhanced communication between all entities within the recreation area. Specifically, the partners will work towards those actions related to maintenance of county roads and state/federal highways that are directly tied to visitor safety within the recreation area.

13. Provide law enforcement capabilities and visitor services that are adequate to protect natural resources, private property and visitor health and safety. In addition, AHRA shall, where possible, assist with user group conflicts and fulfill management prescriptions in the plan in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies.

14. Provide adequate on-ground/on-river law enforcement authority and manpower to ensure that visitor management actions are properly implemented consistent with the objectives and specific actions established for each river segment.

15. Pursue and implement cooperative agreements with local, county, federal and state agencies to provide adequate recreation related public safety services (wildfire control, emergency medical services and search/rescue operations).

16. Provide access and facilities in the amount, location and character needed to provide for visitor health and safety and to facilitate use of the resource. In addition, provide facilities appropriate to the amount and types of recreation outlined in this plan. Recreation area partners will carry out implementation of the identified needed actions to provide for additional access acquisitions and for needed facility development. The criteria for meeting these identified needs will insure that a correct application of the AHRA vision statement is carried out. See APPENDIX D for a copy of these identified remaining acquisitions and developments.

17. Protect the environment, while allowing for a diversity of recreation opportunities and experiences, as identified and clarified within this plan's vision statement. Develop strategies and criteria to provide for appropriate, compatible, new and/or different recreational technologies/activities. Prevent those technologies and activities that are not compatible with the plans vision statement.

18. Monitor the environmental effects of recreation use along the river and take corrective actions as needed based upon the direction provided by this plan's vision statement, the Recreation Management Guidelines related to BLM's Standards for Public Land Health and the ongoing related monitoring program.

19. Protect water quality through proper sanitation maintenance (sewage control) and facility design. Working with the recreation area partners, establish a policy of visitor information and continue a "pack it in-pack it out" philosophy for trash within AHRA. Protect water quality by limiting recreational use at areas where fluvial tailings containing toxic metals are potentially thought to exist until restoration efforts are completed. Improve water quality by minimizing sediment production adjacent to the river as a potential result of increased recreational use.

20. Protect federal and state-listed threatened, endangered and other species of concern. The recreation area partners, working closely with various other agencies {i.e.USFWS, BOR, CNAP, etc.}, will carry out its specified roles and responsibilities for management of federal/state listed species, associations, etc. within the recreation area.

21. Collect user fees, based on a user pay philosophy, and return them to the recreation area for on-the-ground management.

22. Work to achieve a level of no more than 45 commercial boating outfitters.

23. Maintain the railroad corridor in the event of abandonment and continue to work towards the development of the corridor as a rails-to-trails project.

D. SEGMENT-SPECIFIC RECREATION MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

This section is a summary of river recreation management shown by river segment/sub-section, primary uses, sites, carrying capacities, use seasons and special use windows. See Table 2-1 on the following pages:

Table 2-1 SEGMENT-SPECIFIC RIVER RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Segment & Subsection	Primary Use	Sites {Agencies = BLM, FS, CDPOR, CDOW, CSLB, or the Cities of Buena Vista, Salida, Canon City}	Carrying Capacities [# of boats/day]		Use Seasons	Special Use Windows Special Notes
			Private	Commercial		
1 A Leadville to Granite	*Fishing Access *Private Boating Access *Other day uses	*Crystal Lakes Gateway *Hayden Meadows *Kobe Bridge *Sawmill Gulch *Granite	10	0	Year-round	none
1 B Granite to Numbers	*Boating Access *Fishing Access *Other day uses	*North & South Clear Creek *Stone Cabin *Pine Creek *Numbers	350	30	May 15 to Sept 7	*Commercial boats launch from 830am to 1100am. *Allow 1 safety boat with a paid staffer per commercial boat trip above capacity.
			200	10	Sept 8 to May 14	* Commercial boats launch from 830am to 1100am. *Allow 1 safety boat with a paid staffer per commercial boat trip above capacity.

1 C Numbers to Railroad Bridge	*Boating Access *Fishing Access *Camping *Other day uses	*Rapid #4 *Otero Bridge * 5 & One Half *Riverside Upper & Lower *Railroad Bridge	350	40	May 15 to Sept 7	*Commercial boats launch from 830am to 1100am. *Allow 1 safety boat with a paid staffer per commercial boat trip above capacity.
			200	10	Sept 8 to May 14	*Commercial boats launch from 830am to 1100am. *Allow 1 safety boat with a paid staffer per commercial boat trip above capacity.
1 D Railroad Bridge to Buena Vista	*Boating Access *Fishing Access *Other day uses	*Frog Rock/ Elephant Rock *Buena Vista	150	150	May 15 to Sept 7	none
			100	50	Sept 8 to May 14	none
2 A Buena Vista to Fisherman's Bridge	*Boating Access *Fishing Access *Other day uses	*Collegiate Peaks Gateway *Fisherman's Bridge	150	450	May 15 to Sept 7	none
			100	50	Sept 8 to May 14	none
2 B Fisherman's Bridge to Stone Bridge	*Boating Access *Fishing Access *Camping *Other day uses	*Ruby Mountain *Browns Canyon *Hecla Junction *Stone Bridge	150	450	May 15 to Sept 7	none
			100	50	Sept 8 to May 14	none

2 C Stone Bridge to Big Bend	*Fishing Access *Boating Access *Other day uses	*Big Bend	150	150	May 15 to Aug 15	*Commercial boats off river by 500pm.
			30	20	Aug 16 to May 14	*Commercial boats off river by 500pm. * Allow one commercial trip per day, with a maximum of four boats, to enter the river stretch from Stone Bridge to Texas Creek above capacity for pass through camping.
2 D Big Bend to Salida	*Fishing Access *Boating Access *Other day uses	*Salida Open Zone *Salida	150	150	May 15 to Aug 15	*Commercial boats off river by 500pm. *Allow commercial kayak instruction & private boating from low head dam above Salida to Riverside Park...not in capacities.
			30	10	Aug 16 to May 14	*Commercial boats off river by 500pm. * Allow one commercial trip per day, with a maximum of four boats, to enter the river stretch from Stone Bridge to Texas Creek above capacity for pass through camping. *Allow commercial kayak instruction & private boating from low head dam above Salida to Riverside Park...not in capacities.

3 Salida to Vallie Bridge	*Fishing Access *Boating Access *Camping *Other day uses	*Salida East *Point Barr *Rincon *Vallie Bridge	150	150	May 15 to July 14	*Commercial boats off river by 500pm.
			30	10	July 15 to May 14	*Commercial boats off river by 500pm. * Allow one commercial trip per day, with a maximum of four boats, to enter the river stretch from Stone Bridge to Texas Creek above capacity for pass through camping.
4 A Vallie Bridge to Texas Creek	*Fishing Access *Boating Access *Camping *Other day uses	*Canyon Trading Post *Loma Linda *Lone Pine *Fernleaf Gulch *Texas Creek	100	150	May 15 to Aug 15	*Commercial boats off river by 500pm.
			30	10	Aug 16 to May 14	*Commercial boats off river by 500pm. * Allow one commercial trip per day, with a maximum of four boats, to enter the river stretch from Stone Bridge to Texas Creek above capacity for pass through camping.
4 B Texas Creek to Parkdale	*Boating Access *Fishing Access *Camping *Other day uses	*Maytag *Devils Hole *Pinnacle Rock *Three Rocks *Salt Lick *Five Points *Lower Floodplain *Spikebuck *Bootlegger *Parkdale	150	300	May 15 to Sept 7	*Commercial boats off river by 500pm. *Allow 1 safety boat with a paid staffer per commercial boat trip above capacity.
			40	30	Sept 8 to May 14	*Commercial boats off river by 500pm. *Allow 1 safety boat with a paid staffer per commercial boat trip above capacity.

5 Parkdale to Canon City	*Boating Access *Fishing Access *Other day uses	*Parkdale South *Royal Gorge	150	75	May 1 to May 19	*Commercial boats launch from 830am to 400pm.
				175	May 20 to Aug 15	*Allow 1 safety boat with a paid staffer per commercial boat trip above capacity.
				125	Aug 16 to Sept 7	
			75	75	Sept 8 to Sept 30	*Allow 1 safety boat with a paid staffer per commercial boat trip above capacity.
				30	Oct 1 to April 30	
6 Canon City to Pueblo Reservoir	*Fishing Access *Boating Access *Other day uses	*Canon City *Florence *Pueblo Reservoir	40	40	Year-round	*Commercial kayak and canoe instruction within one or two stretches {i.e. Canon City & Florence}... ..not in capacities.

**Table
Footnotes**

- Unless otherwise stated in the Segment-Specific River Management Table 2-1 above, the commercial launch window on the river is 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Private boats do not have launch windows.
- For the purpose of making commercial trips safer, an allowance is optionally offered for one safety boat per commercial trip, outside of capacity, in river Subsections/Segments 1 B, 1 C, 4 B and 5. Specifics are outlined in the AHRA Special Use Concession Agreement.
- The plan provides for an initial increase in commercial boating capacity during the high-use season in Subsection 1 C, within the 830am to 1100am launch window, from the previous 30 bpd capacity to 40 bpd. This subsection capacity, at the discretion of the AHRA managers and with input from the CTF, can potentially increase to 50 bpd and then 60 bpd if the following conditions can be met:
 - Existing facilities can be expanded to accommodate the increase in commercial boating traffic/use;
 - Additional resource degradation does not occur with the preceding incremental increase;
 - Increases in conflicts between user groups do not occur with the preceding incremental increase.
- To accommodate self-contained, multi-day river trips during the “off season”, one commercial trip per day above the established capacity limits will be allowed to enter the river stretch between Stone Bridge and Texas Creek {Subsections 2 C through 4 A} for pass through camping. Such trips will be allowed on a reservation basis as specified in the AHRA Special Use Concession Agreement. For purposes of this exemption, trips shall consist of a maximum of four boats, shall spend no more than two consecutive nights within the defined river stretch and shall be completely self-contained {i.e. carry all necessary camping equipment and supplies on the boats}. Trips using vehicle support shall not eligible for this exemption and the four boats shall not be split among multiple outfitters or multiple trips. No historic use will accrue to outfitters for these trips and penalties will be imposed for failure to comply with conditions and provisions as outlined in the AHRA Special Use Concession Agreement.
- The carrying capacity of each raft will be the legal capacity for that size of raft, not the flat eight people per raft used in the past.
- In the event that additional resource monitoring shows that efforts at rehabilitation in Subsection 2 C {Browns Canyon} have failed to reverse the natural resource degradation trend, then consideration must be given to a reduction in carrying capacities for both private and commercial boating capacities within that sub-section.
- To provide safe boating experiences for the public during “high water” years such as 1995, when flows exceed 2,500 cfs at the Wellsville gauge, the AHRA managers may make temporary modifications on a year-to-year basis in segment boundaries and capacities that do not unduly impact other user groups or resources. No historic use will accrue to outfitters during these times or at these locations.
- During low flow periods of less than 700 cfs at the Wellsville gauge, the AHRA managers, on a year-to-year basis, may allow commercial outfitters to utilize the Ruby Mountain recreation site, for the purpose of launching commercial trips.

E. AREAWIDE IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS

This section describes resource and visitor management, facility management and development, access and easement acquisitions and administrative actions planned to accomplish prescribed management objectives on all river segments.

1. Resource Management

a. Protection

- * Install management facilities (barriers, signs, etc.) at sites as needed to maintain resource character (i.e. prevent erosion, vegetation trampling, littering and protect wilderness values, etc.)
- * Make resource protection a primary consideration of all recreation management actions.
- * Provide protection for wildlife and fisheries resources and habitats, riparian areas, archaeological sites, etc. through cooperation with appropriate agencies and interested publics.
- * Provide for existing livestock fording and watering areas.
- * Assist in protection of landowner fences, headgates, measuring devices, ditches and wingdams from damage by recreationists.
- * Identify specific points for stream improvement projects with CDOW.
- * Protect peregrine falcon eyries from disturbance using fencing and signs as needed.
- * Where possible, provide for a 50-yard buffer zone between sheep habitat areas and developed recreation sites.
- * Identify small bodies of water along the river corridor and maintain them for waterfowl habitat where feasible.

b. Rehabilitation

- * Rehabilitate vegetation and natural resources, where needed, at sites

identified through monitoring. Re-plant trees as needed and consider adding photovoltaic powered watering systems if feasible.

- * Based on resource surveys, rehabilitate or close any river site found to be below acceptable public land health levels.

- * Remove man-made hazards that have resulted in boating safety problems.

2. Visitor Management

a. Visitor Information and Interpretation

- * Post recreation area and public land boundaries along the river to reduce trespass.

- * Develop visitor information, interpretive and educational displays for resource protection, outdoor ethics and user etiquette at developed sites and high use areas (especially at Ruby Mountain and Hecla Junction).

- * Develop recreation area brochures explaining:

- > Boating and fishing etiquette,
- > River use/conservation/stewardship ethics,
- > Private property rights/recreation user privileges,
- > Available support facilities,
- > Available services and points of interest in communities,
- > Recreation opportunities including gold panning,
- > Permit and fee requirements,
- > The partnership,
- > Historic/cultural/geological points of interest,
- > Fisheries and wildlife features,
- > Multiple use resource management highlights, and
- > Recreation and wildlife regulations.

- * Include in all visitor information brochures suggestions on how to minimize the negative effects of noisy, rowdy boaters and other user groups on the river and at public and private campgrounds.

- * In an area wide users guide, provide maps showing recreation prescriptions for each segment, including available types of recreation

and the settings in which each occurs.

- * Post information signs/displays at access sites discussing:
 - > Boating and fishing etiquette,
 - > River use/conservation/stewardship ethics,
 - > Private property rights/recreation user privileges,
 - > Available support facilities,
 - > Available services and points of interest in communities,
 - > Recreation opportunities including gold panning,
 - > Permit and fee requirements,
 - > The partnership {at highway entrance signs to major recreation sites},
 - > Historic/cultural/geologic points of interest {work with local organizations to identify},
 - > Fisheries and wildlife features,
 - > Multiple use resource management highlights, and
 - > Recreation and wildlife regulations.

- * Continue an interpretive ranger program for the area focusing on resource, user and area management interpretation and user ethics {e.g., Browns Canyon}.

- * Provide for portage and/or scouting at locations where needed and feasible.

- * Post signs warning of flash flood dangers, especially at Chalk Creek, Badger Creek, Bernard Creek and Texas Creek.

- * Provide user ethics information on wildlife viewing to prevent human disturbance of wildlife.

b. Indirect Controls

- * Treat management problems through education and cooperation with user groups (including self-policing). Develop and enforce specific regulations if problems persist. Enforce standard public lands and AHRA regulations.

- * Provide information to recreationists about individual property rights and the location of public facilities and services.

- * Provide easy access to rules and regulations for river users; distribute through brochures, bulletin boards, information boxes, ranger stations, local chambers of commerce and tourist information centers.
- * When use in any segment reaches 75 percent of prescribed capacities on more than five days per season, initiate a user education effort explaining that capacities are being reached and encouraging use of other river segments offering similar types of recreation in order to postpone direct use regulation as long as possible.
- * Ensure, when feasible, that adequate facilities exist to accommodate both commercial and private boater needs at high use areas.
- * Employ selective facility design at developed sites to keep use within established capacities before resorting to direct regulation.
- * Phase-in facility development as needed to achieve resource protection and to accommodate user needs.
- * Ensure that facility design of roads, parking areas and campgrounds accommodate only the types and amounts of uses planned at specific sites, so as not to create overuse problems.
- * Locate and design additional sites to disperse use along the corridor and to reduce crowding at key sites.
- * Where feasible, use signs and brochures to educate boaters to use one channel so as to allow fisherman use along one bank.
- * Encourage users to respect quiet zones in residential areas.

c. Direct Controls

- * Authorize established events (those that have occurred prior to this plan) by special permit (e.g., FIBArk, World Cup, moonlight trips, training trips) that may exceed carrying capacities consistent with CMA partner's policies, procedures and regulations. Decisions on new event proposals are discretionary, must be consistent with the AHRA vision statement and management objectives and may or may not always fit within established carrying capacities.
- * Require all commercial outfitters, as a condition of obtaining river special use agreements, to send all boatmen/guides or a representative

to an annual CDPOR-sponsored user ethics workshop dealing with noise and other environmental quality issues. Also, ensure that the information is shared with the remaining boatmen/guides before the commercial rafting season begins; consider including noise prevention stipulations as part of all AHRA Special Use Concession Agreements.

- * Enforce regulations to prevent animal/wildlife harassment along the river and enforce dog leash regulations within developed recreation areas. Also enforce regulations to address firearm use at developed sites and at undeveloped sites where prohibited.

- * All commercial boating launches on all dates will be between the hours of 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, except as provided in segment-specific objectives and for after hours float fishing below.

- * Authorize after hours commercial float fishing only under the following conditions:

- > A CDPOR Special Use Concession Agreement,
- > The required fishing outfitters registration,
- > A maximum of four licensed (fishing) clients per boat, and
- > All trips must be conducted within carrying capacities as established in Table 2-1.

- * Whenever use on any one river stretch exceeds 75 percent of capacities established for the commercial or private sector five times in any one season, BLM and CDPOR will begin to determine how allowable use will be assigned within that sector. This determination will be made:

- > According to Standards for Public Land Health and the Recreation Management Guidelines,
- > As an addendum (not amendment) to this plan,
- > With opportunity for public and Citizens Task Force review and comment provided,
- > Include assignment of launch times and group/party size specifications as appropriate.

- * Whenever use on any one river stretch exceeds 75 percent of capacities established for the commercial or private sector five times in any one season, BLM and CDPOR, utilizing the most recent studies and monitoring data available, will assess the need for establishing different carrying capacities on weekdays vs. weekends and holidays. It is expected that weekday capacities would be considerably lower than those for weekends and holidays.

* Exceeding prescribed carrying capacities more than five times in a season will trigger use allocation the following year for the affected stretch of river. Use allocation will be applied only to the user group that exceeded capacities.

* The allocation system may be discontinued at the discretion of BLM and CDPOR:

> If demand falls short of available capacity for two consecutive seasons for any river stretch, or

> If, through improved utilization of key access sites or the river corridor itself, it is determined that capacities established in this plan need to be raised and the plan amended.

* At the time use allocations are implemented on each segment, place limits on maximum numbers of boats per group and on launches in each segment to reduce crowding and congestion, promote visitor safety and enhance resource appreciation.

* Incorporate, as minimum requirements to all outfitter permits or special use concession agreements, the list of standard stipulations under which outfitters have been operating on the public lands in the past.

* When one sector of the boating population (i.e., private or commercial) reaches its prescribed carrying capacity ceiling, it will not be allowed to take over unused capacity from the other sector.

* Review language contained in the AHRA Management Plan, including provisions contained within AHRA Special Use Concession Agreements and the Rationing Plan, and for those stipulations that are appropriate, place into regulations.

* Allow access for hunting on all public lands where feasible, except developed recreation sites and/or other sites as prohibited.

* Do not allow the use of motorized watercraft for recreational purposes on the river, except as authorized by AHRA managers for specific reasons {i.e. Search and Rescue, Public Safety or Law Enforcement purposes}.

* Lands managed by the CDOW remain subject to specific regulations. Work cooperatively with all partners to examine the potential for

special agreements, transfers of leases, easements or other mechanisms that will allow accomplishment of multiple use recreation goals as may be appropriate for such lands.

- * Based upon implementation of the Final Recreation Management Guidelines for Colorado, require all recreationists, while camping adjacent to the river outside of developed sites with toilet facilities, to provide for appropriate human waste management, i.e. portable toilets.

- * Minimize the threat of hazardous material spills by working with CDOT, the railroad and/or other responsible agencies.

d. Permits and Concessions

- * The user fee structure will be reviewed annually by the BLM and CDPOR, and a new fee structure will be devised if necessary to comply with BLM management and/or Parks Board policy.

- * Fees will be charged at developed (R&PP) sites and on lands under special use permit with the FS, consistent with Parks Board policy;
 - > this will include an entrance fee (daily vehicle, annual or walk-in pass)
 - > and in addition may include camping fees, special use fees (e.g., group sites), and other standard fees (e.g., reservations).

- * Fees for private boating will not be charged, nor will fees be required for use of sites that are not designated as fee areas, until such time as costs for development, implementation and administration of private boating programs, as well as costs of development, implementation and administration of other programs that directly benefit private boating interests, can be identified.

- * Whether or not additional fees will be charged commercial users (e.g., on-water use) will be studied by CDPOR; if warranted, new or additional fees may be charged.

- * All fees collected for the use of public lands and lands under special use permit with the FS will be used for recreation management of the lands within the AHRA.

e. Emergency Services

- * Develop an emergency communication system between the partners

and county/local agencies to alert them of wildfire emergencies.

- * Develop an emergency communication system between the partners and county/local agencies to alert them of search and rescue operations.

- * Work with CDOT, the railroad and both county and local government agencies concerning transportation of hazardous materials. Work closely with the four counties within the AHRA management area to devise a plan for potential hazardous material emergencies (i.e. HAZMAT Contingency Planning).

- * Develop an emergency communication system between the partners and county/local agencies to alert them of emergency medical service operations.

- * Identify all flood plains so as to minimize danger to the human environment.

- * Monitor actual costs associated with search and rescue operations in order to develop information and justification for cost recovery proposals or requests

3. Facility Management and Development

a. Site Development

- * Develop hiking and biking trails on public lands and other lands administered by CDPOR where feasible, including the rail corridor in the event of abandonment.

- * Cooperate with CDOW and others to develop new fishing access points and facilities where feasible to accommodate use.

- * Develop separate sites/facilities for commercial and private users where appropriate and ensure those facilities are equitable.

- * Maintain Class II VRM zone prescriptions in all site development plans and ensure that any remodeling of existing sites or new facilities blend in with the adjoining landscape as much as possible.

- * Conduct cultural inventories of areas subject to increased use and physical disturbance; mitigate adverse impacts as needed.

- * Locate and identify locations throughout the river corridor where it is necessary to both protect natural resources and provide primitive camping and day use activities. At these locations, develop primitive camping and day use facilities and implement, if necessary, through the BLM Pilot Fee Program, the collection of fees if these areas are not within R&PP leases.

b. Maintenance

- * Regularly maintain all developed and undeveloped public lands areas. Strive to meet public health and safety standards.

4. Access and Easement Acquisition

- * Acquire properties and easements to improve public river access for fishing, boating and other recreation.

- * All acquisitions by CDPOR will be with willing sellers. No eminent domain or right of condemnation authority will be used by CDPOR.

- * Coordinate and prioritize identified acquisitions among partners in order to facilitate and support individual agency mission accomplishments.

- * Collaboratively examine the potential of special agreements, leases, transfers or sale of easements/lands between BLM, CDPOR, CDOW, FS and other agencies that may prove able to better meet the needs of all agencies in a mutually acceptable manner.

5. Administration

- * CDPOR intends to manage all river related public lands recreation on a user funded basis as much as possible. This means they will rely principally on user fee revenues to cover administrative costs. If these revenues are inadequate, they will seek to acquire supplemental funding through the lottery, general appropriations, user fee increases or other sources.

- * Annually review the application fee assessed for special use concession agreements and ensure that the fee, which shall be part of the agreement

holders annual percentage agreement fee, covers at least the minimum costs required to issue and administer the agreement.

- * Review and implement a consistent and equitable policy of assessments for rationing plan non-compliance.

- * Include recreation area revenues and expenditures in an AHRA annual report.

a. Coordination

CDPOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Review the fee schedule with the BLM on an annual basis. If CDPOR fees are to change, notify the CDOW, FS and affected public of such changes.
BLM/ CDPOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Periodically review the management plan.* Review resource monitoring methodology annually.* Cooperate with CDOW with respect to wildlife and wildlife management considerations.* Work with CDOW to reestablish/maintain fisheries and fishing access.
CTF	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Review resource trends, visitation, conflicts and plan implementation.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Work with other agencies to make water quality improvements.* Work with railroads to reduce pedestrian/train incidents.* Work with the USBOR, SECWCD and others to develop voluntary opportunities for river flows that will enhance and balance river resources, community concerns and recreation opportunities.* Work with local law enforcement agencies to address problems with trespass, lewd behavior, animal

harassment, illegal use of firearms, etc. Cooperate fully with local law enforcement in regards to AHRA recreation related problems.

- * Work with local government organizations to keep them appraised of changes in area management and recreation use and to keep abreast of actions and developmental work they might be undertaking.

- * Work with CDOT to provide information signing about services, facilities, special rules, trends and opportunities that are available in communities along the river or elsewhere.

- * Work with the CDOT to develop and improve recreation access at appropriate sites.

- * Support federal legislative payment in lieu of tax appropriations at the congressional formula levels.

- * Support appropriate FS/BLM designation of roads through public lands so that identified roads qualify for available federal funding.

- * Make available appropriate road materials on public lands near identified roads to be improved within AHRA if negligible resource damage would occur.

- * Provide and maintain developed facilities that support planned recreational use and contribute to local economies.

- * Work with CDOT and various counties in using standard safety highway engineering principles to reduce the probability of accidents, traffic congestion, blind spots, slow moving vehicles and pedestrian traffic near highways. Developed recreation sites should be accessed by acceleration/deceleration and turning lanes. Road realignment and widening of US Highway 50 to four-lanes in Segments 3 and 4 should be considered where feasible to eliminate blind spots and

increase visibility. Pedestrian trails and wildlife turnouts should be located so through traffic is not impeded and visibility is not reduced (i.e., R&PP lease areas).

- * Implement cooperative arrangements with local, county, federal and other state agencies to provide for adequate visitor services and to identify the responsible agency for initial attack and fire suppression on public land wildfires.

- * Work with USGS, the State Engineers Office and others to maintain flow gauges at the Numbers, Nathrop {Hecla}, Wellsville and Parkdale {Royal Gorge} if feasible.

- * Pursue and implement cooperative agreements for response to search and rescue emergencies with appropriate local, county, federal and state agencies/organizations.

- * Pursue and implement cooperative agreements for the provision of emergency medical services with appropriate local, county, federal and state agencies/organizations.

- * Cooperate with CDOT to solve highway safety problems.

- * Coordinate and work with landowners and state, county and municipal administrators to provide river safety criteria for road and bridge construction, to provide river safety criteria for low-head dams and other river structures and to cooperatively develop safe passage and/or portage and scouting opportunities.

- * Continue river hazard removal activities that are coordinated with county, municipal and various river safety organizations.

- * AHRA managers will cooperate with groups, i.e. housing authorities, rafting industry groups, agencies,

etc., that are dealing with seasonal housing needs within the river corridor in order to establish a means that will assist these organizations, but they will not directly coordinate or lead this housing effort.

- * Work with photography companies, as well as other user groups, to provide access locations for photo shoots, where feasible. Particular areas of concern include the Royal Gorge and the Browns Canyon areas.

- * Work with federal, state and local governmental agencies to actively comply with plans for noxious weed control within the AHRA.

- * Provide coordination and leadership for potential rails-to-trails opportunities within the river corridor.

b. Studies and Monitoring

- * On an annual basis develop user counts for established sites and on-surface use of the river.

- * Build a user preference survey into the monitoring program for the river; monitor visitor preferences and perceptions regarding public visitation.

- * When possible, assist CDOW with a fish creel census and electro-fishing study to determine fish biomass, density, growth and condition factors for the river corridor.

- * Incorporate fish creel census, electro-fishing and bighorn sheep evaluations into the overall monitoring program.

- * Work with CDOW to establish appropriate procedures for monitoring bighorn sheep and fish population effects.

- * Inventory all riparian areas and identify those areas that require special protection. Work with agencies, special interest groups and the public to establish appropriate protective measures.

- * Identify areas where erosion/water quality problems can be alleviated (e.g., Subsection 1 A and Badger Creek).

- * Inventory the T&E plant species that are known to occur in the river corridor prior to surface disturbing actions.

- * Carry out an analysis of the potential to use modeling scenarios to simulate the flows at other water gauges, i.e. the Numbers, Hecla and Parkdale. If this process proves reliable and feasible, only maintain the Wellsville Gauge. Until then, continue to seek funding to maintain all four gauges.

- * Work with Colorado Department of Local Affairs {CDOLA}, local governments and other appropriate entities (academic, etc.) to monitor and analyze economic and population impacts of recreation use on the local area.

- * Look for opportunities to participate in the development of coordinated resource mapping with other entities.

- * Work with CDOLA to help local communities obtain assistance in order to minimize impacts of recreation on the area's infrastructure.

- * On an annual basis, review data relevant to flows and adjust flow recommendations accordingly, if needed.

- * Monitor sanitation problems and collaboratively work with users, both private and commercial, to provide appropriate on-river sanitation facilities.

c. Supplemental Staffing/Special Program

- * Seek volunteer help in completing stream improvement projects.

- * Work with local service groups/schools in cooperatively developing and placing signing/interpretation.

- * Establish criteria intended to allow volunteer organizations and/or groups to provide on-going maintenance and up-keep of specifically selected and undeveloped sites. This criteria will establish site and work standards and maintenance guidelines for both the organizations and

AHRA managers.

- * Monitor sanitation problems and, if necessary, require commercial and/or private boaters to provide on-river sanitation facilities.

- * In order to continue with the utilization of volunteers on various service projects within the AHRA, assist GARNA or other entities in the establishment or coordination of a volunteer program in the upper Arkansas River corridor.

- * In order to maintain the standards and level of service established over the past 10 years, to accommodate increasing visitation and additional duties, to accommodate an increasing number of responsibilities and programs and to adequately implement the proposed plan revision, additional BLM/CDPOR staffing will be necessary as follows:

- > High priority should be given to increasing the two permanent, part-time Park Manager II positions to full-time, year-round positions.

- > The physical extension of facilities and services into Lake County and below Canon City, as well as development and expansion of existing recreation sites, will make the addition of a second full-time maintenance position essential.

- > The increasing complexities and volume of work associated with the administration, monitoring, auditing and reporting of special use concession agreements and the rationing plan, as well as the possible addition of a private boater permit system, will soon require the addition of a full-time Park Manager II position

- > Prioritize and seek additional permanent and seasonal employees as required to keep pace with increased visitation, additional facility development and expanding programs and services.

- * Secure and maintain a seasonal employee wage scale and sufficient seasonal employee program funds that will allow AHRA to be competitive with other area employers and attract and retain skilled seasonal employees that the recreation area requires.

F. SEGMENT-SPECIFIC ACTIONS

This section presents segment-specific implementing actions for each of the six river segments. These segment-specific actions are prescribed in addition to the areawide actions.

Segment 1: LEADVILLE TO BUENA VISTA (See Illustration 2-1)

1. Resource Management

a. Protection

- * Protect cottonwood trees along the river corridor for use as bald eagle perch/roost sites.
- * Protect the quality fishery in Subsection 1 A.

b. Rehabilitation

- * Work with CDOW/EPA to reduce heavy metal pollutants.
- * Continue to work with the Upper Arkansas Watershed Council and the Lake County Stream Habitat Restoration Project to provide for rehabilitation of the Arkansas River watershed.

2. Visitor Management

a. Visitor Information and Interpretation

- * Post informational signs and provide interpretation as shown in the AHRA Interpretive Plan [at Crystal Lakes, Hayden Meadows, Kobe, Sawmill Gulch, Granite, North & South Clear Creek , Stone Cabin, Number Four, Otero Bridge, Upper & Lower Riverside, Number Five & One Half, Railroad Bridge, Frog/Elephant Rock, Split Rock & Buena Vista.]

b. Indirect Controls

(See Areawide Actions)

c. Direct Controls

(See Areawide Actions)

3. Facility Management

a. Site Development

The planned site development for those recreation and access sites within river segment one are shown below in Table 2-2.

Table 2-2 Segment One - Site Development

Site Name	Planned Site Development	Development Remaining
Crystal Lakes Gateway	Work under the special use permit with the FS, CDOW & other LCOSI partners to develop as a gateway site. Provide public river fishing access, signing & watchable wildlife/scenic interpretation.	Gateway, entry, three panel & other signing, picnic sites, trails, interpretive kiosk/signing & toilet.
Hayden Meadows	Work with CDOW, BYWAYS & other LCOSI partners to develop this multi-faceted recreation watchable wildlife & scenic byway site. Provide public river/pond fishing access, signing, wildlife viewing/scenic/historic/riparian & wetland habitat restoration interpretation, trails/walkways, parking, picnic & sanitation facilities. Work with CDOT to develop acceleration & deceleration vehicle lanes to this site entrance.	Entry, three panel & other signing, ponds, picnic sites w/shelters, fence crossings, trails/walkways, interpretative kiosks/signing, & toilet.
Kobe	Work with LCOSI partners to develop this river fishing access site. Provide parking, signing, picnic & sanitation facilities.	Entry, three panel & other signing, picnic sites, fencing & fence crossings, & toilet.
Sawmill Gulch	Work with LCOSI partners to develop this river fishing access site. Provide parking, signing & picnic facilities.	Entry, small informational & other signing, parking & picnic sites.
Spring Creek/Holmes Gulch	Work with CDOW on their public fishing easement access sites to see if they can be changed to multiple use access sites.	N/A
Ball Town	Work with CDOW on their public fishing easement access sites to see if they can be changed to multiple use access sites.	N/A
Granite	Work with CDOW partners, the RR or private owners to develop a river boating/fishing access site. Provide parking, signing, boat launch, picnic & sanitation facilities.	Entry, three panel & other signing, parking & toilet.
North Clear Creek	Work with Pueblo to develop this river fishing access site. Provide parking & signing.	Entry, three panel & other signing.

South Clear Creek	Work with Pueblo to develop this river fishing access site. Provide parking, portable sanitation, signing & picnic facilities.	Entry, three panel & other signing, picnic sites & portable potty screen.
Stone Cabin	Work to develop this primitive camping & river access site. Provide primitive camping, parking, access roads, signing & sanitation facilities.	Entry, three panel & other signing, primitive camp sites, roads, parking, some renovation of old stone cabin into a primitive rental & toilets.
Pine Creek	Work to develop rapid portage & safety scouting trail. Provide river signing & trail.	Signing & trails.
Numbers Site	Work under the special use permit with the FS to develop this river boating & fishing access site. Provide access roads, fencing, parking, sanitation, boat launch, picnic & signing facilities. Re-develop at more appropriate location if additional property is acquired by the FS {i.e. Skoggsberg Estate}. Work with CDOT to develop acceleration & deceleration vehicle lanes to this site entrance.	Entry, three panel & other signing, access road & parking improvements, boat slide/step improvements, picnic sites & toilet.
Number Four	Work to develop this primitive camping, boating & river fishing access site. Provide primitive camping, parking, access road, signing & sanitation facilities.	Entry, three panel & other signing, primitive camp sites, road, parking & toilet.
Otero Bridge	Work with Homestake Project to develop this river safety boating portage & rapid scouting trail & fishing access site. Provide river rapid portage trail & scouting, parking, signing & Otero Pump Station interpretation.	Entry & other signing, parking improvements, portage trail & scouting platform.
Five & Half Rapid	Work to develop rock climbing & river access parking & trail.	Parking improvements & trail.
Upper Riverside	Work to develop this primitive camping, boating & river fishing access site. Provide primitive camping, parking, signing & sanitation facilities.	Entry, three panel & other signing, primitive camp sites, parking, road improvements & toilet.
Lower Riverside	Work to develop this primitive camping, boating & river fishing access site. Provide primitive camping, parking, signing & sanitation facilities.	Entry, three panel & other signing, primitive camp sites, parking & toilet.
Railroad Bridge	Work to develop this developed camping, boating, recreational placering & river fishing site. Provide camping, roads, parking, signing, interpretation, potable water & sanitation facilities.	Replace entry sign & provide additional signing, water well, interpretive display, additional developed campsites, rebuild boat launch ramp w/slide, additional toilet & remove abandoned pipe.

Frog/Elephant Rock	Work under the special use permit with the FS to develop rock climbing & river access site. Provide parking areas, road improvements, trails, signing, interpretation & sanitation facilities.	Entry, three panel & other signing, parking & road improvements, access trails, interpretive displays & toilet.
Split Rock	Work with private owner & railroad to develop this rock climbing site. Provide parking, signing & sanitation facilities.	Entry, three panel & other signing, parking improvements, fencing & toilet.
Buena Vista	Offer technical assistance to Buena Vista in providing boater/fishing access, sanitation and changing facilities, picnicking, hiking/biking/nature trails, parking, traffic controls, development of the Cottonwood Creek Nature Area & other day use facilities.	N/A

b. Maintenance

(See Areawide Actions)

4. Access and Easement Acquisition

* Acquire those lands within the LCOSI partnership, i.e. Arkansas River Ranch, Hayden Ranch and/or portions of the Hallenbeck Ranch.

* Attempt to obtain lease agreements near Pine Creek and other appropriate areas for boating/fishing access. Work with other partners and the Colorado State Land Board {CSLB} for multiple use and access of this site. Also, consider a land exchange between BLM/CSLB.

* Acquire or obtain under an agreement, the Pueblo Board of Water Works lands east of US Highway 24 at Clear Creek.

* Work with FS to obtain a special use permit on the Crystal Lakes, Numbers, Number 4 and Frog/Elephant Rock sites. In addition, work with FS to acquire the SkoggsBerg Estate lands known as the "Arkansas River Placer".

* Acquire or obtain an agreement for a safety scouting/portage site at Otero Bridge with Colorado Springs and Aurora {Homestake Project}.

* Work with the private owner to acquire and obtain a use agreement with the railroad for the site known as the Split Rock Climbing Area near Buena Vista to manage for rock climbing activities.

* Consider R&PP Lease with BLM for the Kobe, Hayden Ranch, Clear Creek, Stone Cabin, Numbers, Riverside, Frog Rock sites for the AHRA.

* Identify and acquire lands for additional public river access and coordinate with Buena Vista.

5. Administration

a. Coordination

CDPOR/
BLM

* Work with FS to ensure uniform river recreation management strategies on the parcels of National Forest System Lands adjacent to the river. Continue to work with FS through special use permits or agreements on their lands on the river, i.e. the Crystal Lakes Gateway Site, Numbers River Access Site, Number Four Site, & the Frog/Elephant Rock Site. Continue jointly working on the Lake County Open Space Initiative.

* Work with the EPA/other agencies on Superfund cleanup of the river and tributaries. Work with agencies/organizations (Lake County Soil Conservation District, USFWS, EPA, USGS, CDOW, Colorado Department of Health, etc.) for water quality improvements and to monitor water quality consistent with appropriate statutes. Specifically, continue to support the Arkansas River Restoration Project in Lake County.

b. Studies/Monitoring

(See Areawide Actions)

c. Supplemental Staffing/Special Programs

(See Areawide Actions)

Illustration 2-1 Segment 1



Segment 2: BUENA VISTA TO SALIDA

(See Illustration 2-2)

1. Resource Management

a. Protection

- * All river-related use bordering Browns Canyon WSA will be managed in accordance with BLM's wilderness study area interim management guidelines.
- * Within the Browns Canyon WSA, protect resources consistent with BLM's management prescription {i.e., prevent erosion, vegetation trampling & littering}; emphasize use dispersion and pack-out of all waste.
- * Establish quiet zone areas where great blue herons are concentrated.
- * Protect large cottonwood trees along the river corridor for use as bald eagle perch/roost sites.
- * Eliminate livestock/recreation conflicts at Hecla while maintaining stock access for river watering if possible. Also, complete boundary fence when needed to avoid user-livestock conflicts.
- * Conduct Class I paleontology inventory prior to surface disturbing activities, especially in the Big Bend Area (Dry Union Formation).
- * In Browns Canyon, restrict public use east of the river, including the area between the river and railroad tracks, to avoid sheep disturbance (May 15-July 14).
- * Conduct inventory for *Eriogonum Brandegei* prior to surface disturbance (e.g. Big Bend Area). The area to the west, designated as the Droney Gulch Area of Critical Environmental Concern {ACEC}, has also been designated as a Colorado State Natural Area.

b. Rehabilitation

- * Work with CDOW to maintain and improve fisheries quality.
- * Identify specific points for stream improvement projects with CDOW.
- * Revegetate/rehabilitate areas at Hecla and other sites as necessary.
- * Develop/implement drainage control plan at Hecla.
- * Protect avian and other wildlife from human disturbance.

2. Visitor Management

a. Visitor Information and Interpretation

- * Post informational signs, to include using the large AHRA public information sign where appropriate [at Collegiate Peaks Overlook Gateway, River Bend, Fisherman's Bridge, Ruby Mountain, Hecla Junction, Stone Bridge, Big Bend, Salida Open Boating Zone & Salida Boat Ramp].
- * Develop interpretive program about Browns Canyon WSA.
- * Distribute BLM brochures and information about the WSA and other BLM lands/recreation resources.
- * Inform public of BLM's responsibilities within the WSA and on other BLM lands.
- * Provide information about dispersed/low impact use of WSA, (i.e., pack-in/pack-out).

b. Indirect Controls

- * Improve traffic flow at Hecla by signing and providing ranger assistance on heavy use days (weekends and holidays during boating season).

c. Direct Controls

- * Develop appropriate stops for overnight use for both commercial

and private boaters and limit all camping to designated sites.

* From Ruby Mountain to Stone Bridge, limit all river lunch stops to designated sites.

* In the event that additional resource monitoring shows that efforts at rehabilitation in Subsection 2 C {Browns Canyon} have failed to reverse the natural resource degradation trend, consideration must be given to establish a phased resource enhancement program for both day and overnight use, including improvement of human waste management. Collaboratively work with river users to provide appropriate sanitation facilities.

* Allow unlimited private boater use from the low head dam above Salida to Riverside Park in Salida {Salida Open Boating Zone} as an exception to corridor capacities with no restrictions on season or launch windows.

* Allow commercial kayak/canoe instructional boating in the Salida Open Boating Zone outside of capacities.

* Collaborate with others {i.e. Arkansas River Trust, City of Salida, CDOW, UP Railroad, Steam Plant Group, etc.} to establish an improved boater put in/take out below the F Street Bridge in Salida. Consider obtaining a use agreement or lease with the railroad to use the railroad properties for this purpose.

3. Facility Management

a. Site Development

The planned site development for those recreation and access sites within river segment two are shown below in Table 2-3.

Table 2-3 Segment Two - Site Development

Site Name	Planned Site Development	Development Remaining
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Helena Ditch Boat Chute	Work with City of Buena Vista, ditch companies, Corps of Engineers, Chaffee County & others to rehabilitate the boat chute & provide appropriate boating safety signing & scouting/portage trail.	Signing, fencing & trail.
Collegiate Peaks Overlook Gateway	Work with partners to develop an overlook & gateway shelter site. Provide public overlook, scenic interpretive viewing station, sanitation, picnicking, road rehabilitation, OHV access & informational signing, AHRA gateway signing & improved parking.	Gateway, entry, three panel & other signing, picnic sites w/shelters, convert existing road to a trail/administrative road, entry ramp & add OHV informational display.
River Bend	Work with private owner to develop River Bend as a recreational site. Provide developed camping, signing, improved road access, parking, signing, potable water & sanitation facilities. Work with CDOT to develop acceleration & deceleration vehicle lanes at this site entrance.	Entry, three panel & other signing, developed campsites, boat launch/landing, potable water well system & toilet w/changing shelter.
Fisherman's Bridge	Work to develop this recreational site. Provide roads, parking, boat launch ramps w/slides, signing, wildlife & wetland interpretation, picnicking, boater safety portage trail & sanitation facilities. Work with CDOT to develop acceleration & deceleration vehicle lanes at this site entrance.	Additional signing, informational display, bridge portage access trail with wetland interpretive display & covered multi-table picnic shelters.
Ruby Mountain	Work to develop this recreational site. Provide roads, parking, boat launch ramp, WSA interpretation & access area, developed camping, picnicking, OHV information, potable water, wetland protective fencing, signing, & sanitation facilities.	Entry & other signing, additional picnic & developed campsites, WSA informational display, OHV informational display, fencing, potable water well system & additional toilet.
Browns Canyon	Work to rehabilitate various sites in canyon, additional signing, make improvements to lunch stops, enhance sanitation conditions & provide for WSA informational signing.	Additional signing, closing of some sites & site rehabilitation at various other sites.
Hecla Junction	Work to develop this recreation site. Provide road & parking improvements, develop picnic & campsites, develop boating launching ramp, potable water, handicapped accessible hiking/nature trails, fishing access, traffic controls, enhance resource protection of area & sanitation w/changing shelters. Work with Chaffee County to improve county access road. Work with CDOT to develop acceleration & deceleration vehicle lanes at this site entrance.	Entry sign & other additional signing, potable water well system, WSA information station, & additional trail development.

Stone Bridge	Work to develop this recreation site. Provide road & parking improvements, develop picnic, develop boating launching ramp, hiking trail, fishing access, traffic controls & sanitation w/changing shelters. Work with CDOT to develop acceleration & deceleration vehicle lanes at this site entrance.	Two entry signs, picnic sites w/shelters & fishing access trail & additional road improvements.
Big Bend	Work to develop this recreation site. Provide road & parking improvements, picnic sites, traffic controls, enhance resource protection of area, informational signing, boat launching, fishing access, hiking, T&E/historic interpretive kiosk & sanitation facilities w/changing shelter. Work with various additional partners to provide for a OHV family riding area to include trails, parking, signing & sanitation facilities.	Entry signs & other signing, picnic sites, parking improvements, walkways, interpretative kiosk & OHV riding area.
Poncha Springs Gateway	Work with City of Poncha Springs & other partners to develop this as a gateway site. Provide gateway sign and other signing as needed.	Gateway sign & informational signs.
Salida Open Boating Zone	Work with City of Salida, CDOW, Ark River Trust, & other partners to enhance boating access & support facilities within this open boating zone. Provide additional private & instructional river boating access at CDOW low-head dam site. Provide additional commercial river boating access at the City of Salida Ballfield or the railroad lands. Enhance needed support facilities in conjunction with Salida/River Trust/Steam Plant Group.	Entry signs & other signing. Provide technical assistance with parking improvements, traffic controls, boat ramp improvements & other support facilities.
AHRA HQ Complex	Work to expand HQ office, parking & support facilities or move to CDOW site and construct new Natural Resource Center.	Acquire more space & develop additional facilities or build new Natural Resource Center.
Salida Boat Ramp	Assist City of Salida in providing boating/fishing access, sanitation, changing and picnicking facilities, hiking/biking/nature trails, parking, traffic controls & other day use facilities.	Provide technical assistance to the city for improvements to boat ramp, toilet, historic interpretive kiosk & parking. Provide information sign.

b. Maintenance

(See Areawide Actions)

4. Access and Easement Acquisition

* Acquire easement or property at the Helena Ditch Dam below Buena Vista to provide for safer boat chute and/or for legal scouting/portage.

- * Acquire an additional site above Fisherman's Bridge for public access recreational use of river {i.e. River Bend property}.
- * Acquire additional land upstream of Fisherman's Bridge to allow for a public safety portage around Fisherman's Bridge during high water.
- * Acquire additional land for public recreation use (day use, rock hounding, to protect open space, wetland protection, etc.) near Ruby Mtn. Specifically, acquire through fee purchase, exchange, or scenic easement the 13 acre parcel immediately south of the developed recreation site on river left.
- * Acquire additional public lands in the Stone Bridge area to include small inholding in Stone Bridge property and obtain public fishing easement upriver of site.
- * Acquire site near Big Bend for public access.
- * Work with CDOW to develop new fishing and/or multiple use access/ easements as well as obtain agreement to develop a private boater/instructional kayak/canoe launch site at or near the low head dam.
- * Work with the Town of Poncha Springs through a use agreement for the US Highway 50/285 junction property for a possible AHRA gateway/public visitor information site in partnership with GARNA and/or others.
- * Acquire adjacent properties to the AHRA HQ complex in Salida for needed expansion of office/maintenance/yard/vehicle storage space or work with various other partners to develop a Natural Resource Center along the river just west of Salida.

5. Administration

a. Coordination

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| CDPOR/
BLM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Ensure river management and use consistent with Browns Canyon WSA prescriptions. * Work with CDOW for fishing access, fishing quality, and other fisherman needs. * Work with CDOW on other |
|---------------|--|

hunting/fishing/wildlife considerations.

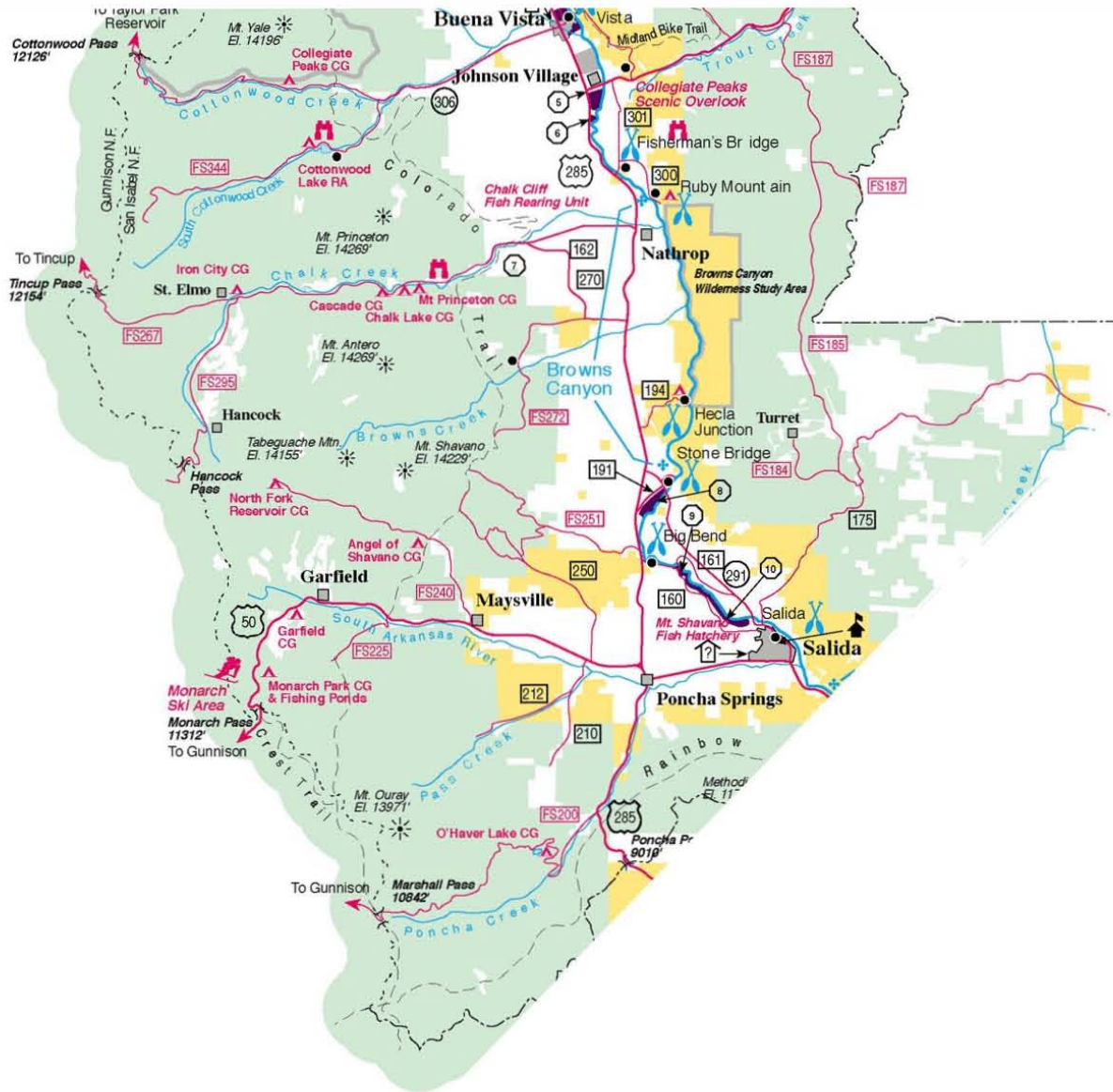
b. Studies/Monitoring

- * Annually monitor resource quality in the portion of the WSA used by river recreationists.
- * Monitor the quality of fisheries and cooperate with CDOW.
- * Monitor the blue herons; include an inventory of rookery(s) (nesting sites).

c. Supplemental Staffing/Special Programs

- * Seek volunteer help for campground hosts at sites such as Ruby Mtn. and Hecla Junction.
- * Seek volunteer help for trail work at all sites as needed.
- * Seek volunteer help in completing stream/fishing improvement projects.

Illustration 2-2 Segment 2



Segment 3: SALIDA TO VALLIE BRIDGE **(See Illustration 2-3)**

1. Resource Management

a. Protection

- * Protect quality of fishing resource while working to maintain resource character.
- * Conduct Class I survey for paleontological resources prior to surface disturbing activities (Dyer Dolomite, Parting Quartzite, Sangre de Cristo and Dry Union Formations).

b. Rehabilitation

- * Work with CDOW to maintain and improve fishery quality.
- * Identify specific points for stream improvement projects with CDOW.

2. Visitor Management

a. Visitor Information and Interpretation

- * Post informational signs to include using the large AHRA information signs [at Salida East, Point Barr, Rincon and Vallie Bridge].
- * Post information signs warning of flash flood dangers (e.g., Badger Creek).
- * Consider placing wildlife viewing information stations/kiosks at sites.
- * Consider placing recreational placering opportunities information and regulations at various sites.

b. Indirect Controls

- * Provide on-the-ground visitor awareness information and education through signing, brochures, etc.

c. Direct Controls

* Establish an improved private/commercial boater put in/take out at the Salida East recreation site.

* In the event that the Salida Open Boating Zone fails to provide adequate Class III water for canoe/kayak instructional boating purposes, consider the establishment of a second open boating zone in this segment.

3. Facility Management

a. Site Development

The planned site development for those recreation and access sites within river segment three are shown below in Table 2-4.

Table 2-4 Segment Three - Site Development

Site Name	Planned Site Development	Development Remaining
Salida East	Work to develop this recreation site. Provide road & parking improvements, individual & group picnic sites, develop boat launch ramp, special permit group camp area, signing, fishing access & traffic controls. Work with CDOT to develop acceleration & deceleration vehicle lanes at this site entrance.	Entry, three panel & other signing, picnic sites w/sun shelters, develop large group picnic shelter that possibly could be used as a group camping shelter, boat launch landing improvements, road & parking improvements, closure of 2 nd Hwy entrance & toilet w/changing shelter.
Point Barr	Work to develop this recreation site. Provide for redevelopment of access road, parking/road improvements and camping sites. Develop group boat camp/lunch stop area, interpretive kiosk for recreational gold placering & fishing, signing, fishing access, traffic controls & sanitation facilities.	Entry, three panel & other signing, small group picnic shelter, developed group campsite, developed campsites, boat landing improvements, road & parking improvements & toilets.
Rincon	Work to develop this recreation site. Provide for a boat ramp, signing, camping, potable water, sheltered picnicking, fishing access, potable water, enhanced/safer highway access & sanitation facilities. Work with CDOT to develop acceleration & deceleration vehicle lanes at this site entrance.	Entry & other signing, picnic table shelters, boat ramp improvements & potable water well system.

Badger Creek	Work to develop this fishing access site.	N/A
Howard River Access	Work to develop this site if acquired for public fishing access.	Signing & parking improvements.
Vallie Bridge	Work to develop this recreation site. Provide for a boat ramp, develop parking, signing, group river campsite, fishing access, rehabilitate the current parking into picnic sites w/sun shelters & sanitation facilities. Modify the current grazing practice.	Entry, three panel & other signing, develop group river campsite, picnic sites where parking is currently, boat landing improvements, new road & parking improvements & toilet.

b. Maintenance

(See Areawide Actions)

4. Access and Easement Acquisition

- * Acquire new fishing access upriver of Vallie Bridge {i.e. Howard Cemetary site}.
- * Somewhere between Salida and Vallie Bridge identify and provide river-accessible camping locations with primitive facilities {i.e. Point Barr site}.
- * Acquire additional lands adjacent to Vallie Bridge for fishing, river based camping and boating.
- * Work with CDOW to develop new fishing and multiple use access/easements.
- * Acquire new lands for river access. If any of the above lands are BLM or are acquired by BLM, consider leasing to CDPOR under the R&PP Act so that development can take place {i.e. Salida East}.

5. Administration

a. Coordination

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| CDPOR/

BLM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Work with CDOW on fishing access, fisheries quality and angler needs. * Work with CDOW on other |
|-------------------|--|

hunting/fishing/wildlife

considerations.

- * Work with Salida to provide parking, day-use and changing facilities.

- *Solicit recommendations from CDOT on solutions to safety problems {i.e. acceleration & deceleration lanes}.

b. Studies/Monitoring

- * Cooperate with CDOW to monitor the quality of fisheries.

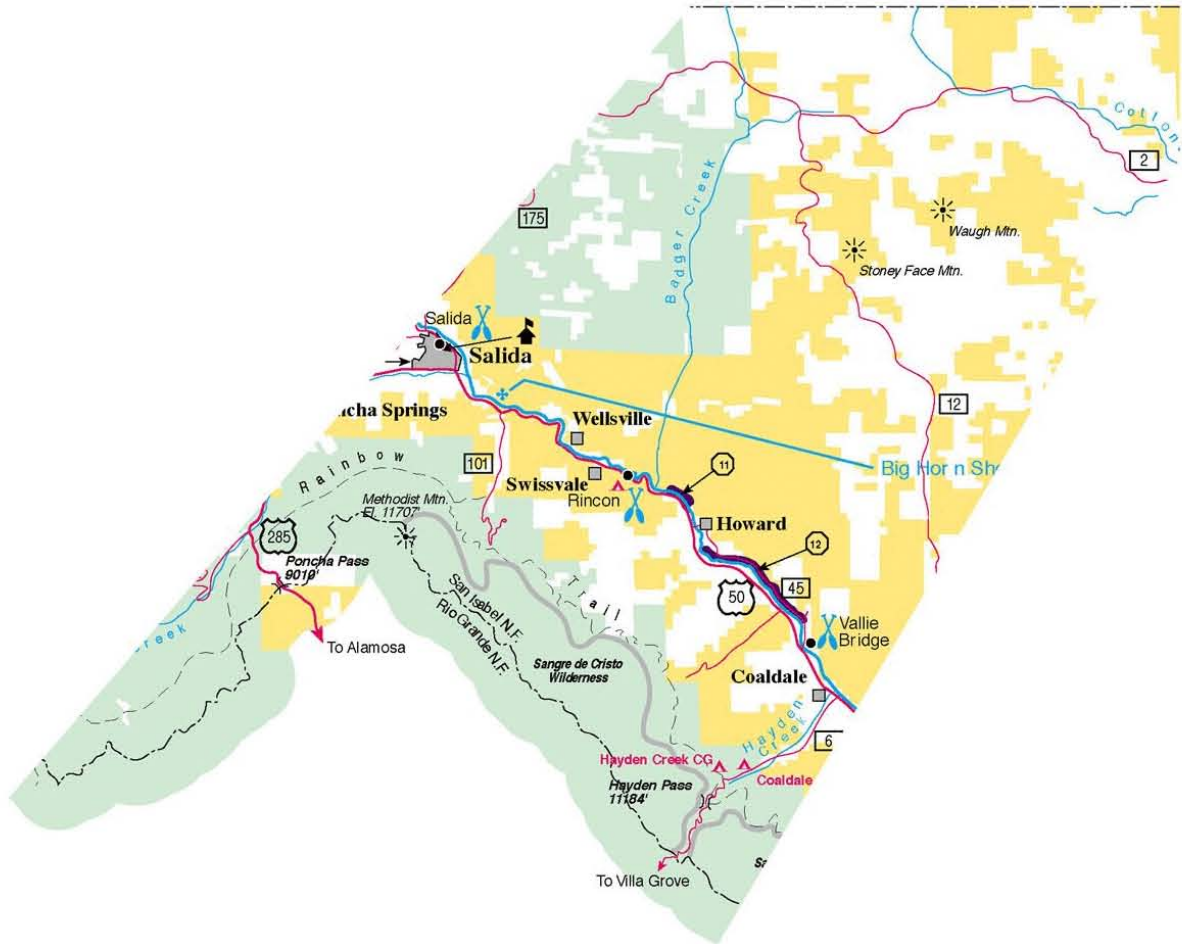
- * Assist in riparian monitoring along this segment of river.

c. Supplemental Staffing/Special Programs

- * Seek volunteer help in completing stream/fishing improvement projects.

- * Assist in riparian enhancement efforts at the junction of Badger Creek and the Arkansas River.

Illustration 2-3 Segment 3



Segment 4: VALLIE BRIDGE TO PARKDALE
(See Illustration 2-4)

1. Resource Management

a. Protection

- * Protect wildlife resources within this segment.

b. Rehabilitation

- * Work with CDOW to maintain and improve fishery quality.
- * Stabilize river erosion at river recreation sites {i.e. Canyon Trading Post, Lone Pine and Spikebuck}.

2. Visitor Management

a. Visitor Information and Interpretation

- * Post information signs including placement of the large AHRA informational sign.
- * Inform public of proper use of McIntyre Hills WSA with a kiosk at Five Points day use parking area and provide information about low impact use of WSA (i.e. pack-in/pack-out).

b. Indirect Controls

- * Reduce traffic safety problems near developed sites along highway.
- * Restrict recreation pedestrian traffic for public safety purposes along the highway, except where no alternative exists.
- * Convert old Parkdale to fishing access, but only after buying/leasing downstream site for all users.

c. Direct Controls

- * Reduce pedestrian/vehicle conflicts along highway at Cottonwood Rapid during special events (i.e., FIBArk).

* Allow northside river recreational use as an exception to the Bighorn protection mitigation only at Vallie Bridge, Devil's Hole, Three Rocks Portage and Texas Creek Sites.

* Allow river lunch stop re-development at Lower Flood Plain Site as an exception to the riparian protection mitigation.

* Require the use of portable toilets at the Devil's Hole site for day use and overnight stops.

* Allow only private boat launching at the Five Points recreation site.

3. Facility Management

a. Site Development

The planned site development for those recreation and access sites within river segment four are shown below in Table 2-5.

Table 2-5 Segment Four - Site Development

Site Name	Planned Site Development	Development Remaining
Canyon Trading Post	Work to develop this recreation site. Provide for a boat ramp, signing, picnicking, fishing access, wildlife viewing & sanitation facilities. Work with CDOW to carry out needed bank stabilization effort. Work with CDOT to develop acceleration and deceleration vehicle lanes at this site entrance.	Wildlife viewing display, bank stabilization work & fishing trail.
Loma Linda	Work to develop this fishing access site.	Signing, trail & river step enhancements.
Lone Pine	Work to develop this recreation site. Provide for fishing & boating access, signing, picnicking, wildlife viewing, parking, handicapped fishing trail & sanitation facilities. Work with CDOT to develop acceleration and deceleration vehicle lanes at this site entrance.	Entry & other signing, boat landing improvements, picnic tables w/sun shelters & wildlife viewing station.
Fernleaf Gulch	Work to develop this access site. Provide signing & parking with riparian protective measures.	Signing & parking improvements with barriers for wetland protection.

Texas Creek	Work to develop this recreation site. Provide for fishing access, boat ramp improvements, parking improvements, signing, picnicking, developed campsites, potable water, historic & wildlife interpretive displays w/wildlife viewing station, group camp site/lunch stop site on east end boat landing enhancements with sanitation facilities. In addition, provide for enhancements to the AHRA down river ranger station/ maintenance facility, i.e. removal of barns/sheds, new roof on station, handicap accessibility, furnishings, etc.	Entry, three panel & other signing, picnic sites w/shelters, developed group campsite, developed campsites, boat landing improvements, road & parking improvements & toilets. In addition, complete all ranger station improvements.
Maytag	Work to develop this public access & primitive camping site. Provide primitive camping, wildlife viewing, road improvements, signing & sanitation facilities.	Entry, three panel & other signing, primitive campsites, wildlife viewing station, road & parking development & toilet.
Devil's Hole	Work to develop this group boat-in campsite/lunch stop. Provide campsites & signing.	Signing, tent pads & fire rings.
Pinnacle Rock	Work to develop this recreation site. Provide for a fishing & boating access, boat ramp improvements, road & parking improvements, signing, picnicking, wildlife viewing station & sanitation facilities. Work with CDOT to develop vehicle acceleration & deceleration vehicle lanes at this site entrance.	Entry & other signing, add picnic table sun shelters & a wildlife viewing station.
Three Rocks	Work with AROA & railroad to develop safety boating portage & scouting at this rapid. Provide for a river rapid portage/scouting trail & signing.	Signing, portage landing, trail, rapid scouting viewing pad & launch landing.
Salt Lick	Work with CDOT to develop this boating access site. Provide for signing, parking improvements & sanitation facilities.	Entry sign, three panel sign, parking enhancements & toilet.
Five Points	Work to develop this recreation site. Provide for a fishing & boating access, rapid running viewing, campsite improvements, road & parking improvements, signing, picnicking, wildlife viewing station, potable water & sanitation facilities. Work with CDOT to develop acceleration & deceleration vehicle lanes at this site entrance.	Entry & other signing, additional wildlife & cultural interpretive signing, potable water well system, WSA information display & sun shelters to picnic and campsite tables.

Lower Flood Plain	Work to develop this on-river lunch stop. Provide for boat-in group lunch stop & sanitation facilities.	Add group four table picnic shelter & replace old toilet.
Spikebuck	Work to develop this recreation site. Provide for fishing access, boat landing, wildlife viewing station, historical interpretive displays, picnicking & sanitation facilities. Work with CDOT to develop acceleration & deceleration vehicle lanes at this site entrance.	Entry, three panel & other signing, additional wildlife & cultural interpretive signing/displays, additional highway berms & additional picnic tables w/sun shelters.
Bootlegger	Work to maintain public river access & river lunch stop sanitation facilities.	Entry, three panel, & other signing. Parking improvements.
Old Parkdale	Work to maintain public river access.	N/A
Parkdale	Work to develop this recreation site. Provide for a fishing & boating access, boat ramp improvements, road & parking improvements, signing, group lunch stop sheltered areas, picnicking & sanitation facilities. Work with CDOT to develop acceleration & deceleration lanes at this site entrance.	Entry signing, three additional four table picnic shelters, road/parking/trail improvements, addition of a large group shelter over existing table area, addition of picnic table sun shelters & additional toilets.

b. Maintenance

(See Areawide Actions)

4. Access and Easement Acquisition

- * Identify and provide river accessible camping location and primitive facilities between Vallie Bridge and Parkdale.
- * Acquire the small narrow strip of private river frontage upriver from the Texas Gulch bridge for public access and fishing.
- * Buy or lease property downstream from present “old” Parkdale site.
- * Consider placing Texas Creek, Maytag, Lower Flood Plain and Bootlegger sites under a R&PP lease to CDPOR if development is to take place.

5. Administration

a. Coordination

CDPOR/
BLM

- * Work with landowners and counties to alleviate safety problems at pedestrian bridges.

- * Cooperate with CDOT to improve roadside parking and safety at Three Rocks Rapid.

- * Ensure river management and use does not result in impacts to McIntyre Hills WSA, which are inconsistent with BLM Interim Management Policy guidelines.

b. Studies/Monitoring

- * Monitor bighorn populations and reaction to public use.

- * Implement habitat improvement measures for bighorn sheep to reduce sheep dependence on habitats adjacent to the river.

- * Annually monitor resource quality in the portion of the WSA used by river recreationists (Five Points area).

c. Supplemental Staffing/Special Programs

- * Seek volunteer help in completing stream improvement/bighorn watering projects.

Illustration 2-4 Segment 4



Segment 5: PARKDALE TO CANON CITY **(See Illustration 2-5)**

1. Resource Management

a. Protection

- * Conduct Class 1 paleontology inventory before surface disturbing activities (Morrison Formation in the Parkdale area).

- * Collaborate with commercial mining interests for potential opportunities to protect riparian and esthetic values, as well as provide future public access to the north side of the river corridor in the Parkdale area.

b. Rehabilitation

- * Reduce manmade dangers and unsightly structures in this segment.

2. Visitor Management

a. Visitor Information and Interpretation

- * Post information signs and provide interpretation as shown in the AHRA Interpretive Plan [at Parkdale site].

- * Provide warnings about the manmade hazards and “expert” nature of the river below Parkdale.

b. Indirect Controls

(See Areawide Actions)

c. Direct Controls

- * Enforce railroad right-of-way restrictions.

3. Facility Management

a. Site Development

The planned site development for those recreation and access sites within river segment five are shown below in Table 2-6.

Table 2-6 Segment Five - Site Development

Site Name	Planned Site Development	Development Remaining
Parkdale South # 1 & # 2	Work to maintain public river fishing & gold placering access. Provide signing, parking, road & trail improvements.	Additional signing, trail enhancements, road & parking improvements.
Royal Gorge	Work to develop this public access site. Provide access through the “Pink House” property to the public lands upriver near Grape Creek.	Entry sign & other signing, road & trail improvements.
Canon City	Assist Canon City in providing boater/fishing access, sanitation, changing & picnicking facilities, hiking/biking/nature trails, parking, traffic controls & other day use facilities.	N/A

b. Maintenance

(See Areawide Actions)

4. Access and Easement Acquisition

* Acquire easement or use agreement to Grape Creek property for public recreation access through the “Pink House” gated area to the Royal Gorge.

* Attempt to acquire a use agreement with railroad for all commercial photographers to be allowed into locations within the Royal Gorge.

5. Administration

a. Coordination

CDPOR/ BLM	* Collaborate with Royal Gorge Scenic and Rock-n-Rail Railroads, Canon City and Fremont County to provide for visitor and railroad safety, establish workable communications, provide needed signing, place emergency first aid equipment and provide emergency rail access while attempting to enhance trail access into the Royal Gorge.
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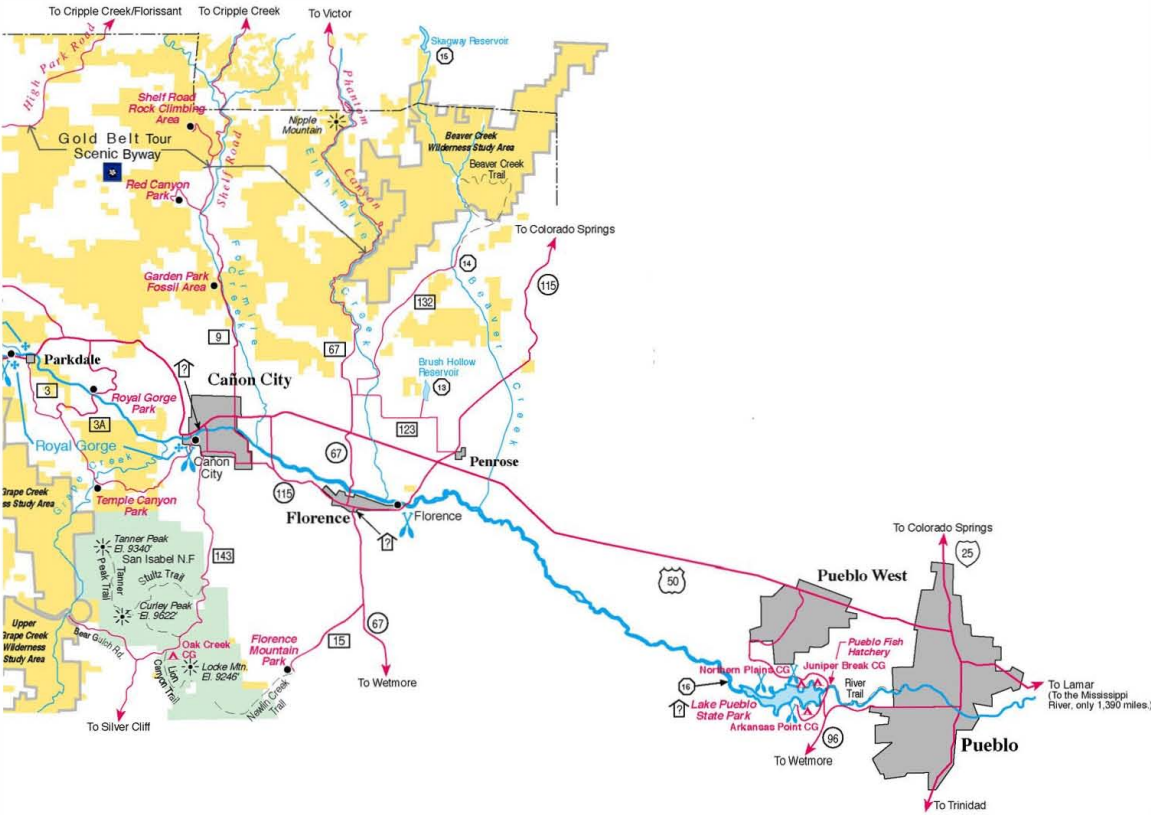
b. Studies/Monitoring

* Provide technical assistance to Canon City if needed for river/boat related facilities.

c. Supplemental Staffing/Special Programs

(See Areawide Actions)

Illustration 2-5 Segments 5 & 6



Segment 6: CANON CITY TO PUEBLO RESERVOIR

1. Resource Management

a. Protection

- * Protect natural, avian and other wildlife values at use sites from human disturbance where feasible.

b. Rehabilitation

- * Work with CDOW, Audubon Society and others to restore avian and other wildlife related resources, i.e. cottonwood trees, wetland habitats, etc. where feasible.

2. Visitor Management

a. Visitor Information and Interpretation

- * Include information in park brochures to educate users about private lands.
- * Develop interpretive signing at the heron rookeries requesting low noise levels from May 1 through July 15 to avoid disturbance to nesting birds.
- * Develop interpretive watchable wildlife kiosk at the Blue Heron and/or CF&I Dam/Valco Pond sites.
- * Develop avian observation stations at the Blue Heron and/or CF&I Dam/Valco Pond sites.

b. Indirect Controls

- * Recommend and encourage maximum group size limits (affecting both numbers of people per group and boats per group) on all boating parties using this segment below Florence to maintain solitude and protect area bird life. In addition, make specific criteria and rationale related to group size, bird life and solitude available in brochures and post it at key ingress points (i.e. the new Blue Heron Property) throughout the entire segment.

c. Direct Controls

*Establish restrictions on recreation if warranted to protect heron rookeries and other wildlife, i.e. consider seasonal closures of portions of the new Blue Heron and/or CF&I Dam/Valco Pond sites during special seasons if needed.

* Establish a site capacity at the new Blue Heron and/or CF&I Dam/Valco Pond sites to manage an appropriate level of use at these wildlife related facilities.

* Although wildlife, riparian and aquatic values will be taken into consideration in the development of Blue Heron and/or CF&I Dam/Valco Pond sites, providing recreational facility development and access to these facilities for the public will also occur.

3. Facility Management

a. Site Development

The planned site development for those recreation and access sites within river segment six are shown below in Table 2-7.

Table 2-7 Segment Six - Site Development

Site Name	Planned Site Development	Development Remaining
Estes Overlook Gateway	Work with various other partners, i.e. Dinosaur Center/Gold Belt/Canon City & Florence/CDOC/CDOW/CDOT/etc. to develop this as a gateway site. Provide signing, visitor information, parking improvements & sanitation facilities.	Gateway, entry, three panel & other signing & toilet.
CF&I Dam/ VALCO Pond	Work with private owners & other partners, i.e. Canon Metro Recreation District, Fremont County, Green Belt Group, etc. to develop safety boating portage & scouting at this dam. Provide for a river rapid portage around this dam, portage trail, parking, pond fishing access, wildlife viewing, signing & sanitation facilities.	Entry, three panel & other signing, parking improvements, picnic sites w/sun shelters, handicap fishing pier on lake, portage trail/steps, wildlife viewing station & toilet.

Blue Heron	Work with other partners, i.e. Transit Mix Inc, Fremont County, Audubon Society, etc. to develop this recreation site. Provide for a river/lake fishing access, river canoe access, nature & wildlife viewing trails, wildlife viewing stations, road & parking improvements, campsites, riparian/wetland interpretive displays & trail, signing & sanitation facilities.	Entry, three panel & other signing, entrance station, potable water well system, road/parking improvements, picnic sites w/sun shelters, heron viewing station & trails, canoe landing, wetland interpretive displays, hiking trails & toilets.
Beaver Creek	Work to provide public river access & parking.	Entry sign & other signing, trail & parking improvements.

b. Maintenance

(See Areawide Actions)

4. Access and Easement

* Acquire a site adjacent to the CF&I Dam/Valco Pond for boating safety portage & utilization of the pond area for fishing and wildlife viewing. If acquired by BLM, consider leasing this to CDPOR under the R&PP so that development could take place.

* Work with various partners {i.e. Gold Belt Byway Commission, Garden Park Paleontological Society, Fremont County, the communities of Canon City, Florence, Cripple Creek, Victor, etc.} to acquire or exchange for a small property at the US Highway 67/50 intersection for an AHRA gateway/pubic visitor information site.

* Complete the acquisition of the Blue Heron Property on the river in eastern Fremont County for utilization of the river and lakes for fishing and wildlife viewing as well as for river boating access. If acquired by BLM, consider leasing this to CDPOR under the R&PP so that development could take place.

* Acquire lands for public access off County Road 112 on the south side of the river near Beaver Creek to ensure legal access to the site for management. If acquired by BLM, consider leasing this to CDPOR under the R&PP so that development could take place.

5. Administration

a. Coordination

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| CDPOR/
BLM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Consult with CDOW on fishing access areas, heron rookeries and other wildlife considerations. * Explore feasibility and work with owners and local agencies and organizations to develop a boat chute or a portage around the CF&I Dam/Valco Pond below Canon City. * Provide site planning assistance if requested to the City of Florence for river access site improvements. |
|---------------|---|

b. Studies/Monitoring

- * Monitor the great blue heron rookeries and other wildlife sites along the river.

c. Supplemental Staffing/Special Programs

(See Areawide Actions)

G. IMPLEMENTATION PHASING

The management actions listed in this chapter are somewhat generalized. CDPOR's and other AHRA partners' ability to carry them out depends on a number of factors including: available funding (e.g., user fee revenue, acquisition funding), dependence on other cooperators (e.g., CDOT, Pueblo Board of Water Works, Homestake) and successful negotiations with the private sector (e.g., access and easement acquisitions). The phase chart done in 1989 has been 90% implemented to date and does not appear to be needed to display the remaining actions in this prioritized format: therefore, we have eliminated it. However, it is expected that the partners will continue to actively pursue the remaining acquisition and development priorities. See APPENDIX D for the details of these priorities.

CHAPTER 3

Affected Environment

This chapter includes a rewrite of the affected environment within the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area describing only the changes since the original plan. The original Affected Environment remains with the following additions, changes and/or updates.

Critical Elements

AIR QUALITY

Air quality in the project area is believed to be typical of undeveloped regions in the western United States; ambient pollutant levels are usually near or below the measurable limits. Notable exceptions include high, short-term concentrations of total suspended particulates, consisting primarily of wind blown dust, inhalable particulates, generated primarily from wood smoke and ozone/carbon monoxide which can be found at higher levels, especially in nearby towns. Locations vulnerable to decreasing air quality from extensive development include local population centers with farm tilling, residential woodsmoke, etc.

Most of the project area is either “attainment” or “unclassified” for all pollutants. Additional details on air quality can be found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Evidence for man's existence in Colorado reaches from the present era back to the latter days of the last Ice Age. Throughout this time, the Arkansas River and its immediate environs have provided an ecological constant for human, flora and fauna communities. In addition, the Arkansas River has provided a subsistence refuge during periods of climatic hardship and an area of abundance during more favorable times. As prehistoric groups adapted and changed through time, the record of these dynamics is reflected in archaeological sites scattered along the river corridor. Relatively few of these sites are recorded. They are a fragile and irreplaceable resource.

The Arkansas River figured prominently in modern history from the early days of Spanish explorers and French fur trappers to the present industrial era. Many characteristics attractive to aboriginal inhabitants, i.e., permanent water, minerals,

rich earth, etc., have contributed to the recent growth in mining, agriculture, ranching, transportation and communication. Some important sites have been recorded and determined to be nationally significant. Many more have not been recorded and/or evaluated.

<u>Type of Site</u>	<u>Physical Remains of Recent History</u>
Transportation	Denver to Leadville stagecoach road,; Buena Vista to Leadville stagecoach road; Denver South Park and Pacific Railroad; Colorado Midland Railroad; Denver and Rio Grande Railroad; Santa Fe, Atchinson and Topeka Railroad; DeReemer Forts of the "Railroad War."
Mining	Ghost towns, historic mining districts, kilns and other remains from the extensive coke industry supporting mineral smelting.
Agriculture	Early farms, herding camps and ranches.

Opportunities exist to interpret these sites "in-situ" and to gain additional information through further inventories.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan covers portions of Lake, Chaffee, Fremont and Pueblo Counties. None of these counties are identified as a minority or low-income county. There are, however, minority (primarily Hispanic) and low-income populations in all four counties. Minority populations vary by county, with the largest numbers in Pueblo County (primarily around the City of Pueblo).

FLOOD PLAINS, WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ZONES

Historical flood plain, riparian and wetland resources receive significant attention from land management agencies and the public because of their limited relative abundance, functions associated with improving water quality, importance to wildlife and numerous other critical benefits. Flood plain, riparian and wetland areas, when managed wisely to maintain their natural function, collectively lead to healthier watersheds. These important features, coupled with the potential for management to alter and disrupt riparian function, dictate careful evaluation prior to undertaking management actions.

These regional resources addressed by this plan revision have been greatly modified. Over a century of road, railway, dam construction, irrigation, conversion of land to agriculture, urban development and other modifications have transformed riparian resources which exist today and modify their ability to function. The resources have been altered as a result of::

1. Vegetation Manipulation - land uses such as grazing, introduction/invasion of exotic vegetation and OHV traffic change the vegetation present.
2. Watershed Alteration - road construction, logging and grazing affect infiltration rates changing runoff, sediment supply and water quality.
3. Direct Modification - channelization of streams, draining or filling of wetlands and conversion of land to other uses reduces the acreage of wetland areas.
4. Hydrologic Alteration - water diversions, water importations and dam construction have changed the seasonal pattern and quantities available to wetland areas.

Understanding these changes is essential when evaluating additional impacting management changes. It is important to realize that future decisions will be based upon a system that has already been greatly modified.

Description of Riparian and Wetland Resources: The extent of riparian and wetland resources within the planning area is determined to a large degree by natural geomorphology. Much of the Arkansas River is bounded by rock. It is narrow and confined due to surrounding land forms. Many reaches that were confined naturally are now even more confined as a result of highway and railroad construction. The rocky and narrow canyon topography, coupled with high spring flows, limits soil development and plant establishment. In less confined reaches however, meander bars, islands and stream side flood plains form a lush band of riparian vegetation. For example, downstream of Canon City, and for a short reach between Leadville and Granite, the river features a well-developed floodplain with substantial acres of riparian vegetation per mile of stream.

The riparian community along the river is composed of numerous species of grasses, sedges, rushes, willows, alders, birch and cottonwood. There are limited amounts of emergent or submergent shoreline vegetation except in some side channels and small ponds.

The predominant channel types throughout the entire planning area are not suited for the development of extensive riparian and wetland vegetation. From a geologic standpoint, except primarily downstream of Canon City and the reach below Leadville, the river is incised in pre-Cambrian rock. However, downstream

of both Canon City and Leadville, the river flows through sedimentary/alluvial out-wash materials that do allow for flood plain development.

Several factors greatly influence the makeup of the riparian community and its health and function. The timing, duration and magnitude of discharge are of major importance to the riparian community because the constricted nature of the channel. Flows at bank-full and higher increase depth much faster than width compared to unconfined river systems. Bank-full flow (1.5-year high-flow frequency) and higher less frequent peak flows, scour the channel of fine sediment deposits and vegetation. Riparian vegetation present along the Arkansas is often minimal with respect to acres per mile of river, compared to other river systems. Site-specific variables determine the composition of the vegetation community, such as land use, recreation pressure, etc. Historic mining deposits have also affected riparian stability in certain locations.

Numerous activities undertaken on the private land riparian resources alter flood plain health. Most uses are unregulated, and the trend is for additional development and other uses. Smaller pastures, used more like corrals, are developing in place of the large ranches along the corridor. Houses, roads, out buildings, etc. are changing runoff patterns along the stream corridor. Public land riparian resources are largely stabilized from earlier impacts, but now are at risk of degradation with current trends in recreation use. Much of that use is planned for and managed at developed sites whereby additional impacts, due to increased use, can be controlled. However, a portion of the use increase is dispersed and needs to be evaluated relative to a cumulative impact. Camping, fishing, picnicking, etc. are examples where trampling of vegetation and trailing needs to be addressed in Chapter 4 and monitored.

Public land riparian resources in the planning section have been evaluated with respect to their functionality and are meeting the public land health standards, although there are smaller segments with known issues. The evaluation accounts for “large scale” historical changes in the corridor and given the current capability of the river, under modern influences, the riparian has been rated as meeting public land health standards. Some areas have an improving trend for resource condition and continue to improve. Certain locations have had work performed to improve local riparian condition. Improvements are planned or are known to be needed at other locations. Improvements with similar objectives have occurred at many offsite areas (e.g. Badger Creek and Texas Creek) and have benefitted the watershed. However, many areas off site, but within the watershed, have deteriorated putting negative cumulative pressures upon the Arkansas flood plain. Management needs on public lands along the Arkansas River corridor center around analyzing riparian resources in further detail, locating public use patterns and identifying unique habitat types to make sure use is compatible with the

resource. The restoration of damaged sites also needs to continue. Other general information related to flood plain resource and condition is also given in the Aquatic Wildlife section.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES (WEEDS)

Noxious weeds, especially Russian Knapweed and Yellow Toadflax, are increasing in the river corridor. The reasons for the increase in weeds are related to increased soil surface disturbance due to road construction, recreation site development, increased recreational use and OHV use. Also, there has been an increase in spring precipitation over the last five years that has favored exotic plants that evolved in western Asia and the Mediterranean region. Inter-agency cooperation in weed management is increasing in the area.

NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS

The importance of the river corridor to prehistoric aboriginal groups continued throughout the historic period, even as Euro-American impacts increased. The area attracted groups indigenous to both the eastern plains and the mountains. Many sacred and traditional sites are most likely present near the river and in the surrounding uplands. The BLM manages all public lands within its jurisdiction in compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and relevant sections of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

PRIME AND UNIQUE FARMLANDS

There are no prime or unique farmlands in the river corridor. There is irrigated farmland of statewide importance located southwest of Leadville, south of Nathrop, west of Salida, between Howard and Coaldale and from Canon City to Pueblo Reservoir.

SOILS

To simplify the description of soils along the river, two or more types of soils are grouped into mapping units called soil associations. This data is not detailed enough for specific site planning, but it is suitable for planning on an area-wide basis. Most of the soils in the area present no particular management problems. Only the Penrose soils are classed as being highly susceptible to erosion.

However, any soil will erode if a good vegetative cover is not maintained. The eight soil associations along the river from Leadville to Pueblo Reservoir are described below. Detailed descriptions of these soils can be found in various soil survey reports kept in the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office.

1. Association 68, Pierian - Poncha: This association is on nearly level to steep river terraces from Leadville to Clear Creek Reservoir. The soils are very permeable and are only slightly susceptible to erosion.
2. Association 63, Troutville - Leadville: This soil association is on mountain slopes, river terraces and alluvial fans between Clear Creek Reservoir and Pine Creek. The soils are deep, well drained, moderately permeable and moderately susceptible to erosion.
3. Association 66, Dominson - San Isabel: The Dominson soils are on the tops of high terraces and their strongly sloping side slopes, while the San Isabel soils are on the lower terraces adjacent to the river. This association is on the west side of the river from Pine Creek to Buena Vista, on both sides of the river from Buena Vista to Brown's Canyon and on both sides of the river from the mouth of Browns Canyon to Salida. The soils are generally deep and very permeable. The Dominson soils are moderately susceptible to erosion, while the San Isabel soils are only slightly so.
4. Association 64, Rockland - Rock Outcrop: This association is on steep and very steep mountain slopes east of the Arkansas River from Pine Creek to Buena Vista, on both sides of the river through Brown's Canyon, from Salida East recreation site to Howard, from Cottonwood Rapid to Fernleaf Gulch, from Texas Creek to the mouth of the Arkansas Canyon and through the length of the Royal Gorge. The association is mainly outcrops of igneous rocks, intermingled with very shallow soils.
5. Association 70, Wet Alluvial Land - Gas Creek: This association is on low terraces and bottomlands along the river from Buena Vista to about a mile above Fisherman's Bridge. The soils are poorly drained and formed in gravelly alluvium. Wet alluvial land is in the river bottom. It consists of gravel and sand bars, as well as, wet, stratified and medium to coarse textured soil materials that are subject to overflow. Gas Creek soils are on the slightly higher terraces. They have a surface layer of gravelly sandy loam that is over gravelly sand, cobbles and gravel. The Gas Creek soils are very permeable and the susceptibility to erosion is slight. Wet alluvial land soils are not rated for permeability or erosion susceptibility.
6. Association 116, Haploborolls - Agriborolls: This association is along

the river from Howard to below Coaldale and from Fernleaf Gulch to Texas Creek. The soils are fertile, fairly deep and well drained. Native vegetation is grass, but these soils are generally cultivated. The permeability is moderate and the susceptibility to erosion is moderate.

7. Association 7, Las Glenberg - Apishapa: This association is found on the flood plains of the Arkansas River below Canon City. The Las series consists of nearly level, limey and moderately saline soils. These soils make up about 35 percent of the association and occur on bottomland and low terraces. Las soils are generally poorly drained. The water table is at a depth of 30 to 40 inches. There is no significant hazard of erosion. The response to management is good.

The Glenburg series makes up about 30 percent of the association. These soils are nearly level to gently sloping, limey and deep to moderately deep sandy loams over sand and gravel. Glenburg soils are easy to work and are naturally well drained. Runoff is slow. Natural fertility is moderate. Erosion is a hazard in sloping areas.

The Apishapa series consists of nearly level, deep and limey soils. They are found on bottomlands and low-lying terraces. Apishapa soils are generally poorly drained. The water table is usually within a depth of 40 inches. There is no significant hazard of erosion. The response to management is poor. The Apishapa series make up about 20 percent of the association.

8. Association 4, Penrose - Minnequa: This association is along the river below Florence. The Penrose soils are on the uplands, while the Minnequa soils occupy the river bottom. About 25 percent of this association is rock outcrops, forming cliffs along the river's edge. Penrose soils are shallow, well drained and contain fragments of thin, flat limestone. Permeability is moderately rapid and the erosion susceptibility is severe. Minnequa soils are moderately permeable, and the hazard of erosion is slight.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED & SPECIAL CONCERN SPECIES

The following federal, state and BLM special concern species may be found in the AHRA at certain times of the year and require special management attention under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. While special concern species are not federally protected, it is BLM policy to manage these species to prevent future listing, thereby affording them the same level of protection as T&E species in BLM programs.

1. Peregrine Falcon:	State Species of Special Concern
2. Bald Eagle:	Federal Threatened, State Threatened
3. Mexican Spotted Owl:	Federal Threatened, State Threatened
4. Osprey:	State Species of Special Concern
5. Northern River Otter:	State Threatened
6. Canada Lynx:	Federal Threatened, State Threatened
7. Townsend's Big-eared Bat:	State and BLM Species of Special Concern
8. Northern Leopard Frog:	State and BLM Species of Special Concern
9. Brandegee Wild Buckwheat:	State and BLM Species of Special Concern
10. Royal Gorge Stickleaf:	State and BLM Species of Special Concern
11. Degener Penstemon:	State and BLM Species of Special Concern

Peregrine Falcon: Peregrine habitat includes nesting and hunting sites, as well as migration and wintering areas. Typical nesting sites are cliffs over 200 feet high which overlook water and permit extensive views of the surrounding area. Prey abundance and diversity provided by these situations are major factors in eyrie selection. Peregrines may travel up to 17 miles from nesting cliffs to hunting areas. Preferred hunting habitats include cropland, meadows, riverbottoms, marshes and lakes which provide an abundance of avian prey. Birds are occasionally reported in Colorado during the winter, but most peregrines migrate to Central and South America.

In the past several years new eyries have been established in the Arkansas River valley. In 1987 a pair successfully fledged young at Chalk Cliffs, west of Nathrop, and in 1988 pairs became established in the Royal Gorge near Canon City and in Beaver Creek near Victor. These sites were historic eyries which are typically the first to be re-occupied as populations recover. These sites have been producing young since being re-occupied. A new eyrie was established in 1995 near Granite along the Arkansas river, and has been producing young falcons ever since.

The hacking of young falcons (placing month old birds in hack boxes on cliffs) was a successful method of restocking peregrines to suitable habitats. The Peregrine Fund of Boise, Idaho had primary responsibility in operating the hack sites which were funded by cooperating federal agencies.

The availability of suitable hack sites and the large amount of public land in the upper Arkansas River valley made the area attractive for peregrine reestablishment. In 1988, four hack sites were active in and around this area.

These were Adobe Peak (FS), Big Hole (BLM), Twin Mountain (BLM) and a site near Buena Vista (FS). Hacking efforts were suspended in Colorado when the recovery goals for nesting peregrines were exceeded. Since that time peregrines have recovered in the state and elsewhere and the bird was downlisted from a threatened species to a state listed species of special concern. Peregrine falcons are now found throughout the river valley during the spring and summer months.

Bald Eagle: Colorado populations of bald eagles typically nest in large cottonwood trees along rivers and reservoirs. Eagle densities reach their peak during the winter months when migrants arrive from the north. The bald eagle is a common winter (December through February) visitor to the Arkansas River valley. Typically, up to five birds can be found from Leadville to Canon City, and up to five more birds can also be found from Canon City to Pueblo Reservoir. Use by eagles is so incidental that preferred or critical areas such as roosting or feeding sites have not been identified. In general, the eagles use the cottonwood riparian area and frequent the area from Fisherman's Bridge to the mouth of Browns Canyon.

Mexican Spotted Owl: Mexican spotted owls use old growth forests within steep, rocky canyons in Colorado. Spotted owls are rare in the state as the species is at the northern limit of its range. Extensive inventory for spotted owls in the past eight years have resulted in the discovery of several canyons occupied by spotted owls, particularly in the area along the front range from Colorado Springs and to the south. While the habitat along the Arkansas River contains rocky cliffs and canyons, the vegetation is not typical of other nearby occupied sites. No inventory work has been completed in the river valley, but owls are not suspected of occupying the area.

Osprey: Osprey are closely associated with water and fish as they are obligate fish eaters. They migrate along river corridors during the spring and fall as they travel between winter and summer home ranges. Osprey use large dead snags along the river banks as perch sites while hunting. Osprey are frequently observed along the Arkansas River during the spring and summer, although there have not been any birds documented as nesting in the river canyon. In recent years a pair of osprey have nested in the flooded trees at the west end of Pueblo Reservoir. Actions that may affect osprey perch sites, water quality and fish populations may be of concern to AHRA managers.

Northern River Otter: River otters inhabit riparian habitat in the large river systems at moderate elevations in Colorado. Water quality, access to shoreline habitats and abundant fish populations are important to river otters. While the Arkansas River contains suitable habitat for otters, they are not typically observed in any of the areas covered by this analysis.

Canada Lynx: The Canada lynx has recently been listed as a federally threatened species by the USFWS. The preferred habitat of the lynx is uneven-aged stands of coniferous forest with an open canopy and well developed under-story. Snowshoe hares are the preferred food source. There are no barriers to lynx movements and the animals could be found in all habitats in the state. Recent reintroduction of lynx in Colorado have been relatively successful and lynx are forming home ranges in suitable habitats. The lower Arkansas River valley is not considered suitable lynx habitat, but the animals could be seen during movements between these habitats.

Townsend's Big-eared Bat: The Townsend's big-eared bat has been documented along the river canyon at two sites during inventories of abandoned mines beginning in 1993. These bats use predominantly caves, abandoned mines and buildings as roost sites. A site near Parkdale was confirmed as a winter roost site and a site near Salida is a maternity roost. These bats could be expected to use the river riparian system for foraging during the summer months. Roost sites should be preserved and protected for this species.

Northern Leopard Frog: The northern leopard frog is a state and BLM species of special concern due to its recent decline throughout Colorado. Habitat for this species consists of streams, rivers, ponds, lakes and other reliable sources of water. Records exist for Fremont County along the Arkansas River and the most likely habitat would be old oxbow bends in the river, irrigation ditches and manmade ponds and lakes.

Brandegee Wild Buckwheat: The wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum brandegei*) is listed as a BLM and state special concern species. It is found in the valley of the upper Arkansas River in Chaffee and Fremont Counties, Colorado. The chances of other populations not yet discovered are great. The Colorado Natural Areas Program, in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy, designated a site in Chaffee County as the Droney Gulch State Natural Area. The site, consisting of 294 acres, is located in T. 50 N., R. 8 E., Sections 16, 17, 20, and 21. It lies immediately west of Highway 285 near Big Bend. The Droney Gulch site represents the best known occurrence in the world for this species. The site contains approximately 3000 individuals of the species. Although most of the site is on public land administered by BLM, some plants occur on private land. An equally important site is the Cleora site, located southeast of Salida, in T.49N.,R.9E., Sections 9 and 16. Several thousand individuals in a large area of contiguous habitat occur in this area. The site is currently being impacted by recreational uses such as motorized use and mountain biking.

Royal Gorge Stickleaf: Royal Gorge stickleaf (*Mentzelia densa*) is listed as a state and BLM species of special concern. It is found in the Arkansas River

canyon between Cotopaxi and Parkdale. Approximately 30 square miles of potential habitat occur within this area, although actual specimens have only been collected along the Arkansas River and associated side canyons. The species is found in dry, open sites such as road cuts and sandy washes. Recreational use and associated construction activities may impact this species.

Degener Penstemon: Degener penstemon (*Penstemon degeneri*) is listed as a state and BLM species of special concern. The known populations are concentrated in the area of the Royal Gorge, with one outlying population found in a similar habitat near the Five Points recreation site. This species has a broad range of adaptability; however, heavy recreation use in this habitat may reduce Degener penstemon's viability.

VEGETATION

The variable climate, elevation and topography of the affected environment are conducive to varied vegetation types. The vegetation consists of three major groups: grassland, shrub land and forest land. Riparian vegetation types also occur along the Arkansas River and various tributaries. Riparian vegetation is addressed in the riparian section of Chapter 3.

Vegetation is reviewed for public land for each of the six river segments. The review focuses on the vegetative standards as described in Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management. There are some commonalities amongst river Segments 1 through 5 that are important to know prior to reviewing each segment. First, a railroad corridor exists through the entirety of Segments 1 through 5. This corridor is fenced from grazing in almost all locations. Within this corridor are disturbed soils from past and existing activities of the railroad. This, combined with the nongrazed nature of the corridor, promotes a plant community dominated by annual weeds that are not desirable for the adjacent vegetative communities. Some of the more common weeds found in the corridor include fireweed or kochia (*Kochia scoparia*), Russian thistle (*Salsola iberica*), ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisifolia*), common sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) and the biennial yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*). The second commonality are either or both US Highways 50 and 24 exist in Segments 1 through 4 and part of 5. Again, soils are disturbed with some of the same weedy plant species as previously listed. However, because the highway departments mow along the right-of-ways and seed disturbed sites, most locations are dominated by more stable perennial plants that do not influence the adjacent plant communities. The remainder of vegetation reviews are by each segment.

Segment 1: Because of the high elevations, grasslands in this segment consist

primarily of cool season grasses. Grasses include Arizona fescue, mountain muhly, needle and thread, junegrass, sedges and some blue grama. Scattered shrubs occur and include fringed sagebrush, shrubby cinquefoil, big sagebrush and rabbitbrush. Forbs include lupines, phlox and pingue. Annual weeds in the railroad corridor and along highways are less common than the other segments due to high elevations. Big sagebrush shrub communities have experienced less frequent fire regimes. Forestland is lodgepole pine and spruce fir forests. These plant communities are meeting vegetative standards on public land. Grassland and sagebrush are the dominate vegetation types for this segment.

Segment 2: Grasslands in this community are a mixture of cool and warm season grasses. They include Arizona fescue, mountain muhly, needle and thread, junegrass, blue grama and sand dropseed. Forbs include lupine, pingue and hymenopappus. Shrubland communities consist of mountain mahogany and oakbrush. Forestland consists of ponderosa pine and P/J (pinyon/ juniper). The grass and shrub lands meet vegetative standards. The ponderosa pine forests meets standards. P/J forest communities are not meeting vegetative standards in most locations. This is because the pinyon and juniper trees are dominate and under story plant species lack vigor and seedling establishment. In some instances, the under story plants are lacking in diversity as well. P/J is the most common vegetation community in this segment. The developed recreation sites keep foot traffic to a minimum resulting in adjacent plant communities meeting the standard. P/J is the dominate plant community for this segment.

Segment 3: Grasslands in this community are a mixture of warm and cool season species. Species include mountain muhly, needle and thread, junegrass, western wheat, Indian ricegrass, blue grama, sand dropseed and hairy grama. Forbs include pingue, scarlet globe mallow, allium and annual forbs. Shrubs consist of winterfat, mountain mahogany, rabbitbrush, saltbush, green sage and fringed sage. Shrublands consist of oakbrush, mountain mahogany and wax current. Forest types are ponderosa pine and P/J. The grassland is not meeting vegetative standards north of the Arkansas River at the Salida East location. The cause is unknown, although the area is suspected of having dramatic disturbance many years ago and is very slow to recover. Public recreation and domestic livestock grazing are ruled out as a possible factor for not meeting standards. There are a few locations along the river corridor with unrestricted parking that results in uncontrolled foot traffic. This type of activity has some impact, but not enough to preclude standards. The areas that suffered the most foot traffic in the past are now mitigated by developed sites with restricted foot traffic. P/J is the dominate plant community in this segment. It is not meeting standards in most locations because understory plant species have low vigor, low seedling establishment and in some locations low species diversity.

Segments 4 & 5: These segments are similar and are reviewed together. The grassland has both warm and cool season grasses, although warm season grasses dominate. Species include blue grama, hairy grama, sand dropseed, sideoats grama, little bluestem, western wheatgrass, Indian ricegrass and needle and thread. Forbs include buckwheat, scarlet globe mallow, pingue, prickly pear cactus, cholla and annual forbs. Shrubs include rabbitbrush, saltbush, mountain mahogany and wax current. The shrubland community includes mountain mahogany, oakbrush and wax current. The forestland community is pinyon/juniper and it is the dominate plant community in these segments. It is not meeting standards in most locations because understory plant species have low vigor, low seedling establishment and in some locations low species diversity. There are a few locations along the river corridor with unrestricted parking that results in uncontrolled foot traffic. This type of activity has some impact, but not enough to preclude standards. The areas that suffered the most foot traffic in the past are now mitigated by developed sites with restricted foot traffic.

Segment 6: See the description under the flood plains, wetlands and riparian zones.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Federal Superfund Amendments Reauthorization Act (SARA) Title 3 Legislation, enacted in 1986, requires all states to designate districts and have each district prepare a Hazmat Contingency Plan by October 11, 1988. Most counties in Colorado prepared a Local Emergency Operation Plan (LEOP) that addressed all major disasters. As a result of SARA, Colorado designated its counties as districts and required the Hazmat Contingency Plan be submitted as an annex to the county's LEOP. Committees were formed in each county in Colorado to identify and control storage, use and transport of hazardous materials within their jurisdiction. The LEOP now includes all phases of emergency operations and responses for hazardous materials incidents as well as major flooding, accidents and other disasters.

Transportation of hazardous materials may occur along the Arkansas River between Leadville and Pueblo Reservoir on adjacent components of highway systems. US Highway 50 parallels the Arkansas River from Parkdale to Salida, US Highway 285 intermittently parallels the Arkansas River from Salida to Buena Vista and US Highway 24 runs from Buena Vista to Leadville. Colorado Highway 291 crosses the Arkansas River twice between Salida and its intersection with US Highway 285. Transportation of hazardous materials can also occur over bridges that cross the Arkansas River to access US Highway 50, US Highway 285, US Highway 24 and Colorado 291. The railroad is being placed into reserve

status between Leadville and Parkdale Siding above the Royal Gorge and therefore currently there is no transportation of hazardous materials. There may be transportation of hazardous materials occurring along the Arkansas River between Parkdale Siding and Pueblo on an active segment of the railroad.

Distances between highways and the river vary, but for over half of the distance, the river and highway are close enough that a spill could reach the river. The distance between the railroad tracks and the river also varies, but is usually less than the distance between highways and the river. Spills of hazardous materials on the railroad system could also potentially reach the river. The current status of the railroad line is that it is in the process of becoming an unused reserve line. As such, the potential for spills by the railroad would be non-existent.

Of the hazardous materials being transported along the Arkansas River from Leadville to Pueblo, the largest quantities are of gasoline, diesel fuel, propane and various acids, such as sulfuric acid.

Although not treated as a hazardous material, human waste is transported and is a concern for health reasons. Some human waste is chemically treated to reduce bacteria counts. Human waste not deposited in a portable toilet or other facility for disposal is not treated and is often deposited directly on the land along the Arkansas River. Concentrations of human waste vary from site to site depending upon the number of people present and facilities provided.

A contingency plan for the Royal Gorge Field Office, including all of the project area, exists for dealing with all types of hazardous material incidents. The plan details BLM response to reported incidents and includes provisions for safety of personnel, isolation, emergency response and mitigations. Additional details on hazardous wastes can be found in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND

Surface Water

The quality of surface water in the project area is influenced by many factors including geology, mine drainage, runoff from snowmelt or rainfall, ground water inflow, water imports, reservoir operations and water use. The Arkansas River exhibits distinct spatial and seasonal variations of water quality. There are spatial variations where stream quality is strongly influenced by mineralized drainage from mines. There is also a general downstream deterioration of water quality resulting from inflows from ground water and tributary streams, changes in geology and chemical composition of rocks and increased water use. Seasonal

variations result from snowmelt runoff, releases of water from upstream reservoirs and sediment-laden runoff from summer rainstorms.

Although water quality of the upper Arkansas River basin is generally good, water quality of the Arkansas River is in need of improvement. Many agencies have studied this problem. BLM has completed a Water Needs Assessment of the Arkansas River and addressed water quality as it relates to different levels of flow. A number of pollution abatement actions have been completed in the watershed, including water treatment plants in the Leadville area. All of these studies and projects indicate that the trend for water quality in the Arkansas River is toward improvement.

In some areas, accelerated erosion from OHV use, is resulting in increased sedimentation in streams. In addition, improper recreational and livestock use of riparian zones adversely affects water quality and stream condition. Overuse by livestock in riparian areas pollutes the water. Mismanagement of soils highly susceptible to erosion can result in increased sediment loads in streams.

BLM must comply with federal and state regulations governing water use and management. State water quality standards have been set. By ensuring that BLM management actions enhance or maintain water quality, BLM conforms with state water quality regulations, as well as water quality provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Before any work is permitted in perennial stream channels, Section 404 permits are obtained from the Army Corps of Engineers, as required by federal law.

Ground Water

The quality of ground water in the project area varies tremendously, based upon the rate of ground water movement and the chemical composition of rocks in the aquifer. Generally speaking, the best quality (least mineralized) water comes from alluvial and crystalline rock aquifers. Throughout most of the project area, ground water is suitable for domestic and livestock watering purposes. As the population increases, and more rural areas are developed, demands on ground water will increase. This may result in the depletion of some aquifers. The quality of ground water could be adversely affected by overpumping of aquifers or by contamination from septic tanks and sewage lagoons.

Additional details on water quality can be found in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan and within the Arkansas River Water Needs Assessment.

WILDERNESS, AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN &

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Wilderness Study Areas

There are two Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) within the planning area: the McIntyre Hills WSA and the Browns Canyon WSA.

The McIntyre Hills WSA is located in Fremont County approximately 12 miles west of Canon City. The WSA lies approximately 9 miles south of the Arkansas River and US Highway 50 in T. 18 S., R. 72 W., 6th P.M. This WSA contains 16,800 acres.

Much of the northern boundary of the WSA parallels US Highway 50. The Copper Gulch road forms the southeastern border. The remainder of the boundary crosses a combination of BLM, state and private lands.

Drainages generally follow a south to north direction with many side canyons. Vegetation consists primarily of pinon pine and juniper with some ponderosa pine and Douglas fir in the higher elevations and riparian species along the drainages.

A number of human imprints, although individually small in scale, detract from the overall wilderness qualities of the area. In the southern portion of the WSA, a way {trail/road} follows Five Points Gulch and the remains of a portable sawmill and a previous commercial firewood sale are evident. The WSA also contains several mineral exploration pits. Public support for this area being recommended for wilderness seems to be lacking.

Recreation use is still very minimal. Approximately 200 visitors enjoy the area annually. The reason for the low number of visitors is the lack of easy access into the WSA and the rugged topography. Recreation activities that occur in the WSA include hiking, hunting and backpacking.

The Browns Canyon WSA is located in Chaffee County, approximately 6 miles south of Buena Vista and 7 miles northwest of Salida, Colorado. The WSA is bounded on the southwest by the Union Pacific right-of-way (which parallels the Arkansas River for this stretch). Traveling north, the western boundary is the Arkansas River (for 2 miles). Just over a mile of private land forms the remainder of the western boundary at Ruby Mountain, which is the northwest corner of the WSA. The eastern boundary is formed by US Forest Service lands. The WSA contains 6,614 acres all located east of the river in T.51N., R.8 and 9E., NMPM and T.15S., R.77 and 78W., 6th P.M.

Browns Canyon WSA ranges in elevation from about 7,400 feet along the river to about 9,000 feet near the eastern boundary. The area is very rugged and is

dissected with drainages and gulches. The majority of the area vegetation cover is pinon with some ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. Aspens, willows and cottonwoods can be found in the drainages.

Although the Arkansas River is not inside the WSAs, it has an obvious relationship with them. For example, the naturalness of the WSAs enhances the recreation experiences of those using the river. In addition, the river contains an outstanding brown trout fishery adjacent to these WSAs. The Browns Canyon section is also the most popular stretch of the Arkansas River for whitewater boating. Approximately 150,000 commercial whitewater boating guests floated through the canyon in 1999. The first few miles of the canyon contain nine popular lunch sites that are used almost daily by boaters during June, July and August. Boaters who stop for lunch along the river rarely venture more than a couple of hundred feet into the WSA. Resource monitoring of these popular lunch sites has been on-going for the past five years.

The two main access points by non-boating recreationists are from the Ruby Mountain recreation site, located at the northwest boundary of the WSA, and via Forest Service lands on the eastern boundary. Approximately 1,000 recreationists visit the WSA annually, excluding those who lunch along the river. Recreation activities include horseback riding, rock climbing, hiking, backpacking, hunting and rockhounding. ATVs, jeeps and mountain bikes also use the area illegally.

Both WSAs were studied under Section 603 of FLPMA and are included in the Canon City District Wilderness Final Environmental Impact Statement published in December 1987. In 1993, the President presented his wilderness recommendations to Congress. The President's recommendation, along with the preferred alternative, recommends inclusion of the entire 6,614 acres of the Browns Canyon WSA into the National Wilderness Preservation System, but does not recommend any portion of McIntyre Hills WSA.

One or both of these WSAs have been included in wilderness bills, though no bills have passed. In the interim, BLM is mandated by FLPMA to manage all WSAs in a manner so as "not to impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness".

Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns

There are 36,128 acres of BLM lands within the Arkansas River corridor designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs). These three ACECs are: Browns Canyon (11,722 acres), Droney Gulch (785 acres) and Arkansas Canyonlands (23,621 acres).

Some of the special values that each ACEC are to be managed for include the following:

The Browns Canyon ACEC is a scenic river canyon, a portion of which has been recommended to Congress for wilderness designation because of its unique natural character, primitive recreation and water related values. The bluffs within the canyon have been identified as having significant raptor and bighorn sheep values. The area is also under consideration as an archaeological district.

The Droney Gulch ACEC is the location of the best population of *Eriogonum brandegei* (Brandeggee wild buckwheat) known in the world. This ACEC is also a State Natural Area.

The Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC is known for its outstanding scenic, historic and cultural values. The rare cliffs are very suitable for peregrine habitat. Bighorn sheep and the excellent fisheries of the Arkansas River are also important values of this area. A small portion of the ACEC (the High Mesa Grassland Research Natural Area) is a State Natural Area.

These areas have special values that need protection or enhancement and are described in more detail within the Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan.

These BLM ACEC's have 11,948 acres closed to Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use, 24,180 acres with OHV travel limited to designated roads and trails and all areas will be maintained in public ownership. These areas will have 5,320 acres of right-of-way limitations that are totally closed to mineral entry and mineral materials disposal. In addition, 699 acres have No Surface Occupancy fluid minerals leasing, and allow for timber harvesting and wood gathering only in order to enhance the other protected resources. Finally, 4,036 acres are closed to livestock grazing and there is an additional 1,454 acres where grazing is to be adjusted.

Wild & Scenic Rivers/National Recreation Area

A complete and thorough Wild and Scenic River Analysis under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as specified within section 4(d), for the Arkansas River was completed during the BLM's Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan (RMP) process. The Wild and Scenic River Study Report was completed in 1992, as a part of that RMP process, and is located within Appendix L of BLM's Draft RMP published in September of 1993.

All segments of the Arkansas River were determined to be eligible (free-flowing with outstandingly remarkable values), met the criteria under the "recreational" classification, and were found to be suitable (worthy addition, land ownership,

potential uses of the land, public interest, estimated cost, ability to manage, historical or existing rights and other issues). Though eligible and suitable, BLM chose not to recommend the Arkansas River for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

BLM management found that designation of the Arkansas River corridor as a National Recreation Area with specific protection for the river was a better method to ensure protection of the river. These protection methods included withdrawal of the river corridor from further dam development, maintaining the recreational values, withdrawal from mineral entry, attempting to foster a cooperative approach for management of river resources and possibly negotiating a regulated flow to maintain the “outstandingly remarkable” biological and recreational values.

The Royal Gorge RMP and Record of Decision recommended that a National Recreation Area be established to provide appropriate management of the values along the Arkansas River. To date, most of the specific protective methods have not been put into affect by BLM nor has Congress taken any action. The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area has evolved in this direction during its 11 years of existence and to some degree provides for some of this protection.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC

Information used in this section is general in nature and obtained from published reports. No new information related to aquatic wildlife was collected specific to this planning effort.

Resource Description: The Arkansas River begins at the confluence of the East Fork of the Arkansas River and Tennessee Creek. Aquatic life, aquatic habitat and the influences upon them vary considerably along an elevation gradient between 10,000 feet to less than 5,000 feet at Pueblo Reservoir. Pueblo Reservoir is approximately 148 miles downstream from the headwaters of the Arkansas River. The river has a variation of alternating natural geomorphic features intermixed throughout the corridor which do not necessarily match the segments as divided for recreation management purposes. These natural features partially shape the aquatic community structure along with the adjacent and tributary riparian health. The river can generally be characterized by six distinct aquatic habitat types that are defined by river geomorphology ranging from low gradient and wide with islands, to canyons with large boulders and steep gradients.

The river is noted for its exceptional brown trout fishery and a developing rainbow trout fishery. Surveys conducted by the CDOW document that brown

trout are present throughout the plan revision area. Brown trout numbers average about 2,000 fish/mile throughout much of the river, while rainbow trout average about 100 fish/mile. Brown trout are sustained through natural reproduction while rainbow trout are partially supplemented by stocking.

For the purpose of this planning effort, consideration for these two trout species will be emphasized because of their sportfishing value and the amount of information available. Even though emphasis is towards managing game species, there are a number of non-game species present in the Arkansas River drainage. Rare species have not been collected in this section of the main stem. Habitat conditions deemed favorable for the trout species have been determined to support the needs of other species. There is also considerable knowledge about the aquatic invertebrate community and to a lesser extent, the herpetofauna.

Brown trout: The quantity and quality of brown trout habitat varies in the different segments. Differing habitat is largely dependent on water discharge. Basically, brown trout occupy reaches of low to moderate gradient (<1 percent) in suitable, high-gradient river systems. Brown trout spawn in the Arkansas River from mid-October to mid-November. The amount of suitable spawning habitat (depth, velocity, substrate, and water temperature) is dictated by the water discharge existing at the time of spawning. Tributary streams can also be important spawning areas. These sites may be selected if conditions are unsatisfactory in the Arkansas; however, the majority of spawning occurs in the main stem. Cottonwood, Chalk and Texas Creek are typical tributary streams where brown trout spawning is known to occur. Brown trout eggs incubate from mid-October through March in the Arkansas River. During this period, flows have to be high enough to meet the needs of developing embryos (prevent winter freezing), but not so high that they allow destructive movement of the substrate.

Brown trout hatch and emerge in the Arkansas River from April 1 to May 15. Flows and resulting fry habitat from April through June (snowmelt runoff period) influences fry survival, recruitment success and resulting year class strength. Cover, essential to adult and juvenile brown trout for survival and growth, is also flow dependent. Cover important to brown trout includes instream and stream bank vegetation, undercut banks, woody debris, substrate, pool depth and surface turbulence. Other factors such as riparian health, water quality, food webs, etc. also affect population dynamics in indirect ways.

Rainbow trout: Habitat for rainbow trout also varies considerably in the river depending on discharge. Generally, optimal rainbow trout habitat is characterized by clear, cold water; a silt-free rocky substrate in riffle-run areas; an approximately 1:1 pool-to-riffle ratio, with areas of slow, deep water; well-vegetated streambanks; abundant instream cover; and relatively stable

waterflow, temperature regimes and streambanks (Raleigh et al. 1984).

Rainbow trout spawn in the Arkansas River from March to early April. They generally select spawning sites with similar substrate, depth and velocity characteristics to brown trout. Rainbow trout hatch by the end of May and emerge from the gravel in June in the Arkansas River. This emergence period corresponds to high flows and limited fry habitat. Fry require shallower water and lower velocities than at other stages of the trout life cycle (Horner and Bjornn 1976). Due to limited fry production, rainbow trout populations are supported by fingerling stocking.

Each life stage of a fish, spawning, fry, fingerling and adult, has specific habitat requirements that can be defined by three values: depth, velocity and substrate. Stream discharge alters all three of these attributes. Discharge over an annual cycle is one of the most important variables driving the population dynamics and structure of the fishery of the Arkansas River. Similar to brown trout, other factors like riparian health, water quality, food webs, angling, etc. also influence the rainbow trout population. Further information about the upper Arkansas River fishery can be found in the Arkansas River Water Needs Assessment. This document should be consulted frequently to make decisions concerning management of the river.

Water quality: Water quality is equally important to that of the physical aquatic habitat. Water quality of the upper Arkansas River basin is generally good. Tributary streams in the basin show high levels of dissolved oxygen and low levels of organic material such as nitrogen, phosphorus, fecal coliform counts and total dissolved solids. Historic discharges from hardrock mine discharge near Leadville have been aggressively managed since the initial planning effort and improvements in the watershed are documented. There is however, seasonal, spacial and specific element variation within the water column of the Arkansas River which are known to be problematic. Improvements to water quality have occurred benefitting the aquatic biota and efforts should continue. Sediment pulses, both natural and human accelerated, do affect the biotic community.

Macroinvertebrates: Aquatic macroinvertebrate life is the cornerstone supporting the quality fishery values within the planning area of the Arkansas River. There have been extensive studies relating variables important to aquatic macroinvertebrates production and the dependence upon this community by the fishery and other animal life. Over 60 species inhabit the river expressing a complex annual and seasonal variation in population dynamics which links directly to the fishery. Differing management of the river or the watershed can modify parameters such as water quality, discharge, sediment and vegetation, which will all directly impact the aquatic macroinvertebrates. The direct link

between physical variables, macroinvertebrates and the fisheries are well established for the Arkansas River biota. Management actions can directly or indirectly impact the integrity and interaction of the biota and do so at point locations or cumulatively.

Angling: Fishery resources on the river are managed by the CDOW, primarily for the benefit of users on public lands. To monitor the effects of various management practices, the CDOW conducts sampling of the fish populations in several different sections of the river. Creel census information, fishing use, catch composition and catch rate are factored into management. It is well established that the Arkansas River is an extremely important sport fishery for trout and is considered excellent for trout fishing. The low elevations and generally mild winters allow for fishing year-round on 60 miles of the river. The proximity of the river to large metropolitan areas such as Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo make it attractive to day fishermen. The Arkansas River is noted for its excellent fly fishing with natural hatches common, the most notable being the caddis fly hatch in the spring. More information concerning angling is discussed in the recreation section.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL

Wildlife species associated with the Arkansas River valley vary greatly. A complete list of these species is located in the Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan (RMP) and also in Appendix B of the Arkansas Canyon Habitat Management Plan (HMP). Both documents are on file in the BLM Office in Canon City. This EA discusses those species that have some recreational or economic value, or depend on the Arkansas River for some crucial habitat component.

Wildlife values associated with the Arkansas River corridor riparian and wetland habitats, flood plains and reservoirs are diverse and important in maintaining the ecological stability and diversity of the watershed. Wildlife species range from amphibians and reptiles to a variety of mammals and birds. The most significant habitat type to wildlife and the most likely to be impacted is the riparian habitat. Riparian and wetland areas have been well documented as the most productive and attractive of all wildlife habitats. Although less than 1 percent of the landscape is riparian vegetation, greater than 80 percent of breeding bird species occur in this vegetation type. Riparian areas are critical for water dependent species and provide important corridors as migration and dispersal routes. Protection of this restricted habitat type should be a key component of the river management plan.

Bighorn Sheep: The bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) is Colorado's state animal

and is found throughout the Arkansas River corridor, where suitable habitat exists. The topography of the river valley is rough, rocky and relatively "open", which makes it attractive to bighorn sheep. The need for rock outcroppings, precipitous cliffs and rough topographic features is a part of the physical habitat of bighorn sheep. The juxtaposition and interspersed of these features with foraging areas influence the value of the habitat for sheep. Escape cover, especially during the lambing season, is critical.

In 1977 two herds, the Buffalo Peaks and the Arkansas Canyon herds, consisting of approximately 200-250 sheep, occupied habitats adjacent to the Arkansas River. Since 1977, nine sheep transplants have taken place adding 185 transplanted sheep to the population. These transplants have resulted in three new herds becoming established, e.g., the Grape Creek, Browns Canyon and Fernleaf herds. The bighorn sheep population in the valley now numbers 550-600 sheep which spend all or a portion of the year adjacent to the Arkansas River. Additional transplants may take place as sites are inventoried and animals become available. These low elevation bighorn sheep herds have become an integral part of bighorn sheep management in Colorado.

The bighorn sheep is relatively rare in terms of total numbers and often times difficult to view. Opportunities to observe bighorn sheep in their natural habitat are excellent along the Arkansas River in several areas. A watchable wildlife viewing facility is currently located at the Five Points Recreation Site and offers information on bighorn sheep in the Arkansas Canyon. Additional sheep viewing stations are also being proposed within the river corridor. It is vital that these opportunities continue to be available to the general public. In order to better describe the current status of bighorn sheep along the Arkansas River, herds along each river segment are described.

a. Segment 1 - Leadville to Buena Vista: Bighorn sheep are found in the Collegiate Peaks west of the river valley, but do not spend any time along the Arkansas River. The Buffalo Peaks herd (Game Management Unit S-12), which numbers about 150 animals, is located east of the river in the East and West Buffalo Peaks area. These sheep summer and lamb on the peaks and are generally not found along the river on BLM and FS lands from Clear Creek to Langhoff Gulch. Less than 20 sheep use this area during the winter months. The Colorado Division of Wildlife issues 20 hunting permits for this unit each year.

b. Segment 2 - Buena Vista to Salida: The Browns Canyon herd (Game Management Unit S-47) is located in this river segment. Until 1980 this historic habitat was not occupied by sheep. Three transplants of 20 sheep each in 1980, 1982 and 1985 formed the nucleus of this herd. The herd

now numbers approximately 125 sheep. The main herd (50-60 head) is located primarily in the Turret, Long Gulch, Railroad Gulch and Stafford Gulch area on BLM and USFS lands east of the Arkansas River. Use along the river in Browns Canyon itself is limited. A small herd of about 30 animals inhabits the lower end of Browns Canyon on the east side of the river. This herd is found at the mouth of the canyon and uses the area throughout the year.

A second portion of the herd is found in the Sugarloaf-Ruby Mountain area where they were transplanted in 1985. Half this herd has moved to the west into the Castle Rock Gulch area, and half (8-10) have remained in the transplant area. These sheep use this range year-round and are occasionally seen during the summer months.

The third area of use for the herd (40-45 head) is the south facing slopes along the north side of the river from one mile west of Longfellow Gulch downstream to approximately Maverick Gulch. Sheep can be found in this area year-round, but are most commonly seen during the winter months up until lambing season. Migration and movements of this herd from the Turret area to the winter range are common. Five hunting permits are issued for this unit every year.

c. Segment 3 - Salida to Vallie Bridge: Sheep use in this segment is limited to the Browns Canyon herd which was described in the previous segment. No other bighorn sheep herds are found in this segment.

d. Segment 4 - Vallie Bridge to Parkdale: This segment contains two large sheep herds that spend a considerable amount of time along the Arkansas River. The Arkansas Canyon herd (Game Management Unit S-7), numbering approximately 120 animals, is located north of the river with the primary range being the south facing slopes between Big Hole and Parkdale. The Fernleaf Gulch transplant in 1998 added sheep to this unit and their primary range is north of the river between Texas Creek and Cotopaxi. Sheep can be seen in these areas year-round, but are more common in the winter. Ewes generally move onto midslopes in rough terrain to lamb in the spring. Since the area is extremely dry with few natural springs, sheep are often seen along the river watering in mid-morning and mid-afternoon. The Grape Creek Herd (Game Management Unit S-49) consists of approximately 115 animals and is located south of the Arkansas River. Prior to 1983 no bighorns existed in this area. Transplants of 20 sheep to 3 sites (one southeast of Texas Creek and two in Grape Creek) between 1983 and 1985 established this herd. Presently the herd is split equally between two major use areas, one being

the Grape Creek area between Temple Canyon and Bear Gulch. The second use area is along US Highway 50 south of the river from just west of Parkdale all the way west to McCoy Gulch. Water does not appear to be limiting factor as these sheep seldom cross the highway to access the river. However, a few vehicle/sheep accidents have been documented, and on occasion sheep will move across the river and mix with the Arkansas Canyon herd. For management purposes, the herds are considered as two separate populations. In January of 1988 an additional sheep transplant was completed within this segment. Twenty sheep were released in Cedar Springs Gulch north of Coaldale on public lands. This herd established a home range in the area from Coaldale east to Cotopaxi and numbers approximately 50 animals.

When the AHRA was formed in 1988 a concern was raised by wildlife biologists with both BLM and the Division of Wildlife that the increased amount of recreational use would impact bighorn sheep. In order to investigate the validity of this concern a great deal of money was expended looking into this issue. Between 1990 and 1993 BLM funded the CDOW to map and identify important sheep use areas along the river. The primary study area was the sheep habitat from Texas Creek to Parkdale on the north side of the river. Observations were also made as to the reactions of sheep to recreation use. A GIS mapping effort resulted in maps produced for sheep use during all times of the year. It was evident that sheep use is confined to a narrow corridor along the river and sheep also use the entire length of the river canyon. Interactions between sheep and boaters and other selected stimuli suggested that sheep response was variable and that they probably habituated to boaters, trains and people separated from them by the river. However, when people were north of the river, unusual because of the difficult access, or when people tried to approach sheep, the response was predictably greater. Furthermore, there may have been physiological impacts and energy costs that occurred in the absence of overt behavioral reactions, such as elevated heart rate levels. Other recommendations from this report included developing additional water sources away from the river.

An additional study completed by the Division of Wildlife in 1999 involved placing heart-rate monitors and activity collars on three ewes and gathering data for a full year. The heart-rate monitors are designed to measure beats/minute of sheep with the objective to detect stress that does not visually show in the sheep's behavior. Sheep locations were recorded along the river corridor for an entire year and data on high use areas and sheep movements were noted.

e. Segment 5 - Parkdale to Canon City: No bighorn sheep are found in this segment.

f. Segment 6 - Canon City to Pueblo Reservoir: No bighorn sheep are found in this segment.

Mule Deer: Mule deer are the most common big game animal found in the Arkansas River corridor. They inhabit all vegetation types at all elevations including the riparian zone adjacent to the river. The riparian zone is used for feeding, bedding, watering, cover and as travel lanes. The habitats along the river are used heavily during winter months when snows push deer to lower elevations. During spring, summer and fall the majority of deer move to upper elevation ranges. However, where suitable habitat exists, such as a wide riparian areas adjacent to hay meadows, some deer remain year-round. These animals are generally accustomed to the presence of humans and associated disturbances. The components that make the river valley attractive to wildlife also make it important for highways, housing developments, recreation and other uses. To survive in these areas, deer must be secretive, resulting in strictly nocturnal activities. This is evident by the large numbers of animals seen in the evening and early morning along the highways throughout the year. The highways themselves can be a serious problem for mule deer. The Division of Wildlife has identified major deer crossing points where deer/vehicle accidents are common. They estimate approximately 400 deer are killed annually in the Arkansas River corridor from Leadville to Canon City. Mule deer provide an important source of economic benefit to the area. Thousands of deer hunters, resident and nonresident alike, converge on the valley in the fall to pursue mule deer. Likewise, tourists throughout the year enjoy viewing mule deer and other wildlife species.

Raptors: Several species of raptors can be found in the valley along the river and most nest in the area in suitable habitat. Golden Eagles are a common bird during most of the year. Nest sites in the cliffs and rock faces are abundant in the river canyons. Prairie falcons also frequent the same habitat sites. Other species in the area include red-tailed hawks, Swainson's hawks and kestrel.

Waterfowl: Various species of waterfowl are found along the Arkansas River. The most abundant duck in the valley is the mallard, followed by widgeons and green-winged teal. Canada geese are common and are increasing in numbers each year as additional broods are raised in the valley. In terms of numbers of ducks and geese, the lower river from Canon City to Pueblo Reservoir harbors the most birds. The habitat there is more suited to waterfowl and is located closer to the Central Flyway. The river from Leadville to Browns Canyon has moderate numbers of birds whereas Browns Canyon and the area between Canon City and Texas Creek are less suitable for ducks. The number of broods raised in the

valley is small and relatively insignificant on a statewide basis. Their use is concentrated on the river and nearby ponds, ditches and sloughs. These riparian zones are extremely important to these species, especially during the spring and summer when broods are being raised.

Nongame Wildlife: An abundance of nongame species inhabit the Arkansas River valley from Leadville to Pueblo. Most are associated with the riparian zone along the river. Blue herons are known to nest along the river near Florence. However, actual numbers of birds occupying the rookery are unknown. An additional area receiving heavy blue heron use is the area from Salida to the mouth of Browns Canyon. These areas are considered crucial to maintaining viable populations in the area. Colonies require a minimum one-half mile buffer zone that is free of disruptive human activity during the nesting period of mid-March to late July. Impacts to forage species and large cottonwood trees should be avoided.

Non-Critical Elements

ECONOMICS

Recreation activities within the recreation area contribute significantly to the region's economy. The most recent economic survey data regarding river related recreational spending within the recreation area suggest that in 1996 direct expenditures associated with recreation activities on the Arkansas River contributed over \$23 million directly to the region's economy. Using a standard accepted economic multiplier of 2.56 (Source: Colorado Visitor Expenditures Study), these expenditures equate to a total economic impact on the region of around \$60 million for river oriented activities in 1996.

Assuming that the 1996 survey data tied to river related recreational spending is still valid, river related recreational spending for the year 2000 has been estimated to be nearly \$29 million (Source: BLM straight-line projection). After applying the accepted economic multiplier of 2.56 for the year 2000, these expenditures would likely reach around \$74 million for river oriented activities. This places the economic benefits from recreation activities along the Arkansas River as one of the leading economic contributors within the region.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Two Forest Management Plans (FMPs) have been developed for the forested public land within the Arkansas River Drainage: the Mt. Elbert FMP (EA CO-050-1-131) and the Kerr Gulch FMP (EA CO-050-8-82). No commercial

product sales have been located within the river corridor. However, past harvest activities are evident in the foothills surrounding the river corridor.

The planning area includes one stand of productive forest land. The stand is in Segment 1B, surrounding the "stone cabin" site, immediately east of Clear Creek Reservoir. The stand objective in the Mt. Elbert FMP is: "to thin stagnated stands and remove diseased trees from 28 acres of lodgepole pine in T. 12 S., R. 79 W., Sections 8 and 9 to help preserve the timber resource." To date, no forest management action has occurred in this stand, but certainly should if long term (more than 50 years) canopy cover will be needed to promote this site for camping.

GEOLOGY AND MINERALS

The Arkansas River from Pueblo to Leadville cuts through some of the most interesting and complex geology anywhere. Geologic formations ranging in age from 1.8 billion years (Precambrian) to recent are exposed in various locations along the canyon. Various rock lithologies in combination with faults and folding are present. Numerous universities and other educational institutions use the region as a study area. In addition, several areas are of interest to mineral collectors. Most notably, the Ruby Mountain area was recommended for acquisition and inclusion into the overall plan.

The area has a history of mineral development and continues to have a low to high potential for mineral development depending on location. Rocks and minerals including fluorite, industrial building stone, perlite, placer gold, sand and gravel, feldspar, pegmatite and others have been discovered and mined in the Arkansas River canyon. Mining activities continue to occur in the canyon today.

There are two primary levels of gold placering activity along the Arkansas River. Non- motorized activities such as gold panning, "backpack type" sluices, etc. are authorized on public lands along the entire stretch of river and no permits are required. Motorized activities, such as dredging, require a permit. Suction dredging includes use of a suction hose, a sluice or riffle box that floats or is stationary near the shore, an engine and pump, dive suit and other equipment. Usually only one or two people operate the equipment, and most dredging is considered recreational. Approximately 40-70 motorized dredging operations are reported along the river per year. The number of people conducting this activity has remained constant over the last 10 years. Most operators work on weekends or during summer vacations with operations limited to the time period of April 1 to October 1.

The BLM and FS have developed standardized forms, guidance and stipulations for managing this activity. See APPENDIX E for this guidance. Most activity along the Arkansas River is managed by the Royal Gorge Field Office. Motorized dredging activity is encouraged within a selected area below Granite and above Buena Vista known as the GPAA area (Gold Prospectors of America) and also the Point Barr area below Salida. In other locations activity is managed on a case by case basis with some areas, such as Browns Canyon, closed to all motorized activity.

A significant portion of the river corridor between Leadville and Pueblo is bordered by terrace deposits of sand and gravel. These deposits have varying production potential depending on their quality and accessibility. In general, sufficient quantities of sand and gravel exist outside the area, and there is little demand for development of river corridor deposits. High visibility and amplified environmental concerns make these deposits less attractive than those outside the river corridor, although there may be some locations that can be developed to support road and recreational site maintenance.

Terrace deposits along the river have been extensively explored for placer gold. Some of these deposits have been mined in the past leaving behind areas in need of reclamation. This is particularly true in Segment 1 from the Twin Lakes area to Buena Vista. Present day activities in the terrace deposits have been restricted primarily to digging test pits and trenches that are subsequently reclaimed. This type of activity is regulated by the BLM and the Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology.

Mining claims are regularly located along the river; some are maintained and others are abandoned. Other than the limited activities of placing claim corners and location notices, surface disturbance does not result from locating mining claims.

The Royal Gorge Field Office in cooperation with the State of Colorado Abandoned Mine Program has been conducting safety closures of abandoned mines in the upper Arkansas River corridor between Salida and the Leadville area. Approximately 100 closures on public lands in this corridor have occurred between 1997 and 2000. Additional closures are anticipated in future years. The State of Colorado has also closed a number of mines on private property in this region. A smaller program of closures is anticipated in the river corridor between Salida and Canon City over the next few years.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER RIGHTS

The project area is found in a major subbasin, the Upper Arkansas. Runoff from

this basin provides a major contribution to the southeastern Colorado surface water supply. The cities of Aurora, Colorado Springs and Pueblo, as well as numerous small cities and towns depend heavily on these waters for municipal water uses. The Arkansas River is supplemented by imports from the western slope. In the Arkansas River, boating enthusiasts enjoy high streamflows resulting from imported water. In the watershed, owners of water rights want to be free to move and use their water as needed. Sometimes their manipulation of flows are in conflict with other users of the rivers. Additional details on water rights can be found in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan and in the Arkansas River Water Needs Assessment.

LAND STATUS/REALTY AUTHORIZATIONS/ACCESS

None of the public lands in this recreation area are identified for disposal in the Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan (RMP); however, other properties in the general area are. There are numerous withdrawals and classifications of the public land under consideration. The Arkansas River canyon has long been utilized as a transportation and utility corridor. The public lands are encumbered by many rights-of-way. There are also periodic unauthorized uses on public lands within the planning area. Prevention and resolution actions are performed by the BLM.

Acquisition of property and easements along the river is identified as a goal and objective in the Royal Gorge RMP. APPENDIX D of the ARRMP lists parcels identified for acquisition for recreation. Site specific realty records showing key inventory data on public lands are available in the Royal Gorge Field office.

The public land access situation for the Arkansas River is complicated by four major impediments: 1) private land, 2) the river, 3) topography and 4) railroad tracks. For the purpose of this section and the access maps, "access" is defined as "public land which is physically and legally capable of being reached by the public."

The access situation for the river and to each individual parcel of public land under consideration and to some sub-portions of parcels is depicted on the realty & access maps. Foot access on public land is unlimited except by one's desire and ability. The river itself is considered to be a legal means of transportation by boat to public land. With this in mind, every acre of public land under consideration has some type of legal access. Although some parcels are accessed only by boat, and others must be reached by foot trails, the majority of parcels are easily and legally accessible by vehicle.

NOISE

Noise from river users continues to be a public concern along the river. User preference surveys (Knopf and Lime, 1981; Knopf and Virden, 1987) indicated in the 1987 survey that 32.6 percent of Segment 2 boaters and 16.3 percent of Segment 4 boaters felt that vocal noise represented a real concern (up from 1981 figures of 15.9 percent on Segment 2 and 12.5 percent on Segment 4). Property owners adjacent to the river have also expressed concerns dealing with the loss of tranquility and naturalness due to disturbance from users of the river.

Reasons for these concerns may be seen in how boaters respond to possible reasons for floating the Arkansas. More than half of all Segment 4 boaters, commercial and private, indicated a desire to experience peace and calm. The same was true for private boaters in Segment 2. This situation was quite different for commercial boaters, with fewer than 50 percent seeking peace and calm on Segment 2.

Noise concerns are not limited to those strictly associated with boating use of the river. Traffic, vehicular off road use, increased recreational residency and other recreational pursuits have increased with a resultant increase in noise levels for the area. Information from the Forest Service has indicated that groups of river users camping within National Forest campgrounds in the area has resulted in exceptionally noisy situations that has upset traditional family camping patterns at these sites.

PALEONTOLOGY

The following information is derived from a paleontological inventory and assessment prepared for the Royal Gorge Resource Area (Lindsey and Westlye, 1982). This report was limited to areas where the BLM has management responsibilities (mineral or surface estate).

Geologic formations in the project area are grouped into three categories: Class 1, 2 and 3. Class 1 areas have a high potential for scientifically significant fossils. Class 2 areas are those with evidence of fossilization, but the presence of fossils of scientific value has not been established and is not anticipated. Class 3 areas have little probability of finding fossils of use.

Class 1 formations in the area include the following: Dry Union, Morrison, Dyer Dolomite, Parting, Fremont Dolomite, Harding Sandstone and in some areas, the Sangre de Cristo. Some formations have a higher degree of concern in one area than compared to another. For example, the Morrison formation in the Parkdale area has not produced any significant vertebrate fossil finds when compared to the

Garden Park area. Specific areas of concern are as follows:

<u>Segment</u>	<u>Area of Concern</u>	<u>Formation</u>
2	Big Bend	Dry Union
3	Bear Creek to Wellsville	Dyer Dolomite & Parting Quartzite
3	Railroad Tunnel to Howard	Sangre De Cristo
3	South of Howard near West Creek	Dry Union
3	Howard Cemetery to Vallie Bridge	Sangre De Cristo
5	Parkdale	South Morrison
6	Tunnel Drive to edge of Canon City	Morrison, Fremont Dolomite & Harding Sandstone

It is anticipated that this inventory will be updated and the information digitized for incorporation into our GIS system to aid in administering this resource.

RANGE MANAGEMENT

The affected environment includes portions of 30 grazing allotments, with 34 different grazing operators. There are also several tracts of land upon which no grazing authorization exists and which are considered vacant public lands.

Foraging areas along the river range from rocky sites with sparse or no vegetation, to gently sloping or flat outwashes, including some of the higher producing forage areas in the general region. Forage species include, but are not limited to, blue grama, western wheatgrass, needle and thread, sand dropseed and bluegrass. The acreage available for grazing in the planning area versus the total area of the grazing allotments is less than .1 percent. The amount of forage harvested in the area is likewise quite small (no higher than 5 percent on any allotment).

RECREATION

The recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) should be used to provide a conceptual framework for inventory, planning and management of the recreational resources in the planning area. ROS is used to characterize recreation opportunities in terms of setting, activity and experience. The majority of the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area can be found in three classes: roaded natural, semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized. The communities along the river are classified as rural. The three basic components of natural resource outdoor recreation settings described here are: recreation resources (physical), visitor use (social) and current management (managerial). Each influences the quality, nature and types of recreation activities and

experiences that are available to the public.

Physical: relates to the resource itself; considers the area's remoteness and accessibility, its degree of naturalness and both the amount and type of land improvements and developed facilities.

Social: refers to people that use the area; includes both numbers and types of contacts with others, and evidence of their use.

Managerial: defines how the area and its recreation visitors are being managed; includes on-the-ground visitor management controls, regulations, multiple-use management practices and types of vehicles allowed.

The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area is split into segments for management purposes. The following is a description of each segment and describes the river, types of activities that occur and the recreation sites found in each segment. From Leadville, the Arkansas River flows down through the communities of Granite, Buena Vista, Johnson Village, Salida, Swissvale, Howard, Coaldale, Cotopaxi, Texas Creek, Canon City and Florence. While some sections are bordered by roads and towns, other sections are more remote. Each has different resource and visitor use characteristics. Each segment has a private and commercial boating capacity for in season and off season use and launch window times. Six distinct river segments have been recognized. Recreational use figures by various activities from 1990 through 2000 can be found on the chart following the segment descriptions.

Segment 1: Leadville to Buena Vista - Ideally suited for technical private boating, this segment offers Class I through Class V rapids and vertical drops ranging from 26 to 66 feet per mile. Commercial boating occurs in the lower portion of this segment, along with many other activities, i.e., camping, fishing, picnicking, wildlife watching, recreational gold placering and hiking. The Hayden Meadows, Kobe, Sawmill Gulch, Granite, Numbers, Number 4 Put in, Railroad Bridge and Buena Vista Boat Ramp access points receive extensive use. River access lease sites have enhanced fishing opportunities along this segment of the river.

This segment of river is divided into subsections in the current management plan. Commercial use figures are calculated using these subsections:

River Section	Commercial People	% of Change
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	1991	2000	
1b	4,032	12,781	+217
1c	2,931	10,974	+274

The following recreation and access sites are within Segment 1:

Crystal Lakes Gateway Site	This site is owned by the FS and cooperatively managed by AHRA, FS and CDOW. This site provides fishing opportunities in various small ponds and about 3/4 mile of river frontage. Interpretive information about the mountains and wildlife is also available at this site. CDOW operates the fishing pond area and obtained a public fishing easement on the adjacent Colorado State Land Board {CSLB} river frontage. The FS has employee living quarters adjacent to this site. There is no use fee currently required at this site.
Hayden Meadows Recreation Site	This site is owned by Lake County and provides primarily fishing access to about five miles of the river. A parking area, temporary restrooms and information signs are the only facilities offered at this time. Lake County is considering entering into some type of an agreement with AHRA for the day to day recreation management and maintenance of this site. There is no use fee currently required at this site.
Kobe River Access Site	This site is managed by AHRA and provides primarily fishing access. A parking area, temporary restroom and information signs are the only facilities at this site. There is no use fee currently required at this site.
Sawmill Gulch River Access Site	This site is managed by AHRA. A small parking area is the only facility at this site. This site provides primarily fishing access. There is no use fee currently required at this site.

Granite River Access Site	This site is managed by AHRA , owned by the UPRR, and provides primarily boating and fishing access. Adjacent to this site is a CDOW fishing lease that provides access for fishing only. There is no use fee currently required at this site.
North & South Clear Creek River Access Sites	These sites are managed by AHRA, owned by Pueblo Board of Water Works and provide primarily fishing access. Parking and visitor information is available at these sites. There is no use fee currently required at these sites.
Stone Cabin Recreation Site	This site is managed by AHRA and provides access for fishing and primitive camping. There is no use fee currently required at this site.
Numbers River Access Site	This site is located on FS lands and through an agreement is managed by AHRA. This is a day use site only. The following facilities are present: a parking area, temporary restrooms, parking barriers, information signs and a boat slide. This site provides boating access, fishing access and access to mining claims. The 2000 vehicle count was 3,573. A daily or annual pass is required at this site.
Number Four Recreation Site	This site is managed by AHRA. A parking area and barriers are the only facilities present. This site provides boating and fishing access as well as primitive camping. There is no use fee currently required at this site.
Otero Bridge River Access Site	This site is managed by AHRA, owned by Homestake Project, and provides access for boating and fishing. This site is also a popular as a portage or for scouting rapid #5. There is no use fee currently required at this site.
Five & ½ Mile	This site is managed by AHRA and provides

River Access Site	access to the river for boating and fishing. Some primitive camping occurs. This site also provides recreational placering opportunities. There is no use fee currently required at this site.
Upper & Lower Riverside Recreation Sites	These sites are managed by AHRA and provide river access for boating and fishing. The area is also popular for recreational gold placering and the Gold Prospectors of America hold mining claims in the area. This site is also used for primitive camping. Parking and picnic tables are available. There is no use fee currently required at these sites.
Railroad Bridge Recreation Site	This site is managed by AHRA as a lease site. Major day use and camping facilities exist, such as parking for cars and buses towing trailers; camp sites that have a picnic table, grill and tent pad; vault toilets; information signs; and a boat ramp. This site is primarily used by boaters and some anglers. Gold placering occurs adjacent to the site along the river by members of the Gold Prospectors of America. The 2000 vehicle count was 9,256. A daily or annual pass is required at this site.
Frog Rock/Elephant Rock Sites	These sites are owned by BLM and the FS and provide access to the river for boating and fishing. Rock climbing occurs on some of the major rocks in the immediate area. Primitive camping also occurs at these sites. There are no facilities and there is no use fee currently required at these sites.
Buena Vista City Park & Boat Ramp	This park is managed by the Town of Buena Vista. Major facilities include softball and soccer fields, restrooms, picnic sites, a foot bridge, trails and a boat launch facility. The Buena Vista Community Center is also located within walking distance of this site. The park is used heavily by locals and visitors. Boating, fishing, picnicking, walking and running are the major activities along the river. The

park does not require a fee; however, commercial boaters pay a fee to the town for use of the facilities.

Segment 2: Buena Vista to Salida - The most heavily used portion of the river for commercial rafting trips, this segment offers Class III and IV rapids and a vertical drop of 30 feet per mile. Other activities include fishing, a considerable amount of historic private kayaking and rafting and some overnight camping trips. The recreation sites along this segment that offer boating opportunities are Fisherman's Bridge, Ruby Mountain, Browns Canyon, Hecla Junction, Stone Bridge, Big Bend, Salida Open Boat Zone and the Salida Boat Ramp. The Collegiate Peaks Scenic Overlook provides visitors an overview of AHRA and interpretive messages of the valley. Many other activities occur at these sites as well, i.e., fishing, camping, hiking, picnicking, wildlife watching and recreational gold placering. River access lease sites have enhanced fishing opportunities along this segment of the river.

This segment of river is divided into subsections in the current management plan. Commercial use figures are calculated using these subsections:

River Section	Commercial People		% of Change
	1991	2000	
2a	104,969	155,674	+48
2b	1,395	3,137	+125

The following recreation and access sites are within Segment 2:

Collegiate Peaks Overlook Gateway Site	This site is managed by AHRA as a lease site. The scenic overlook provides visitors outstanding views of the Collegiate Peaks and the Arkansas River valley. An interpretive shelter and restroom with solar lights exist. This site acts as a entrance portal and provides information about AHRA and the history of the valley. The 2000 vehicle count was 27,876. There is no use fee currently required at this site.
Fisherman's Bridge Recreation Site	This site is managed by AHRA as a lease site. Fisherman's Bridge is one of the busiest put-ins for commercial boating. A large parking area, parking barriers, vault toilets, information signs, a watchable wildlife kiosk and two boat slides exist. The 2000

	vehicle count was 12,274. A daily or annual pass is required at this site.
Ruby Mountain Recreation Site	This site is managed by AHRA as a lease site. Day use and camping facilities such as parking, restrooms, picnic sites, grills, tent pads, a small amphitheater, information signs and a boat launch exist. Restrooms and fee stations have solar lights. This site is primarily used by private boaters, anglers and campers. The AHRA managers may allow commercial boaters to use this site as a put-in when flows fall below 700 cfs. This site also provides non-mechanized access into the Browns Canyon WSA. The 2000 vehicle count was 9,980. A daily or annual pass is required at this site.
Browns Canyon River Access Sites	This area is managed by AHRA and is used for both daily lunch stops and overnight camping. There are approximately 16 sites that are commonly used by commercial and private boaters. No facilities exist.
Hecla Junction Recreation Site	This site is managed by AHRA as a lease site. Day use and camping facilities such as parking, restrooms, picnic sites, grills, tent pads, information signs and a boat launch exist. Restrooms and fee stations have solar lights. A USGS water gauge is located here. The site is primarily used by boaters, anglers and campers. The 2000 vehicle count was 21,655. A daily or annual pass is required at this site.
Stone Bridge Recreation Site	This site is managed by AHRA as a day use lease site. Parking, restrooms, picnic tables, a boat launch and information signs exist. The site is primarily used by boaters, although anglers also use the site. The 2000 vehicle count was 11,753. A daily or annual pass is required at this site.
Big Bend Recreation Site	This site is managed by AHRA as a day use lease site. Parking, restrooms, picnic tables, a boat launch and

information signs exist. The site is primarily used by boaters, anglers and bird watchers. The 2000 vehicle data from July to the end of the year was 633. This site is also managed by AHRA as a OHV family riding area. Three motorcycle riding tracks will be constructed in 2001. A parking area, restroom, information signs and various designated riding courses will be built. A daily or annual pass will be required at this site.

Salida Open Boating Zone

This zone is an open boating zone beginning at the low head dam upriver from Salida and continues down river to Riverside Park in Salida.

Salida Boat Ramp

This site is managed by the City of Salida. A small parking area, boat launch and slalom course for kayakers exist. There is no use fee currently required at this site.

Segment 3: Salida to Vallie Bridge - Fishing is the dominant use in this segment. However, boating and other special activities also occur in this segment, such as the annual FIBArk race. This segment lies adjacent to US Highway 50 and offers mostly quiet water. The vertical drop is 24 feet per mile. Many of the recreation sites along this segment offer boating opportunities, i.e., the Salida Open Boating Zone, Salida East, Rincon and Vallie Bridge. In addition, most of these sites within this segment also offer picnicking, fishing, camping, hiking, wildlife watching and recreational gold placering. River access lease sites have enhanced fishing opportunities along this segment of the river.

This segment of river is currently not divided into subsections in the current management plan. Commercial use figures are calculated and shown as:

River Section	Commercial People		% of Change
	1991	2000	
3	3,324	3,941	+19

The following recreation and access sites are within Segment 3:

Salida East Recreation Site

This site is managed by AHRA. The area is used primarily for primitive camping and some private boating, although commercial use of this site will occur in the future. Undeveloped camping sites,

		parking, information signs and portable restrooms exist. There is no use fee currently required at this site.
Point Barr Recreation Site		This site is managed by AHRA and is a lease site. This undeveloped site provides primitive camping and recreational gold placering activities. Undesignated parking and information signs exist. No vehicle counts are available. There is no use fee currently required at this site.
Rincon lease site. Day Site	Recreation	This site is managed by AHRA and is a use and camping facilities such as parking, restrooms, picnic tables, grills, tent pads, information signs and a boat ramp exist. The 2000 vehicle count was 14,130. A daily or annual pass is required at this site.
Vallie Bridge Recreation Site		This site is managed by AHRA and is owned by Colorado State Parks. This site offers parking, restrooms, picnic tables and information signs. Fishing and picnicking are the primary activities, although some boating also occurs. No vehicle counts are available. There is no use fee currently required at this site.

Segment 4: Vallie Bridge to Parkdale - A heavily used segment for commercial and private boating, this portion of the river lies adjacent to US Highway 50 and has rapids up to Class IV. The vertical drop is 30 feet per mile. The Canyon Trading Post, Lone Pine, Texas Creek, Pinnacle Rock, Salt Lick, Five Points, Spikebuck and Parkdale recreation sites provide extensive access to the river. These sites, along with various other smaller, less developed sites, i.e., Loma Linda, Fernleaf Gulch, Maytag, etc., provide for picnicking, fishing, camping, hiking, wildlife watching and recreational gold placering.

This segment of river is divided into subsections in the current management plan. Commercial use figures are calculated using these subsections:

River Section	Commercial People		% of Change
	1991	2000	

4a	8,820	9,413	+7
4b	62,167	98,090	+58

The following recreation and access sites are within Segment 4:

Canyon Trading Post	This site is managed by AHRA and is a day use lease
Recreation Site	site. Parking, picnic tables, grills, a watchable wildlife kiosk, restrooms, information signs and a boat ramp exist. This site is primarily used for boating, fishing and picnicking. The vehicle count from March 2000 through the end of the year was 3,560. A daily or annual pass is required at this site.
Loma Linda	This site is managed by AHRA and is a day use fishing
River Access Site	access site. There is no use fee currently required at this site.
Lone Pine	This site is managed by AHRA and is a day use lease
Recreation Site	site. Parking, picnic tables, grills, restrooms, information signs and a boat ramp exist. Boating, fishing and picnicking are the primary activities that occur. The 2000 vehicle count was 12,424. A daily or annual pass is required at this site.
Fernleaf Gulch	This site is managed by AHRA and is a day use fishing
River Access Site	access site. Some private and commercial boating access also occurs on occasion. There is no use fee currently required at this site.
Texas Creek	This site is managed by AHRA. A small parking area
Recreation Site	and information signs exist. The site is used primarily for fishing and some boating. A house is located at this site that now

	provides a downriver AHRA ranger station, staff housing and maintenance storage. The vehicle count from April 2000 through the end of the year was 5,055. There is no use fee currently required at this site.
Maytag River Access Site	This site is managed by AHRA and is used as a day use area and for primitive camping.
Devils Hole River Access Site	This site is accessible by on-river users primarily for lunch stops and for primitive camping.
Pinnacle Rock Recreation Site	This site is managed by AHRA and is a day use lease site. Parking, picnic tables, grills, restrooms, information signs and two boat ramps exist. The primary use of this site is for boating, with some picnicking and fishing use also occurring. The 2000 vehicle count was 22,244. A daily or annual pass is required at this site.
Three Rocks Rapid Scouting/Portage Site	This is a river safety portage and scouting site used by boaters to scout the rapids or to portage around them. No facilities exist.
Salt Lick River Access Site	This site is managed by AHRA. A parking area, portable restrooms, information signs and a boat ramp exist. The site is used primarily for boating. No vehicle counts are available. There is no use fee currently required at this site.
Five Points Recreation Site	This site is managed by AHRA and provides day use facilities as well as a developed campground. Paved parking and sidewalks, a watchable wildlife structure, an

observation deck, picnic tables, grills, restrooms and information signs exist. The restrooms and fee stations have solar lighting. The day use side vehicle count for 2000 was 24,562. A daily or annual pass is required. The camping side offers 20 campsites that have parking, tent pads, picnic tables, grills, restrooms and information signs. Restrooms and fee stations have solar lights. The camping side vehicle count for 2000 was 7,009. A day use fee, as well as a camping fee, are required at this site.

Lower Flood Plain River Access Site	This site is managed by AHRA and provides a restroom. The area is popular as a lunch stop for boaters and is also frequently used by anglers. There is no use fee currently required at this site.
Spikebuck Recreation Site	This site is managed by AHRA and is a day use lease site. Parking, restrooms, interpretive signs, information signs and a boat ramp exist. The site is used primarily for fishing and boating. The 2000 vehicle count was 10,138. There is no use fee currently required at this site.
Bootlegger River Access Site	This site is managed by AHRA and provides restroom and lunch stop for boaters. There is no use fee currently required at this site.
Parkdale Recreation Site	This site is managed by AHRA and is owned by Colorado State Parks. This is a day use site and provides parking, restrooms, picnic tables, information signs and a boat ramp. The primary use is boating, picnicking and fishing. The 2000 vehicle count was 25,487.

A daily or annual pass is required at this site.

Segment 5: Parkdale to Canon City - Running through the Royal Gorge, this segment offers very technical whitewater, Class III, IV, and V rapids, with a vertical drop of 50 feet per mile. It is potentially quite hazardous at both low and high water flows. This segment provides commercial boating as well as private boating opportunities. Lower Parkdale and the Royal Gorge access sites, as well as the Canon City Boat Ramp, are the recreation sites in this segment. Other recreation activities available at these sites include picnicking, fishing, hiking, wildlife watching and recreational gold placering.

This segment of the river is not divided into subsections in the current management plan. Commercial use figures are calculated and shown as:

River Section	Commercial People		% of Change
	1991	2000	
5	19,193	61,955	+223

The following recreation and access sites are within Segment 5:

Parkdale South River Access Sites	These sites are small river access sites and primarily used for anglers, but substantial recreational gold placering activity occurs also. There is no use fee currently required at this site.
Royal Gorge River Access Site	This access site near the junction of Grape Creek is currently inaccessible via the "Pink House". Once legal access is gained from the property owner, this site will provide access to the Royal Gorge for fishing and will serve as a trailhead into the Grape Creek WSA.
Canon City Park & Boat Ramp	This site is managed by the City of Canon City. Parking and a boat ramp are available. The primary use of this site is for boating. No vehicle counts are available. The site is free except to commercial boaters who pay a use fee to the city.

Segment 6: Canon City to Pueblo Reservoir - This segment differs from the previous five in that it is characterized as a plains river, dropping only 15 vertical feet per mile and offering Class I rapids. Ideally suited for canoeists and other

boaters desiring a tranquil river trip, it offers fishing, wildlife watching and picnicking opportunities. Access to the river in this segment is somewhat limited, with current access principally limited to the Canon City Boat Ramp, several municipal parks, the Florence access park and at the CDOW Boat Ramp located at Lake Pueblo.

This segment of river is not divided into subsections in the current management plan. Commercial use figures are calculated and shown as:

River Section	Commercial People		% of Change
	1991	2000	
6	6	280	+4,567

The following recreation and access sites are within Segment 6:

Canon City	Various riverwalk sites along the river through the city
River Walk Sites	for several miles downriver. These sites are operated by Canon City and the Metro Recreation District. There are parking, picnic sites, walkway access for hikers, wildlife observing sites, extensive fishing access, etc. There are no use fee currently required at these sites.
Florence	This site is managed by the town of Florence. Parking and a boat ramp exist. The primary use of this site is for boating. No vehicle counts are available. There is no use fee currently required at this site.

River Visitor User Preferences

The upper Arkansas River is the most intensively used river in the United States for whitewater boating. Based on BLM/USFS/Colorado State Parks records, 1996 recreation use on the river was 590,192 user days, an increase of 75% over 1990 use levels. This report focuses primarily on two of those activities, fishing and boating use. Of the 590,192 river use total, 287,000 user days were reported for boating, and between 30,775 user days (Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation estimate) and 64,614 user days (Division of Wildlife estimate) were reported for angling.

Approximately 95% of the total boating use is comprised of rafting, including both commercial and private trips. In the year 2000, each commercial raft carried an average of six persons. Approximately 5% of the total is comprised of kayaking use, with an average of one person per kayak. During the July 24 to September 7 period, there is an average of 2,934 boaters per day on the river. In regards to river angling days, about 54% is flyfishing use, 41% is spincasting use and about 5% is floatfishing use. During the July 24 to September 7 period, there is an average of approximately 244 anglers per day using the Arkansas River. This figure is derived by averaging statistics from the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation estimate, which estimates 158 anglers per day, and the Division of Wildlife, which estimates 331 anglers per day.

The recreation work group for the Arkansas River Water Assessment and its consultant, EDAW, Inc. analyzed user preferences for water levels using multi-year periods and various user survey methodologies. Users in both boating and angling recreation activities were asked to judge the acceptability of various flow levels for their respective activities. The following table shows the optimum flow preferences by each type of recreational user.

Recreation Activity	Optimum Flow Range {cfs}	Median Optimum Flow {cfs}
Fly Fishing	400 - 500	450
Spin Fishing	700 - 1200	950
Float Fishing	900 - 1200	1050
Kayaking	1300 - 1500	1400
Rafting	1500 - 2000	1750

Source: EDAW Arkansas River Study, October 28, 1997

Heart of the Rockies Historical Corridor Rail Trail

A proposal was made to abandon the Union Pacific Railroad corridor between Parkdale and Eagle County. Part of that abandonment would have been to “railbank” the entire corridor, allowing for retention of the corridor while not in railroad use. A study was initiated to review the potential for converting the rail line into a trail system. This study can be seen at the ARHA office in Salida. Currently, the rail line has not been abandoned but instead proposed to be placed into a “reserve” category. This does not entail removal of the rails and allows for future railroad use. As such, the rail-to-trail proposal has been held in abeyance until the “reserve” process comes to a completion.

TRANSPORTATION

The transportation system serving the Upper Arkansas Valley above Canon City has remained largely untouched by the large changes in the nation's transportation facilities over the last twenty years. For the most part, multi-lane interstate highways and modern air passenger terminals have not been constructed in the area. Rather, the region's transportation system has developed in a manner commensurate with the valley's low-intensity agricultural and recreational economy. This section focuses on two major segments of the transportation system; highways and railroads.

a. **Description of Existing Roadways:** Highway access to the Upper Arkansas River is provided by a system of two-lane high-speed rural roadways. Access to and from the north is provided by US Highway 24, and to and from the east by US Highways 24 and 285, serving Segments 1 and 2 of the Arkansas River. During the summer and early fall months, access to Aspen and Glenwood Springs to the west is provided by State Highway 82. To the east and south, US Highway 50 provides access to Canon City, Pueblo and Colorado Springs. From these two cities, I-25 serves the major Front Range cities in Colorado. US Highway 50 also provides access to the west to Gunnison, Montrose and Grand Junction.

US Highway 24 serves as one of the three major highways in the upper Arkansas River corridor (Segments 1 and 2). At Johnson Village, US Highway 24 turns east and provides the primary link to Colorado Springs. At Johnson Village, US Highway 24 also intersects with US Highway 285, providing access to US Highway 50. As it passes through Buena Vista, US Highway 24 is a four-lane arterial, with a traffic signal at the intersection of US Highway 24 and Main Street. Between Buena Vista and Leadville, US Highway 24 is a high-quality rural two-lane highway. Travel lane width is typically 12 feet, with 4 to 8 foot shoulders. Design

speed is high, with the exception of several curves and one short grade approximately three miles to the south of Granite.

US Highway 285 provides access to the upper Arkansas River corridor from Denver. US Highways 24 and 285 descend from Trout Creek Pass to the west to Johnson Village. From Johnson Village, US Highway 285 turns south to Salida and the San Luis Valley. It provides access to river segments 1 and 2. US Highway 285 is a high quality rural two-lane highway. It contains several passing lanes and numerous turn lanes. The travel lane is typically 12 feet, with 4 to 8 foot shoulders. This stretch of highway serves two of the most frequently used recreation sites on the entire river, Hecla Junction and Fisherman's Bridge.

US Highway 50 serves as the third major highway in the upper Arkansas River corridor. The highway runs primarily east and west and parallels the river from Parkdale to Salida. It provides access to Colorado Springs via Colorado State Highway 115, and to Pueblo and points east on US Highway 50 and the front range via I-25. East of Canon City, US Highway 50 is a four-lane highway.

The section of US Highway 50 through the Arkansas River canyon is a gentle rise with short grades of 4 percent. Many sharp curves result in slow travel speeds and short sight distances from Parkdale to Salida. The travel lane is typically twelve feet wide but in some areas the shoulders are only 2 feet in width. Numerous pullouts which facilitate river recreation use present additional obstacles to smooth traffic flow. Overflow parking lots south of the highway necessitate pedestrians crossing the highway to access the river. There are numerous climb lanes located in the canyon. This highway segment is the weak link in the transportation system in terms of vehicle volume and speed.

There are nine county roads that serve as access routes to proposed or present recreation sites. Seven roads are located in Chaffee County, one in Fremont County and one in Pueblo County. Maintenance is provided by the appropriate county.

Chaffee County Road 371 consists of 9.5 miles of maintained gravel road providing recreational access to segments 1 and 2 east of the river and also north of Buena Vista from US Highway 24. This road averages 18 feet in width and has one recently constructed one-lane bridge {Otero Bridge} crossing the Arkansas River. A major portion of this road, the northern six miles with its unique river access to the east side of the river, has been abandoned by Chaffee County in favor of a private owner along this road.

The road no longer serves three public river access sites for the FS and BLM..

Chaffee County Road 301 (Fisherman's Bridge) consists of one mile of graveled road accessing the Fisherman's Bridge recreation site from US Highway 285. This segment also serves the Ruby Mountain recreation site via Chaffee County Road 300. Road 301 averages 24 feet wide and has one bridge (Fisherman's Bridge), rebuilt in 1992. Road 300 (Ruby Mountain Road) averages 20 feet in width and is 3.5 miles in length. It accesses the Ruby Mountain recreation site on the east side of the river. There are no structural developments on this road.

Chaffee County Road 194 (Hecla Junction Road) consists of 2.5 miles of graveled road accessing Browns Canyon via US Highway 285. This road averages 20 feet in width. This route has received almost annual improvements for the past ten years due to the recreational traffic. Traffic counts by Chaffee County in 1999 are shown on the following table:

Period	Vehicles Total	Vehicles Per Day
June 9 to 14	2752	678
July 1 to 14	4071	550
September 17 to 26	856	85

Chaffee County Road 191 (Stone Bridge Road) consists of about 0.40 mile of maintained graveled road from US Highway 291 to Stone Bridge. Traffic across the bridge is estimated at 10 Average Daily Traffic (ADT). The bridge is noted as an historic bridge and has weight limitations. Chaffee County would like to remove this bridge and provide alternative access to private landowners.

Chaffee County Road 165 consists of 0.56 mile of 20 feet wide maintained graveled road. Access to this road is provided by US Highway 285 from the west.

Chaffee County Road 193 consists of 1.45 miles of 22 feet wide graveled road. It is a shortcut between US Highways 291 and 285 and follows the old US Highway 291 grade.

Fremont County Road 112 consists of 1.1 miles of graveled road accessing the Arkansas River near the Beaver Creek confluence. This road averages 20 feet in width. County maintenance responsibility ends four miles from

the proposed Beaver Creek recreation site. Road construction and maintenance funds would be needed to render this site functional.

The Swallows Road located in Pueblo County consists of 3.5 miles of 24 feet wide graveled road. This road connects to a 0.5 mile long graveled road maintained by the Colorado Division of Wildlife that goes to the proposed Swallows recreation site.

b. Existing Roadway Capacity: Many factors influence a roadway's ability to accommodate traffic including grades, design speed, roadway width, percentage of trucks and other heavy vehicles and the availability of shoulders. The following 1989 data, from the Colorado Department of Transportation {CDOT}, is a list of maximum capacities for the major highway segments, in terms of vehicles per hour (vph), for one direction travel only: US Highway 24 from Twin Lakes to Buena Vista (Segment 1) 1,600 vph; US Highways 24 and 285 from Trout Creek Pass to Johnson Village (Segments 1 and 2) 1,450 vph; US Highway 285 from Johnson Village to Poncha Springs (Segment 3) 1,600 vph; and US Highway 50 from Salida to Parkdale (Segment 4) 1200 vph. Maximum roadway capacity is currently constrained by topography and traffic congestion rather than manmade features such as stop lights.

c. Highway Traffic Activity: Highway traffic activity is evaluated in terms of traffic volumes, vehicle classifications and accident frequency.

i. Traffic Volumes: Average Daily Traffic count programs are maintained both by CDOT for state roads and the Chaffee County Road Clerk for Chaffee County roads. Traffic counts are highest in the vicinity of Leadville, Buena Vista, Salida, the Royal Gorge and Canon City. Data collected by CDOT for the various segments for 1990 and prorated for the year 2000 are shown in the following table:

Location	Average Vehicles per day 1990	Prorated Vehicles per day 2000
Texas Creek to Cotopaxi	2300	3350
Howard to Salida	3300	4250
US 285 at Hecla Junction	4000	6150

The ADT volumes are averaged over the year and do not represent the markedly higher volumes present during the summer season. Traffic volume is expected to be greatest over the midday period with the maximum hourly volume occurring between 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is no estimate of the maximum hourly volume.

The volume of traffic using the highway system is a reflection of recreational activities being carried out in the region. During the summer (mid-May to Labor Day) recreationists floating the Arkansas River and traveling through to western and southern destinations dominate the highway system. During October another smaller peak of traffic volume results from big game hunting. The ski industry also produces a peak of traffic volume during the period December through March.

Highway acceleration and deceleration lanes for public safety purposes have been constructed by CDOT during the past few years at Parkdale, Spikebuck, Five Points, Lone Pine and Pinnacle Rock. These lanes have reduced the traffic congestion previously caused near these recreation sites. Four additional projects for acceleration and deceleration improvements are planned by CDOT at Rincon, Stone Bridge, Hecla Junction and Fisherman's Bridge.

ii. Vehicle Classification: The class or type of vehicles utilizing a roadway influences capacity and operating conditions, particularly on two-lane rural highways. Vehicle classification counts within the system show an average of 12 percent trucks or buses with the remainder being passenger vehicles.

iii. Accident History: There are more hazardous driving conditions in the lower Arkansas River corridor, where there are more deer crossings, curves, blind spots, rocks-on-the-road and more congested traffic conditions.

d. **Rail Service**: Rail service to the upper Arkansas River corridor was provided by the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad (D&RG) between Pueblo and Dotsero (near Glenwood Springs). The D&RG then merged with the Southern Pacific. The Southern Pacific then merged with the Union Pacific. After the merger with the Union Pacific the tracks were proposed for abandonment and rail banking. The request for rail abandonment has since been withdrawn. Currently, the rail line is to be placed into a "Reserve" category. This does not entail removal of the rails and allows for future railroad use. As such, the Rails-to-Trails proposal

has been held in abeyance until the "Reserve" process comes to a completion.

In addition, train operations continue through the Royal Gorge via tracks purchased by the "Rock and Rail" and the "Royal Gorge Scenic Railway" from the Union Pacific. The "Royal Gorge Scenic Railway" operates a tourist train between Canon City and Parkdale. The "Rock and Rail" trains in this stretch carry rock/gravel out to the UP mainline.

VISUAL RESOURCES

The planning area consists of about 1/3 mountainous terrain, 1/3 canyon topography and the remaining 1/3 is rolling hills and broad valleys. All of the area is located in the Southern Rocky Mountain physiographic province. The character of the landscape is determined by relationships between four basic elements: color, line, form and texture.

The dominant colors in the area vary with the weather, time of day and year. They include the browns, reds and greys of soils and rocks and the greens, yellows, reds and browns of vegetation. Occasional blues, greens and browns are added by water.

Lines are distinct in soil layers, changes in vegetation types, along ridgetops and in drainage patterns. Topography varies from sheer-walled canyons to flat-topped mesas. Texture results from the different vegetative types and erosion patterns. The area has a natural ruggedness, remoteness and openness.

The area is vulnerable to visual modifications resulting from the activities of man. The greatest visual impacts stem from early mining activities, development of ranches and farms, recent energy exploration and development related to facilities and railroads. Fences are the most common intrusion and fence lines that have been cleared by bulldozers are the most obvious. Sharp lines have also been created by vegetation manipulation along powerline rights-of-way. Clearings and associated powerlines are noticeable near Canon City, Wellsville, Salida and Leadville. The magnitude of visual intrusions on public lands is low. This is due primarily to the ruggedness and remoteness of the public lands, management restrictions, population distribution and the vast acreage involved.

Visual resource management (VRM) classes have been established for the public lands. The manner in which they are determined is explained in BLM Manual Section 8400 on file in the Canon City BLM Office. Each VRM class describes a different degree of acceptable modification in basic elements (form, line, color

and texture) of the landscape. The classes are the basis for determining whether or not a modification would result in a visual impact and, if so, what appropriate mitigating measures would be required.

All of the proposed development sites on public lands are in a Class II VRM zone. Management objectives in a Class II zone require that any changes in the basic elements not be evident in the landscape. Contrasts may be seen, but must not attract attention.

The remainder of the planning area lies in either Class III or Class IV VRM zones. Class III zones, which are located along the river and mountain sides, are not areas of proposed development. Within Class III VRM zones, contrasts to the basic elements caused by management activity are evident, but remain subordinate to the existing landscape. The towns and residential areas lie within the Class IV VRM zone, where contrasts attract attention and are a dominant feature of the landscape.

CHAPTER 4

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RECORD

NUMBER: CO-RGFO-00-022EA

PROJECT NAME: Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan Revision

PLANNING UNIT: All of Arkansas River #1, portions of Collegiate/Sangre #2 and Badger Creek #3

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Same as the Arkansas River Special Recreation Management Area involving portions of Lake, Chaffee, Fremont and Pueblo Counties

APPLICANT: Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation, Forest Service and Colorado Division of Wildlife)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND

ALTERNATIVES: The Proposed Plan Revision is the same as Chapter II of this document

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The proposed action is subject to the following plan:

Name of Plan: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: May 13, 1996

Page or Decision Number: Major portions of those decisions under the EcoRegion # 1 relating to the river corridor

The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3)

Standards for Public Land Health: The Standards are addressed in the

appropriate Affected Environment/Environmental Consequences sections. The following table is a summary of those two sections. Project areas have been assessed for all Standards; however, not all Standards necessarily apply to all acres in the project area. "NA" denotes where a Standard does not apply and does not influence overall land health. Depending on the action analyzed, completion of this chart may be required, optional or not required. Also, in completing this chart, either acres or checkmarks are acceptable in the appropriate row-column depending on the action analyzed.

	Current Situation			With Proposed Action	
	Achieving or Moving Towards Achieving	Not Achieving	Causative Factors	Achieving or Moving Towards Achieving	Not Achieving
Standard 1		X			X
Standard 2	X			X***	
Standard 3		X**	tree density		X**
Standard 4	X			X	
Standard 5					
Total Acres					
Total number of acres in project area: approx. 16,820 *					

*The river plan covers approximately: 85 acres of water on the surface of the Arkansas River and 235 acres within the lands leased (under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act) to CDPOR where intensive recreation management occurs; around 16,500 acres under the Cooperative Management Agreement; and 125,000 acres within the Arkansas River Special Recreation Management Area where less intensive recreation management occurs.

**See affected environment for vegetation standards.

***Riparian conditions will not change quickly; trends or rates of change are signals of the future riparian health. Stipulations and mitigations to be incorporated into management actions.

NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION: The Need For The Proposed Action is described in Chapter One under Item "B. Purpose and Need for Action".

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS **/ MITIGATION MEASURES**

The Affected Environment is described in Chapter 3 of this document. The descriptions are similar to that described in the original River Plan and Environmental Assessment (CO-050-RG-89-1), along with the addition of some new or updated information.

The following analysis documents the environmental impacts and mitigation measures for the proposed changes to the river plan and any changes in the cumulative impacts.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Impacts to air quality are expected to be minimal from all the alternatives. No short-term, long-term or cumulative impacts are expected.

Name of specialist: Mike Gaylord, 09/06/00

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Prior to any specific undertaking, compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), including identification, evaluation, consultation, reporting and any prescribed mitigation and mitigation reporting, is required. This applies to both the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternatives. Analysis of the impacts of specific undertakings will be presented in the relevant, project-specific NEPA documents.

Name of specialist: Monica Weimer, March 21, 2000

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative will have a disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effect on minority or low-income populations. No short-term, long-term or cumulative impacts are identified.

Name of specialist: Pete Zwaneveld, 03/02/00

FLOODPLAINS, WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ZONES (includes all information related to Standard 2)

Riparian resources along the Arkansas River corridor need to be viewed as a continuum whereby numerous actions have resulted in a much altered ecosystem. Mining, agriculture, irrigation, road and railroad construction have historically altered the vegetation, flood plains and soils along riparian areas. More recently, growth and development, exotic plant species and recreation activities of several forms have impacted riparian areas further. Flow manipulation potentially could further modify riparian resources along the entire upper Arkansas (see affected environment section).

Generally, the more recent impacts to riparian, wetland and floodplain resources center around: removal or trampling of vegetation and subsequent bank de-stabilization, displacement of the native vegetation community by exotic plants, loss of floodplain area and altering runoff patterns of water and soils from nearby upland slopes; this holds regardless of the land ownership status. Constant, or consistent seasonal human disturbance and vehicular traffic reduces the habitat values of existing riparian to some obligate species in areas otherwise protected from resource damage mentioned. Within the public lands, there is no single large reach where riparian values are lost, but there is a cumulative reduction in values, condition and functions from affects within and tributary to the Arkansas corridor. Viewing riparian resources through time and along a longitudinal gradient is necessary to evaluate impacts of the specific proposed action upon existing riparian resources. Furthermore, an understanding of future trends is important to weigh the impacts.

Approximately two-thirds of the land status of the Arkansas corridor is private, whereby riparian protection would be entirely discretionary. Only federal wetland fill and drain laws administered by the Army Corps of Engineers serve to partially protect non-public wetland and riparian. Housed within this protection are exemptions for minor disturbance. Stream bank stabilization and housing exemptions are examples. There will be increasing activity along private land river bottom as more people buy into the private land base. Growth projection figures support this notion. Intensive grazing, building and other activities resulting in wildlife disturbance and other impacts are known to follow growth. Unplanned for, this increase pressure will limit wildlife habitat values and reduce the corridors ability to function as floodplain. The trend in the natural resource values of the private land floodplain will diminish as the value of the floodplain increases for human resource values. Impacts to adjacent public lands will appear in various forms.

On the public land river bottom, this document outlines the increased angling, rafting, camping, picnicking and other general visitation that has been ongoing since the time of the first plan. Projections are for continued increases in use and there are also more requests for special use permits. On the public lands, permanent changes or impacts from grazing, road building, railroad construction and commercial mining have largely stabilized. With completion of the original river plan, overall riparian protection has increased within the public lands as recreation was managed. The primary area of resource concern will be for management to buffer impacts of recreation growth on public lands and work cooperatively to minimize direct and cumulative impacts from private lands. These impacts are likely to be slow, subtle changes (unlike for example, highway construction) that result from general use. The development of what is viewed by the public as a safe, public friendly state park with all the amenities provided will continue to draw high use.

Flow manipulation impacts resulting from recreating public requests could alter riparian resources. Impacts to riparian and aquatic resources are adequately addressed in the *Arkansas River Water Needs Assessment* and are not expounded upon here. That document needs to be consulted if flow management discussions develop over the life of this plan to determine environmental impacts. It is recommended that the agencies which developed that assessment be included in any discussion of any proposed flow management scenario.

Recommended Mitigation: It is well established that general public use along the river corridor will increase. Because of this, it is recommended that the following mitigating or “offsetting” actions be undertaken in an attempt to maintain general riparian integrity countering the continued regional growth and high use by the public. Riparian management is ongoing within BLM, but demands placed upon the Arkansas dictate accelerated emphasis. It is wise to recognize use will increase and address it as part of this planning effort. In addition, each individual action in the plan will require a separate NEPA analysis, whereby detailed cumulative impacts analysis will occur.

Riparian Management

1) Continue to do site specific improvement projects that control concentrated, high impact recreation use in or near riparian areas. Examples include: roads that parallel the river with high vehicular traffic that could be re-routed but still offer access, i.e. US Hwy 50; relocate some of the stream side uses to higher elevation terraces, i.e. fishing and boating.

Funding

1) Establish a riparian improvement fund whereby a portion of the BLM river management budget, and/or a portion of public use fees collected are spent on: a)

riparian improvement work, b) public education materials on topics such as watershed/ riparian area management, etc. or c) encourage private land riparian improvement work on a voluntary basis if the project meets established criteria.

Data and information gathering

- 1) Develop a list of known riparian sites with ongoing degradation. This list could be used for future management decisions and planning of improvement work projects.
- 2) Complete the analysis of existing spacial riparian resources using existing information to generate baseline knowledge to assist in future day to day management. This information would serve as the data base to assist in the protection or enhancement of special or unique riparian communities and resources along the corridor. This type of effort should be guided by the BLM riparian program material within the recreation guidance under the Public Land Health Standards.
- 3) Cooperate with other BLM programs and county weed/invasive plant specialists to develop an inventory of nuisance riparian plant species, develop a control plan and implement control measures at an intensity above that for general public lands.
- 4) Use information provided by the CDOW, CNHP and other credible entities about the biota and riparian habitats to develop a reliable indexing system to match specific riparian\wildlife relations. The development of this data base is essential for the future wise management of the river corridor to protect unique areas.

Lastly, in order to maintain BLM riparian health standards, it is recommended that riparian values are not compromised in order to provide for expanded visitation. This should clearly be stated in the decision of record.

Name of specialist: David Gilbert, 8/30/00

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES (WEEDS)

Any soil surface disturbing activity can increase noxious weed invasion. Therefore, any authorization that involves surface disturbance should include adequate reclamation stipulations, including weed free seed, mulch and equipment. Without this mitigation there could be serious long term and cumulative impacts.

Name of specialist: Thomas Grette, 9/6/00.

NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS

Before specific undertakings in the river corridor may occur, identification and evaluation of any historic properties with potential significance to Native Americans is mandatory. If such properties are identified, pursuant to the NAGPRA and NHPA, consultation with relevant tribes must occur before the undertaking proceeds.

Name of specialist: Monica Weimer, 3/21/00

PRIME AND UNIQUE FARMLANDS

There are no short term or long term or cumulative impacts to Prime or Unique Farmlands from the proposed action or the alternatives because none are present in the project area.

Name of specialist: Thomas Grette, 9/06/00

SOILS (includes all information related to Standard 1)

Soil Standards for Health of the Land Issues: The plan has mentioned population growth and increased public land recreational use, yet little consideration has been given to the fact that the watershed characteristics are rapidly changing. Each road, subdivision, federal and private activity which results in non-functioning soil characteristics (namely the ability of the soils to support vegetation and absorb water) is having and compounding those soil impacts which are occurring in the river corridor. The diverted water energy along with the loss of soil vegetation cover is resulting in ever increasing sedimentation and erosion cutting problems in the drainage bottoms which feed the Arkansas River. This “increased rate” of run off can be seen in many of the large and small gullies feeding the Arkansas, along with the accelerated erosion taking place where they enter the river.

Detailed soil impacts to the Arkansas River corridor can not be determined based on information available. Mapping of existing development on both public administered lands and private lands was not included in this planning document, and therefore, no analysis or modeling has been completed for determination of impacts. The plan also provides little or no projection of the number of acres of disturbance which may result from increased uses by overflow recreation users, both on or off the existing and proposed development sites. It can be expected that soil impacts will occur from both private land development and higher use of

the public lands over a period of time.

If such soil information was available, it is possible that a recommendation would be made to close some of the existing sites and to move proposed new sites to new locations. This would have less of an overall impact and economical land management would also include more direct management cooperation between governmental agencies and the private land owners.

From a watershed corridor perspective, the soils are considered to be meeting standards at this time at a minimal level, with movement towards not meeting those standards. The majority of the associated problems are related to road construction and home site developments which are rapidly increasing in the watershed area. From the corridor perspective, the river has been segregated with strips of function soils along non accessible river frontage, to minimal or non function soils located along areas of accessible river frontage. The proposed Arkansas River plan is not likely to improve the overall soils health. However, it will improve soils standards in a few identified areas of proposed rehabilitation, with most of these gains off-set by the proposed new developed sites and the lack of a plan to control future increases in recreational use.

Arkansas River Corridor Impacts: Much of the Arkansas River corridor has been hardened over the years, removing upwards of 20% or more of soils from the “functioning” category. This hardening is represented by the numerous parking lots, trails, roads (including Highway 50 and the railroad tracks), camping areas and boat ramps, as well as the rip-rapping of stream banks. While this has the effect of reducing soil movement on the areas of hardening, each hardened location creates “catchments”, where water energy normally absorbed by permeable functioning soils are now water energy collection systems with direct feeds to the river. The laws of physics apply, and the action of this energy is transposed from where it is created to downstream locations. This energy reaction results in increased scouring of the bed of the river on corridors with re-enforced stream banks, until its’ impact is released on non-protected banks.

The proposed plan may increase some additional acreage to this existing situation, increasing soil erosion down stream. While these impacts can not be quantified with information currently available, the following impacts can be expected: potential loss of river water quality and river biotic function, faster sedimentation loading of the Pueblo Reservoir and loss of land values along the river due to loss of bank stabilization.

Proposed location specific planning of each public site development project will prevent most of the soil erosion impacts on public lands from occurring on the those lands administered for recreation purposes. Assuming that the projected

increase in use does not occur at a faster pace than projected, and that current available staff resources can prevent “overflow” recreation use from creating new soil disturbances on areas outside of the developed camping areas and maintained roads/trails, problems on the public lands are not likely to be evident for several years.

In all of the alternatives the same impacts will occur at varying rates. Those that encourage controlled use, limiting development along the river and returning the maximum amount of soils to a functioning condition which supports vegetation growth and water holding capabilities, will have the least overall impacts. The alternatives which encourage recreational use or result in additional development and hardening of the river corridor will increase the impacts exponentially dependent on how fast use increases and development occurs.

Recommended Mitigation: The plan should include more than mere statement of effort, but specific commitment to soil, vegetation and riparian data collection procedures. The goal should be aimed at determining the impacts the plan is creating to all uses and parties along the river. A specific schedule of dates should be set to acquire such data, analyze it and apply it to the other recreational goals specified in the plan. One example of such needs would be to complete a mapping effort of the corridor for all lands (private, state, federal and other). Such mapping should include: all roads and trails in the corridor, all streambank stabilization areas (rocked, cemented or other), all adjacent stream bank hardened sites (parking lots, boat ramps, buildings, viewing areas, etc) and site specific soils and vegetation data (Note: this office has been collecting this portion of this data, and the AHRA should use it). This information should be interpreted by several specialists, including a specialist in river dynamics, who would analyze and assess what changes are occurring to the river banks from Leadville to Pueblo Reservoir. This includes where bank stabilization problems are going to occur as a result of the additional projected development and the probable increased sedimentation and effects on water quality as well as any impacts that might occur to the Pueblo Reservoir during its life expectancy.

The plan should adopt a new approach to the remaining locations proposed to be constructed. Instead of using selections made on historical methods, the plan should adopt an approach based on resource analysis of data to select “best” location(s) based on resource values. This scenario could probably best be accomplished by placing a moratorium on additional BLM & state land development until additional review and data collection is completed as proposed above.

The plan points out that 60% of the lands in the corridor are private, but gives little consideration to development occurring on these private lands or the

cumulative impacts of all developments on the resource values. Occurrences of private land competition with public lands for revenue dollars generated from the river use have already occurred, including river rafting launch sites, take outs, camping and picnic areas. The plan should explicitly state its commitment to maintaining the river resource(s) by including the removal and reclamation of public developed areas when and if other recreational users needs are sufficiently provided by private enterprise. This prevents the unnecessary duplicate resource damages that can and will occur if such governmental and private competition expands.

The plan should also commit to establishing areas of protection and recovery. This approach has been given some consideration along a few short segments of the river in areas where degradation is already evident. The plan goal should be the prevention of further degradation by applying methods (closures & restrictive use) which protect resources. This approach needs to incorporate the “resource” data that was mentioned in the first paragraph of this informational note. Based on the acquired data, one could expect some areas which will basically be “heavily restricted” to use because of fragile soils and vegetation and other areas which would be closed on a three to four year rest rotation cycle. This will allow for vegetation recovery along streambanks that are predominantly found in dispersed camping areas located around developed camp sites.

Name of specialist: Ernie Lee Gillingham, 07/03/00

THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES (includes all information related to Standard 4)

Since the original river plan was completed in 1988 additional information has become available and some changes have occurred in both state and federal threatened and endangered {T&E} and special concern species lists. While the original impact assessment for the 1988 document is still valid, there are some changes that are described here. The changes are related to new actions proposed in the revised river plan and updated T&E information.

A new peregrine falcon eyrie has been established near Granite below Clear Creek Reservoir. The eyrie is located on the east side of the Arkansas river adjacent to the river. The falcons have successfully fledged young from the nest site for several years. Public lands located in the immediate area (East Clear Creek/Stone Cabin) are identified for further development. Increased public use, such as the type proposed (wildlife viewing, fishing, picnicking, camping, etc.) would likely impact these birds and may result in abandonment of the eyrie. No development of the site is recommended until further information is available that suggests that

this site can remain viable with nearby disturbances.

Bald Eagles and Osprey occupy the recreation area during the fall and spring during migration and during the winter months. The most important habitat feature is the large trees, both cottonwood and ponderosa pine, that line the river banks in certain sections. These trees are used for perches. Efforts should be made to preserve, protect, or replace these trees, especially as they age and become snags.

Leopard Frogs are fast becoming rare in Colorado. They can be found along the river in suitable habitat, which usually consist of ponds and oxbows. River recreation development in these areas must maintain these important habitats.

Three plants, Brandegees Wild Buckwheat, Royal Gorge Stickleaf, and Degener Penstemon are found in the river corridor. The stickleaf and penstemon are found along the river and associated side canyons, primarily in the area from Cotopaxi to Canon City. Development of facilities to support recreational use will very likely affect these species. Surveys must be completed prior to construction activities. Information is now available that indicates locations where these plants are found and attempts should be made to avoid these sites with development. The buckwheat is found offsite and might be impacted as river associated recreation overflows onto suitable habitat. Critical areas for buckwheat include the Droney Gulch and Cleora areas.

Name of specialist: Erik Brekke, 7/5/00

VEGETATION (includes vegetation information related to Standard 3)

The proposed action implements actions that foster protection or minimize disturbance of the existing vegetation. This is accomplished by barriers, established trails and public education. Developing future sites (camping, trails, etc.) on areas undergoing uncontrolled, intensive recreation mitigates vegetative disturbance by at least diminishing and localizing the disturbance. The standards acknowledge and accept localized locations (developed sites) not meeting the standards over the landscape scale. As stated, "Standards are observed on a landscape scale. It is not possible for each acre to achieve every standard." While the proposed action acknowledges the need to develop recreation sites undergoing uncontrolled recreation, the plan does not identify at what level the developed recreation sites become too large and too numerous that the Arkansas River corridor, as a whole, no longer meets standards. This threshold should be identified in the plan.

Currently, the areas not meeting standards fail them because the forest land, piñon and juniper trees, are too dense. This prevents a vigorous understory of plants and thus at times pinon and jumper forests lack plant understory diversity. In one area, the grassland fails standards due to past disturbance not related to recreation. The proposed action neither diminishes nor increases the status of meeting health standards for these locations. There are some areas, very small in scale, that experience uncontrolled foot traffic and do not meet standards. The proposed action develops these areas in a mitigation type effort.

Recreation sites undergoing rehabilitation by reseeding or interseeding should be inspected for existing plant species. Native plant species should be strongly considered and used when possible. In sites where existing, introduced plant species are found and deemed to meet objectives better than the natives, these introduced species may be considered if they are the type that do not spread. Seeding and planting should be done with other resources in mind and consideration should be given as to how this seeding and planting would affect these resources.

Examples: 1) Avoid seeding an early spring green-up species in sites adjacent to highways that will attract deer and bighorn sheep; 2) Tree species that are planted should add diversity to the plant community and promote diversity in the animal community.

Name of specialist: Tod P. Zechiel, 03/20/00

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

The site developments present few problems in most locations. The use of treated woods should be minimized, but where necessary, should provide for the legal disposal of waste resulting from construction. The use of physical methods of weed control should be encouraged rather than herbicides unless a specific pesticide use plan (PUP) is in place. There are concerns about the development of recreational facilities and increased recreational use in the area of the upper Arkansas River in Lake County, where extensive fluvial tailings deposits exist. These deposits are subject to cleanup by the natural resource damage project currently underway.

Recommended Mitigation: No developments should be constructed in areas with fluvial tailings until they have been cleaned up. The Hayden Meadows and Kobe sites should not be developed prior to evaluation of the sites by the restoration consulting group.

Name of specialist: Mike Gaylord, 09/06/00

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE & GROUND (includes all information related to Standard 5)

The disturbance that may be generated from additional recreation site developments may lead to additional erosion, thereby impacting water quality. Standard construction practices are adequate mitigation in most cases (things like armoring of surfaces where human traffic is focused, revegetation of disturbed areas, water barring of slopes, use of geo-fabrics and mulches to reduce stormwater impacts and settlement basins or traps at the base of slopes, etc.). More specific water quality analysis will be done on any subsequent environmental analyses for these projects.

Recommended Mitigation: Under Areawide Recreation Goals, number 19, add the following language: Protect water quality by limiting recreational use at areas where fluvial tailings containing toxic metals are known to exist until restoration efforts are completed. Improve water quality by minimizing sediment production adjacent to the river as a result of increased recreational use.

Under Areawide Multiple Use Goals, number 12, add the following language: Minimize non-point source pollution from all recreation sites by maintaining healthy vegetation to the conditions identified in the Standards for Public Land Health. Rehabilitate and revegetate, to the degree possible, recreation sites that currently do not meet the Standards for Public Land Health.

Avoid or defer development at river locations where increased use levels will remobilize fluvial tailings and regulated metal laden sediments resulting from historic mining in the upper Arkansas River.

Name of specialist: Mike Gaylord, 09/06/00

WILDERNESS, AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN, WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Wilderness

Mcintyre Hills Wilderness Study Area (WSA)

No actions proposed in the river management plan will have negative impacts to the WSA. No short term, long term or cumulative impacts will occur.

Browns Canyon Wilderness Study Area

The Ruby Mountain Recreation Site provides the easiest access into the WSA. The majority of recreationists who use this access are participating in rockhounding and hiking activities. Loss of free access at this location will negatively affect a percentage of these visitors. Continuing to provide free access at this location would alleviate the impact. However, the difficulty of managing this access area within the R&PP Lease site will continue to be an impact to AHRA management staff.

Improved interpretive messages at the Ruby Mountain and Fishermen's Bridge recreation sites will have a positive affect on the WSA.

River rafting lunch areas in the WSA are producing a level of impact that is bordering on not meeting the non-impairment criteria. Continued monitoring of the resources should allow management the data necessary to ensure these impacts do not reach a level that will affect the WSA's wilderness characteristics. Mitigation at these lunch areas should include; the use of natural materials to control erosion, closing and rehabilitating social trails and recommending some type of sanitation waste disposal and/or removal. All such actions will help to reduce the resource impacts at these sites.

Adjustment of the WSA boundary would be another method to remove the impacts from the wilderness study area. This method would not correct the impacts associated with these lunch areas, but would allow for other types of reclamation that otherwise would not be allowed under the guidelines of the Wilderness Act. Designating lunch areas would address the cumulative impacts associated with increased use and the creation of new lunch areas. Implementing the above mitigation measures will eliminate any short and long term impacts.

Browns Canyon and McIntyre Hills WSAs will continue to be managed under BLM Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review until Congress makes a decision on wilderness designation.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

Browns Canyon ACEC

Impacts associated with the ACEC are similar to those discussed under wilderness. Monitoring of the natural resources should continue to ensure those impacts associated with the lunch areas in Browns Canyon are not increasing. No activities or actions proposed in Browns Canyon are

expected to negatively affect the special values found in this ACEC.

Droney Gulch ACEC

This ACEC is located west of Highway 285 and is not directly related to the recreation area. However, activities that occur at the Big Bend Recreation Site could have an affect on the sensitive plant, Brandegees' Buckwheat (*Erigonum brandegei*) present at this site. The greatest impact that could occur from activities at the Big Bend area is related to off-highway vehicles. The Big Bend family off-highway vehicle park will be constructed in 2001. Currently, off-highway vehicles (mainly motorcycles) use the highway culvert to move from one side of the highway to the other. The plan for the Big Bend riding area will eliminate their ability to utilize the culvert. This could be both a positive impact and a negative one. On the positive side, the number of riders who currently use the culvert will be reduced to zero. However, on the negative side, a fee will be required to use the Big Bend riding area. The addition of a fee may displace some riders to the Droney Gulch ACEC.

Mitigation to protect the sensitive plant should include the designation of roads and trails in the Droney Gulch area. This should be a high priority to control the use of off-highway vehicles in the ACEC. The construction of fences to protect the area's most critical habitat should be accomplished. Increased patrols of the area should occur. Interpretive signing at Big Bend and Droney Gulch should be utilized to increase the public's understanding of the special features of this area.

With the above mitigation in place, no activities or actions proposed in this river plan are expected to negatively affect the special values of the Droney Gulch ACEC.

Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC

Recreational use along the river, outside developed recreation sites, has the potential to impact riparian resources. Monitoring of these undeveloped access sites should occur to ensure the riparian zone is not adversely impacted. Closure of these sites should occur if monitoring determines an adverse impact.

The proposed Heart of the Rockies Historic Corridor Trail could have impacts to the wildlife and other values associated with the ACEC. Additional corridor planning and environmental analysis to identify and mitigate impacts should be done if the rail corridor is abandoned and plans

for a trail go forward.

All new development within the ACEC should take into consideration the special values of the ACEC. New development should only occur if the values of the ACEC can be protected or enhanced.

With the above mitigation in place no activities or actions proposed in the river plan are expected to negatively affect the special values found in the ACEC. In addition, there is good potential that the newly developed river vision statement and many of the decisions within this revised plan may in fact enhance those unique natural resource values found along the river.

Wild and Scenic Rivers and National Recreation Area

No activities or actions proposed in this river plan are expected to negatively affect the wild and scenic river values along the Arkansas River. In addition, there is strong potential that the newly developed river vision statement and many decisions within the revised plan may in fact enhance those “outstandingly remarkable” recreational values found along the river.

Name of specialist: John Nahomenuk, 9/06/00

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes wildlife information related to Standard 3)

Aquatic wildlife and habitat were described in chapter 3. In summary, the biota present reflects past management imparted upon the river. Potential future impacts to the existing fishery and aquatic environment result from four key areas which could cumulatively alter the situation from present: a) possible changes to flows related to augmentation; b) impacts in the riparian area or upland impacts affecting flows, sediment supply etc. (both public and private lands); c) harvest changes due to increased angling pressure; and d) disturbance and general degradation related to increasing recreation.

a) Flow manipulation impacts resulting from recreating public requests could greatly alter aquatic resources. Impacts to aquatic resources are adequately addressed in the Arkansas River Water Needs Assessment and are not expounded upon here. That document needs to be consulted by interagency review if flow management discussions develop over the life of this plan to determine environmental impacts under any such proposal. There are numerous scenarios where a change in flow would alter the aquatic environment in a certain way. Any proposed action needs careful scrutiny.

b) Impacts to riparian areas are ongoing. Stipulations outlined in the floodplain

section need to be completed during the early life of this planning to outline corrective management action.

c) Harvest impacts related to angling will be managed by the CDOW, probably by regulation and does not need to be addressed by BLM in this plan.

d) Disturbance of aquatic wildlife, as it is with upland wildlife species, is a difficult subject to quantify. In addition, the potential for disturbance is certainly different between the depths of the river vs around small ponds. It is recommended that the BLM River Manager work with CDPOR to develop a strategy to address species disturbances in accordance with the experiences CDPOR has had at other locations to deal with disturbance problems. Coordination with the CDPOR on this topic over time is recommended and a strategy should be started to determine impacts and recommended solutions.

Finally, it is recommended that the decision of record clearly state that when action opportunities arise to manipulate flow, or in some way the physical environment, the aquatic biota must be maintained at its current status, or favored, otherwise forgo the action.

Name of specialist: David Gilbert, 8/31/00

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes wildlife information related to Standard 3)

The description of wildlife impacts in this section is limited to those that may occur as a result of the updated river management plan, or where impacts have been identified due to new information or research data that has become available since the 1988 plan. The majority of the impact assessment described in the original EA is still appropriate.

Bighorn Sheep: When the AHRA was formed in 1989 a concern was raised by wildlife biologists with both BLM and the Division of Wildlife that the increased amount of recreational use would impact bighorn sheep. In order to investigate the validity of this concern, a research effort was initiated. Between 1990 and 1993 BLM funded the CDOW to map and identify important sheep use areas along the river. The primary study area was the area from Texas Creek to Parkdale on the north side of the river. Observations were also made as to the reactions of sheep to recreation use. A GIS mapping effort resulted in maps produced for sheep use during all times of the year. It was evident that sheep use is confined to a narrow corridor along the river and sheep use the entire length of the river canyon. Interactions between sheep and boaters and other selected

stimuli suggested that sheep response was variable and that they probably habituated to boaters, trains and people separated from them by the river. However, when people were north of the river, unusual because of the difficult access, or when people tried to approach sheep, the response was predictably greater. Furthermore, there may have been physiological impacts and energy costs that occurred in the absence of overt behavioral reactions, such as elevated heart rate levels. Other recommendations from the report include developing additional water sources away from the river. As a result, two 1150 gallon water collection tanks and drinkers (guzzlers) were installed in the spring of 2000. One guzzler was installed west and north of Five Points and one was installed just east of Cedar Gulch, both approximately 1000 feet above the river on the north side. Two additional guzzlers will be installed as time and funding allow. The success of the guzzlers as reliable water sources is yet to be determined. Therefore, maintaining unimpeded use of the river by sheep is critical.

Results from the study of 1999, involving heart-rate monitors and activity collars, serve to further validate the assumption that sheep may respond negatively (increased heart-rates) from activities along the river despite showing no outward behavioral reactions. The study objective was to test the use of heart-rate monitors on wild sheep and as a result only three sheep received monitors. Therefore, the results are limited, but were somewhat predictable. In addition, radio tracking sheep for a full year added to the data base existing on habitat use along the river. Results show that 72% of the sheep locations recorded were within 300 meters of the river. The tendency for this population to exhibit strong year-round fidelity to habitats along the Arkansas River increases the vulnerability of sheep to human disturbances. In addition, it has been shown that the Arkansas River is the primary water source for this sheep herd. This sheep herd is small (50 animals) and the potential for an impact to affect the entire population is high.

Recommended Mitigation: The following mitigation measures will serve to protect sheep and sheep habitat along the river corridor:

- 1) In Segment 4, allow no camping on the north side of the river in any location to prevent disturbances to sheep.
- 2) Maintain the restriction that does not allow any boats stopping on the north bank of the river in Segment 4. Continue to investigate the potential to relocate the raft portage at Three Rocks.
- 3) Provide for protection of the sheep herd (Segment 4) by denying any applications for recreational or commercial activities that utilize the north river bank and associated upland habitats. Unimpeded access to the river for water and forage is critical to sheep in this segment.
- 4) Maintain launch windows that are currently in place.

Riparian habitats along the river are extremely limited, thereby making them a small but very critical component of the river ecosystem (see wetlands writeup). The original EA identified a need to protect and improve these areas in order to sustain the wildlife species that rely on riparian habitats. Some areas unsuitable for recreation development have been set aside and managed for the vegetation they can provide. Lower Floodplain has improving riparian habitat that will continue to provide wildlife values. No further development of facilities should be allowed to preserve these values at this site. Additional public land acquisitions should be inventoried for their resource values and additional areas set aside for riparian restoration. The LCOSI project in Lake County will provide numerous opportunities to improve wildlife habitats in the riparian ecosystem and these opportunities should be fully explored.

If the acquisition of the Blue Heron property near Florence is completed, it will be managed for wildlife, riparian and aquatic values. Any recreation development and access for the public should be secondary to maintaining the natural values.

Name of specialist: Erik Brekke, 9/7/00

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

FOREST MANAGEMENT

The only commercial operable forest stands in the area covered by this EA are on the east side of Highway 24 at Clear Creek Reservoir, where in “Segment 1, Specific Actions”, considerable work is recommended to enhance this area with “primitive camp sites”. To make sure the visitors being invited into this site are not being subjected to unsafe camping, strict adherence to guidelines established by the FS for campground tree management is necessary. This is especially relevant as in July 2000 approximately 15 large diameter lodgepole and ponderosa pines were located on this site with infestations of mountain pine beetles. Annual intense inspection of this site for infected trees or “risk” trees and their removal should be mandatory.

Throughout the plan area, many pinyon and juniper stands are so heavily stocked that the Standards for Public Land Health are not being met. Many of these stands are on sites too rocky or steep or lack size or volume per acre for any timber management (firewood cutting or logging) option to be viable. If not meeting the standards on these sites is negatively affecting the recreation sites adjacent or downstream, then some form of precommercial thinning (mechanical or individual) should be considered to reduce the stocking.

Cottonwood trees along the river corridor during the summer of 2000 were almost all infected with tent caterpillars that are often defoliating the trees completely. Due to the proximity to water, treatment of these “webs” through spraying should not be considered. Any spray program will have a “high potential” to contaminate the nearby river whether through direct spray or due to natural drift. Although the defoliated trees are unsightly, they are not being adversely affected by the tent caterpillars except “some” loss of diameter (i.e. volume) growth.

Name of specialist: Jim Cunio, 9/8/00

GEOLOGY AND MINERALS

The major issues related to geology and minerals appear to revolve around four topics: small scale placer operations, sand and gravel development, mining claims and rock collecting.

Small scale placer operations have existed along the river for many years. Over the past few years, there have been some technological advances which help maintain the popularity of this activity. Although the majority of activity is “recreational” in nature, there are some mining claims along the river and corresponding periodic serious interest. This type of activity has been studied and mitigation has been developed to minimize most environmental impacts. For example, suction dredging is not allowed from October to May to minimize impacts to fish spawning.

The remaining placer impacts appear to revolve around; “high banking” (placering above the high water line) and general site use (cleanliness). In particular, conflicts have occurred in the Railroad Bridge area. This area has been under claim by the Gold Prospectors of America for many years and the claim owners dropped those claims so the recreational site could be developed for multiple uses. In general, the other types of users at this site now generally disapprove of the placering activities and complaints are not uncommon. As a result of this type of conflict, the permitting and enforcement processes for managing this type of activity will continue to be evaluated and improved. This discussion will be included within appropriate environmental analysis and some evaluation is currently anticipated during FY 2001. One additional mitigation effort is planned for the next five years and that is to create some “off river” placering locations for this type of activity to help take pressure away from the Arkansas River. One area currently under consideration for this type of activity is in the recently acquired Cache Creek area near Granite.

Based on this discussion and the overall level of activity, there are no significant

adverse impacts from this type of activity and conversely there are no significant impacts to this type of activity from the river plan.

The entire river corridor, as identified within the Royal Gorge RMP Wild and Scenic Rivers Assessment, is to be protected through mining law withdrawals to protect those outstanding remarkable river values. This process of withdrawing the lands immediately along the river from the mining laws is underway but not completed.

Sand and gravel operations along the river are viewed both as a positive impact and simultaneously as a negative impact. For example, sand and gravel is needed for a variety of road/recreation site/river access projects and impacts are increased without the addition of these resources. The negative impacts generally revolve around site location and visibility. These negative impacts can be mitigated through careful site selection and a quality reclamation plan. Therefore, there are no significant adverse impacts from development of this type of resource. On the contrary, the river plan itself acknowledges the need for these type of resources so there is no adverse impact to this type of development from the river plan.

Rock and mineral collecting has occurred along the river for many years. In particular, the Ruby Mountain area is popular for this type of activity. The river plan does not propose any significant changes in how this type of activity is managed and therefore no significant impacts are expected.

Name of specialist: Dan Grenard, 8/22/00

HYDROLOGY AND WATER RIGHTS

The Proposed Action will not result in any impacts to hydrology and water rights and no mitigation is necessary.

Name of specialist: Mike Gaylord, 9/06/00

LAND STATUS/REALTY AUTHORIZATIONS/ACCESS

The proposed action will result in minor increases in federal land in Lake, Chaffee and Fremont counties. Existing realty authorizations will not be affected. New proposed realty authorizations will be reviewed for interference with or adverse impact to the goals and objectives of the AHRA. This could affect what might otherwise be authorized or add special stipulations to authorizations. Access to federal lands should increase as a result of key acquisitions.

Name of specialist: David Hallock, 9/1/00

NOISE

Noise is covered on pages III-49 in the original EA and can be tiered to the data within the Royal Gorge RMP.

Name of specialist: Kevin Andersen, 9/7/00

PALEONTOLOGY

The affected environment section outlines geologic formations that need consideration when surface disturbing activities such as construction of a new campground or road occur. Based on a review of the formations that crop out at the surface and the proposals in this plan, any impacts are expected to be insignificant. In those few cases where a site specific proposal indicates some probability of impacting paleontology resources, mitigation would consist of a field review of the site by a qualified geologist or paleontologist. This mitigation is expected to result in no significant impacts to paleontology resources from anything proposed in this plan.

Name of specialist: Dan Grenard, 9/7/00

RANGE MANAGEMENT

Interaction between grazing and recreation on the Arkansas River corridor is fairly limited. Conflict currently exists in areas where camping and picnicking sites occupy traditional (prior to development) water sources for livestock along the Arkansas River. Areawide Multiple Use Goals, in Chapter 2 of this document, state that livestock operations continue in the corridor except at intensively developed sites. At these locations, exclosures are called for to mitigate user/livestock conflicts. This practice has resulted in one success, two failures and one potential failure. The success is Fisherman's Bridge, located in Segment #2. The recreation area was fenced off and cattle are still able to access water on the Arkansas River with ease. The two failures are Ruby Mountain and Hecla Junction located in Segment #2. These intensive recreation sites were developed in a manner that no corridor exists for livestock to water at the Arkansas River without creating a conflict. In short, to access water from the Arkansas River, the livestock must travel through the recreation site. Developing sites with exclosures

effectively closes water off for livestock because a corridor does not exist. Granted, there are other water locations, but grazing distribution is compromised. The grazing permittee is displaced from a water source and is adversely affected by the action. The last site, Railroad Bridge, located in Segment #2, has been developed as an intensive recreation site in the same manner as Ruby Mountain and Hecla Junction, lacking a water corridor. The public land involved with this site is currently vacant and does not affect a permittee. The area requires costly range improvements that have deterred application.

The proposed action develops many recreation sites. Sites, that if fully developed without a water corridor, may result in excluding livestock and adversely affecting the grazing permittee include: Kobe, expanding Hecla Junction and Salida East (north side).

Grazing permittees currently park trucks and horse trailers at Maytag and cross the river to Devils Hole to administer grazing on allotments north of the Arkansas River. If these sites are developed, they should adequately allow for access for trucks and trailers.

Name of specialist: Tod P. Zechiel, 4/10/00

RECREATION

The final Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan and Environmental Analysis (1988) identifies environmental consequences to recreation in Chapter 3. The impacts identified in the original EA were described in terms of the recreation opportunity spectrum (explained in Chapter 3 of this document) and categorized by the recreation resources and visitor use and recreation management objectives. Many of the impacts identified in the original EA have been resolved or addressed by AHRA management over the last 10 years. The Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan states objectives and actions on both an areawide and segment specific basis. The large majority of these objectives and actions will have positive benefits for recreation; however, a few may impact recreation activities and experiences. The actions listed in Chapter 2 of this plan are grouped under five management categories: Resource Management, Visitor Management, Facility Management, Access and Easement Acquisition and Administration. Positive and negative impacts resulting from these actions and recommended mitigation are as follows.

Resource Management

The protection of resources is the primary consideration when taking recreation

management actions. Some of these actions, when taken, may have an impact on certain types of recreation activities and/or could affect the experience of the recreationist. Impacts related to recreation from resource protection actions include the closure of undeveloped camping, parking, boat launch, fishing access and picnicking areas. Many of these areas have been used for a long period of time, but with the increase in recreational use, many new ones are being created. Those visitors that use these locations are usually looking for a different type of experience than can be found in developed recreation sites or to a greater extent, are unwilling to pay an entrance fee.

Closure of many of these small pullouts has occurred in a combination of ways. New guardrail installation by CDOT, mainly down river from Salida, has blocked off some of the more popular pullouts. Factors such as highway safety, topography and property ownership may preclude management's ability to keep these areas open. Indirect impacts associated with the closure of these undeveloped sites result in the displacement of recreationists, who in turn, seek out other locations that may not have been previously used. This cycle of closure, relocation by visitors and subsequent establishment of new areas should be considered by management prior to closure of areas. While these measures are necessary to meet the goal of resource protection, they may not always be the best solution. The closure of these areas will always be a controversial issue for AHRA management and mitigation measures may not satisfy many of the visitors who enjoy these undeveloped areas.

Projects aimed at improving the water quality will have a positive benefit on recreation. Anglers will especially benefit from these actions. Continuing to work with the Upper Arkansas Watershed Council, the Lake County Stream Habitat Restoration Project, CDOW and the EPA to improve water quality will be a positive benefit for recreation.

Recommended Mitigation: Projects completed in partnership with various partners and volunteers have resulted in some of these undeveloped access sites remaining open in the past. The relocation of parking areas out of the riparian zones and the construction of physical barriers to control vehicles has been successful. These types of actions should be considered prior to the closure of undeveloped sites.

Visitor Management

Visitation to AHRA has grown 251% since its inception in 1990 {e.g. 311,871 visitors in 1990 to 782,966 visitors in 2000}. Management controls and actions identified in the original plan have been successful in reducing many impacts caused by visitors, but some still exist and some will probably never go away (i.e. trespass, rules violations, etc.). The revised management plan has many actions proposed to address the visitors needs and control their actions to reduce impacts.

Actions such as surveying and posting public land boundaries have been successful in reducing the impacts associated with trespass. While trespass still occurs, and unfortunately probably always will, the number of cases reported has been greatly reduced. Visitor education through ranger contacts, posted regulations, interpretive and safety signs, ranger programs and printed literature continues to increase the visitor's awareness of their impact on the environment and others. Implementing the interpretive and educational actions specified in the revised plan will have positive benefits for the visitors and the natural resources.

Boating carrying capacities have been established for each segment and subsection of the river in the plan. A rationing program, not a direct part of the river plan, was developed to provide a method by which the boating agreement holder's percentage of total boating use, defined as historic use, is identified. The rationing program further identifies methods to ensure compliance with the rationing plan. The high-use and off-season carrying capacities established in the revised plan for commercial and private boats take into consideration the predominant use of a given subsection. Adjustments in carrying capacities, launch windows, season of use and special uses in various segments were done to "off set" impacts felt by various users. An example of this adjustment that benefits private boaters can be seen in the launch window change. Where in the previous plan, private rafts had to adhere to specific launch windows in certain segments, they are no longer subject to any launch window in any segment in the revised plan. The majority of river users should see a positive benefit from the changes made. However, some individuals that use the river for a particular activity will always feel impacted by another type of river user.

Direct control actions in Segment 2 propose to limit overnight river use and lunch stops in certain subsections to designated sites. This action may impact both commercial and private boaters, natural resources, AHRA management and staff. The amount of overnight use is not actually known and the demand for this activity has not been studied thoroughly. Further studies are needed to determine how many sites may be needed to satisfy the minimum/maximum number of campers. Will site occupancy be determined on a first-come basis or can they be reserved? These questions should be addressed so the public understands exactly what is being proposed. Natural resource impacts may become more pronounced at the designated sites if all use is channeled to only these sites. The designated sites may need to be hardened to an appropriate level to handle the increased use and pressure they may receive.

Recommended Mitigation: Continued coordination and cooperation with local law enforcement and other public service agencies will help to reduce the impacts from recreational users related to trespass, wildlife harassment and other violations.

Continuing to monitor commercial boating capacities in all sections and adjusting carrying capacities accordingly may reduce the impact to other recreation user groups.

Determining a system or a method to designate sites that will be allocated to users in the plan. Continue to monitor these sites and take appropriate actions if resource damage reaches an unacceptable level. Prepare site development plans and complete the construction of the sites prior to site designation.

Facility Management

Chapter 2 of this plan specifies what actions are to be taken related to the development of recreation sites and facility improvements along the river. The majority of visitors to AHRA are pleased with the level of development and the quality of the facilities. New site development in areas where there are currently no facilities, such as segment 1 and 6, will enhance the experience of the majority of visitors. However, a small percentage of visitors who have recreated in these areas prior to any facility development, will feel impacted by the addition of facilities.

The lack of drinking water at the developed recreation sites, especially the campgrounds, appears to be one of the biggest impacts to recreationists who use these sites. The lack of sufficient restroom facilities at some of the busier sites also has an impact to certain users. Restroom crowding is mainly an impact to commercial boating clients. Restroom facilities at sites such as Fisherman's Bridge, Hecla Junction, Pinnacle Rock and Parkdale reach or near their capacities only at certain times and days. The dollar investment to satisfy peak restroom demand should be considered by management.

Recommended Mitigation: The addition of drinking water at various campgrounds and recreation sites would benefit the visitor's recreational experience. Providing additional restroom facilities at certain sites will enhance the recreation experience of a specific group of visitors. Implementation of facility management actions is viewed as a benefit to the typical recreationist. The level of development, related facility amenities and the types of user and their desired experience should be taken into consideration when planning new sites and facilities.

Access and Easement Acquisitions

The acquisition of properties or easements to reduce the impacts associated with recreation site capacity, river based camping, safety, river scouting/portage or to enhance boating and fishing access opportunities will have a positive benefit on recreation. The acquisition program has been very successful for recreation since the start of the recreation area some ten years ago. Additional acquisitions will also have positive benefits in the preservation of open space. This preservation of

open space and the benefits provided can be seen in the Lake County Open Space Initiative.

Some people view the government's acquisition of land for recreation as negative. Some feel the government land base is large enough and that lands should remain in private ownership. Careful consideration of the objectives for the acquisition should be made prior to pursuing acquisition of new lands or easements.

Recommended Mitigation: Pursuing land acquisitions or easements with only willing sellers and not exercising eminent domain or right of condemnation authority may reduce the impact to some who feel the government should not acquire additional lands.

Administration

It is the intent of AHRA to manage all river related public lands recreation on a user-funded basis. This approach is supported by BLM and CDPOR policy that recreational users should pay to help support needed facilities and programs necessary for the management of those activities and the resources. The CDPOR Board determines entrance and camping fees for AHRA. Some people feel that the current fees are an impact to their use of public lands. The collection of fees can probably never be completely mitigated.

Highway traffic congestion caused by recreationists visiting AHRA impacts other drivers. As use at AHRA increases so will these impacts. Many positive benefits have been made to alleviate traffic impacts by working closely with CDOT over the first ten years of AHRA's existence. The addition of acceleration and deceleration lanes in the lower portions of the US Highway 50 corridor, highway widening projects and installation of informational and directional signs have all helped to reduce these impacts. Projects completed by the counties on access roads leading to recreation sites have also helped to reduce the impact to locals and visitors from AHRA recreation traffic.

Water flows have always been a topic of concern between anglers and boaters. The Arkansas River Water Flow Program has been in existence for a number of years. This year-round program recommends flows to USBOR and SECWCD. The flow program recognizes the importance of flows for both the fishery and boating. The Arkansas River Water Needs Assessment was conducted to provide managers with the necessary data needed to make informed decisions regarding a flow program. This information, if properly used, should help alleviate concerns between various river recreation groups and be a positive benefit for recreation.

Recommended Mitigation: Try to ensure any change to the fee schedule is communicated to the public before fee schedules are changed. Continuing to

provide some free access sites with minimal facilities may further reduce the impact. Providing free access sites and facilities should not be to the detriment of those who are paying fees.

Continued cooperation with CDOT and the counties on road and bridge projects will help to reduce the impact from traffic related to AHRA. Continuing to support legislation regarding the payment in lieu of taxes for counties and state and federal road and bridge programs will further reduce traffic impacts.

Conclusion

Visitors that will be negatively affected by implementing the actions in this plan include: those who are unwilling to pay a fee, those that feel the river is too crowded and those that are affected by trespass or other violations. For the majority of locals and visitors, no activities or actions in the plan are expected to negatively affect the recreation values along the river. There is a strong potential that the newly developed “Vision Statement” and many decisions in the plan will, in fact, enhance the recreation values found along the river

Name of Specialist: John Nahomenuk, 09/08/00

TRANSPORTATION

The description of transportation impacts in this section is limited to those that may occur as a result of the updated river management plan or where impacts have been identified due to new information or research data that has become available since the 1988 plan. The majority of the impact assessment described in the original EA (EA-CO-050-RG-89-1) is still appropriate.

After ten years of operation of the AHRA there is little doubt that the general traffic in the Upper Arkansas River Basin is increasing and with this increase in traffic, comes an increase in pressure on the transportation systems. What part of this growth in the future should be attributable to this “new” plan included in this EA, or what is from the original EA, or what is residual from the presently booming economy is important, but pure conjecture herein. What is important is that the roads and trails in AHRA are getting more use.

Specific comments:

In Area Wide Implementing Actions, Section 1.3.a. More development of hiking and biking trails. When a trail is proposed to be constructed or upgraded, the new “proposed route” will still need a route analysis, cultural survey, T&E survey and NEPA approval before construction.

In Segment Specific Actions, Segment 1.3.a. (Clear Creek east and Stone Cabin). The closing of the roads in this area, while no doubt environmentally friendly, must be accompanied by a Federal Register Notice closing to travel that portion of this location no longer roaded.

In Segment Specific Actions, Segment 4.3.a. (Texas Creek). The further increase in traffic across the county bridge can only acerbate an already uncomfortable situation for Fremont County. If this facility is to become a reality, then serious negotiations and funding (grants? US Highway funding?) will need to be directed at the upgrading of the bridge prior to construction of these facilities. Further, if the facility becomes reality, additional engineering and funding will be necessary to increase the safety at the railroad crossing that separates the Texas Creek site from the public lands to the north. The reason for this is if the public arrives at the new fee station, many will want to travel north to see the public lands.

In Segment Specific Actions, Segment 6.3.a. (Blue Heron). Planning for the intense recreation that requires a new road system on four year-old gravel fill, in an area proposed for acquisition for its recreation and wildlife values may not be environmentally responsible, even if feasible from an engineering perspective.

Name of specialist: James R. Cunio, 9/8/00

VISUAL RESOURCES

The cooperative management area and all developed recreation sites are located in a VRM Class II area. Development should follow the four basic elements of line, texture, color and form. Any new development should blend with the natural environment they are to be located in. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Additional allocation decisions and impacts to other resources can be found in the Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement. No activities or actions proposed in this river plan are expected to negatively affect the visual resources if the above criteria is adhered too.

Name of specialist: John Nahomenuk, 09/06/00

PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED

Many individuals, groups, organizations, local governments, special districts, state agencies and federal agencies have been consulted during the 24 month planning

process. Please see APPENDIX C of this plan for the Public Involvement Process. The River Plan Process File at the AHRA office in Salida contains all the records of attendees, persons, groups, agencies, etc. that were contacted or consulted over the last two years while the plan revision process was underway.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: Compliance is the responsibility of BLM's AHRA staff

NAME OF PREPARER: Dave Taliaferro

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Pete Zwaneveld

FONSI

CO-RGFO-00-022 EA

The environmental assessment, analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action, has been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures result in a finding of no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

CONCURRENCE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIALS:

Levi Deike
Acting Manager
BLM Royal Gorge Field Office

DATE: _____

Chapter 5

Consultation and Coordination

A. Pre-Draft Consultation

Consultation with various individuals, groups, organizations, public agencies, and local governments began in the summer of 1998. The AHRA managers began soliciting scoping issues and concerns with the existing plan from the AHRA Citizens Task Force, many clubs, organizations, city/county governments, federal and state agencies within the upper Arkansas River Corridor.

A plan public involvement plan was prepared and shared with the Citizens Task Force at their September 1998 meeting. This River Management Plan Process table is shown, as updated, in APPENDIX C. Over 40 + informal meetings with a wide variety of governmental staffs, groups, were carried out, with around 530 contacts soliciting inputs or concerns with the existing river plan. Public news releases, radio talk shows, letters requesting input, etc. were carried out within the river corridor. Materials detailing these early scoping stage consultations on the plan scoping is available at the AHRA office.

The first comprehensive listing of issues for river plan revision was completed after a series of four open public meetings in Canon City, Cotopaxi, Salida, and Leadville. This listing shows the issues by categories, specific issue questions, and detailed descriptions of each issue. This initial listing, completed in December of 1998, is available at the AHRA office.

A series of nine evening public workshops were held during January, February, and March of 1999 designed to refine and explain in more depth the 90 + river plan revision planning issues. Around 135 different individuals, groups, organizations, agencies, etc. were involved in this stage of the consultation process. A 2010 Vision Statement was developed as well as potential changes to areawide multiple use goals, areawide recreation goals, segment specific recreation management objectives within the existing river plan were identified. Write ups on each of the 90+ issues to clarify how they were to be addressed within the plan revision was accomplished. Twenty-one task groups/sub-committees were formed to address these planning issues.

The public workshops produced tentative recommendations on what revision actions to the river plan that would potentially be needed to resolve the developed planning issues. These were shared with a large number of attendees at the Annual Watershed Forum in Canon City on April 23 and 24, 1999.

A Citizens Task Force, multiple-agency & AHRA staff two day retreat was held to put the final touches on the vision statement, plan revision issues, recommendations for plan revisions based

upon those issues, and the planning process. The AHRA managers were requested to develop a first rough draft plan revision document. Other meetings/ briefings were also held to share the retreat results, i.e. AHRA Area Staff, BLM Managers/Staff, AROA Members, CDOW Managers/Staff, Parks Managers/Staff, CROA Members, TU Members, Arkansas River Watershed Council, etc. In late January 2000 this rough draft plan revision was shared with the Citizens Task Force for review and comment. This initial draft plan can be viewed at the AHRA offices.

With comments and final changes provided by the CTF, the AHRA Managers prepared a cleaner version of the river plan including; a Chapter 1 - Background and Issues, Chapter 2 - Proposed Plan Revision, Chapter 3 - Affected Environment, Chapter 4 - Supplemental Environmental Assessment, Chapter 5 - Consultation and Coordination, and six Appendices. This package was reviewed, revised, and re-written between May and August of 2000 by the BLM Inter-Disciplinary Team prior to being finalized in September of 2000. This final document, including all the appendices, were used in a detailed briefing to the BLM Field Office and Colorado State Office Managers, to the Colorado State Parks Board, Regional Office and State Office Managers, and to the AHRA Citizens Task Force Members prior to sending it out for draft public review. This public draft may be viewed at the AHRA office.

B. Draft Public Review

The complete draft plan revision package was mailed out to over 200 individuals, organization, agencies, governmental entities in late September 2000. News releases on the availability of the plan revision package as well as other notices of where copies of the original plan/EA were available were also sent in a media contact process. Reprinted copies of the original river plan and EA were made available at many locations for reviewers, i.e. the AHRA office, various CDPOR/CDOW/USFS/BLM offices, county courthouses, and other public offices. This original was also placed on the Internet with links to various web sites. The draft plan revision and EA was made available through the BLM inter-net EA review process as well.

A series of five evening open houses were held on the plan revision during the first week of October 2000 at Canon City, Cotopaxi, Salida, Buena Vista, and Leadville. More details on the background information for these public review open houses, news releases, Email locations, sites for various review copies or to obtain printed versions of the draft river plan revision are available to be viewed at the AHRA offices. A substantial effort was made by the AHRA Managers, as well as, various members of the AHRA Citizens Task Force to get out to speak to community groups, carry out briefings to agencies, local governments, and other entities to raise the awareness of the availability of the draft plan revision package.

C. Comments and Responses

During the 30 day public comment period, all letters, open house comment forms or E-mails received, some 760 inputs/comments, have been documented and responses prepared for the final document. Responses to all of these written comments are included in this chapter of this final document. Letters, forms, or E-mails that were received after the closing date of the comment period will not become a part of the official record and will not be responded to in the final document. However, all of these late comments were alike or very similar to comments received within the closing date of October 20th, therefore no comments have gone un-responded to.

Table 5-1 presents a listing of those 99 commenters who submitted appropriate written input on the proposed plan revision/supplemental environmental analysis. They are numbered in the order in which they were received in the offices of the AHRA. These documents are available to be reviewed at the AHRA offices. .

Table 5-1 Commenters

Commenters Number	Commenter Name	Commenter Affiliation {if any}
1	Jon Strickler	Self
2 {see # 47}	Ric Alesch	Colorado White Water Association
3	Roger Lynn	Self
4	Tom Wingard	Self
5 {see # 38}	Brian LeDoux	Self
6	Doug Ragan	Self
7	Harland Pfitz	Self
8	John Wells	Self
9	Paul Mcune	Self
10	Lynn Uhl	Self
11 {see #21}	Chad Gorby	Summit Kayak
12	Gordon Banks	Self
13	Landis Arnold	Self
14 {see # 23}	Craig Hazelton	Self
15	Kon Wyatt	Self
16	Tim Wyatt	Self

Commenters Number	Commenter Name	Commenter Affiliation {if any}
17	Donna Murphy	Self
18	Andy Waldbart	Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center
19	John Walker	Self
20	Tom Meagher	Self
21 {see # 11}	Chad Gorby	Summit Kayak
22 {see # 34}	Bob Hamel	Arkansas River Tours
23 {see # 14}	Craig Hazelton	Self
24	Ken Ransford	Self
25	Sarah Detoni	Self
26	Liz Hall	Self
27	Jerry Rifkin	Self
28	Doug Ellis	Rocky Mountain Canoe Club
29	Lori Hladik	Colorado White Water Association
30	Ray Kitson	American Adventure Expeditions
31	Adam Price	Self
32	Reed Dils	Four Corners Rafting
33	Erin Johnson	Echo Canyon
34 {see #22}	Bob Hamel	Arkansas River Tours
35	Darren Olsen	White Water Encounters
36	Chuck Huggs	Acquired Tastes
37	Kathy Kean	Wilderness Aware Outfitters
38 {see #5}	Brian LeDoux	Self
39 {see #40}	Joe Greiner	Wilderness Aware
40 {see # 39}	Joe Greiner	AHRA Citizen Task Force Member & Arkansas River Outfitters Association
41	Mark Robbins	Self
42	Linda Davis	Self
43	SeEtta Moss	Audubon Society

Commenters Number	Commenter Name	Commenter Affiliation {if any}
44	Pam Fitz	Self
45	Bob Brunton	Self
46	Tommy Wingard	Self
47 {see # 2}	Ric Alesch	Colorado White Water Association
48	Julie Berg	Self
49	Megan Macomber	Self
50	Bryan Powers	Self
51	Karen Robine	Self
52	David Snyder	Self
53	Doug Ross	Self
54	Jo Johnson	Self
55	Paul Tefft	Self
56	Wendy Wyman	Self
57	Tim Bliss	Self
58	Carey Bruteig	Self
59	Bruce Stevens	Self
60	John Martin	Self
61	Claire McGrath	Self
62	Patrick Fraser	Self
63	Kirsten Davis	Self
64	Lisa Ronaldson	Self
65	Scott Keen	Self
66	Kyle Burris	Self
67	Ann Roe	Self
68	Robert Martinich	Self
69	Karen Egbert	Self
70	Biran Youll	Self
71	Kelly Stainback	Self

Commenters Number	Commenter Name	Commenter Affiliation {if any}
72	Jeannie Walsh	Self
73	Matt Agrer	Self
74	Ron Bauer	Self
75	Jon Hitchings	Self
76	Robert Walsh	Self
77	Brian Gardel	Self
78	Jay Gingrich	Self
79	Danna Preusser	Self
80	Natilie Parker	Self
81	Steve Telegner	Self
82	Doug Brown	Self
83	Bob Benton	Self
84	Randy Kenney	Self
85	Steve Daherty	Self
86	Jay Kenney	AHRA Citizens Task Force
87	Patricia Kreski	Self
88	Elizabeth Stine	Self
89	Randy Kennedy	Self
90	Liz Hall	Self
91	Amy Winter	Self
92 {see # 78}	Jay Gingrich	Self
93	Andy Neinus	Self
94	Dennis Wied	Self
95	Denny Lee	Self
96	Denny Lee	Capricorn Sports
97	Patty Kreski	Sunshine Studio
98	River Ranger Staff	AHRA
99	John Kreski	Sunshine Studio

Table 5-2 presents the comments received and the responses to those particular comments. To the degree feasible all of the comments are grouped into appropriate categories, i.e. carrying capacities, environment, vision statement, wildlife related, capacity related, fisheries related, etc. and in some cases may be para-phased for a large grouping of similar comments or for duplicated comments through form letters or form emails.

Table 5-2 Comments and Responses

Committer Record Number	Comment	Response
11-2, 44-1, 47-1, 48-8, 48-13, 49-1, 50- 1, 51-1, 52-1, 53-1, 54-1, 55-1, 56-1, 57-1, 58-1, 59-1, 60-1, 61-1, 62-1, 63-1, 64-1, 65-1, 66-1, 67-1, 68-1, 69-1, 70-1, 71-1, 72-1, 73-1, 74-1, 75-1, 76-1, 77-1, 78-1, 79-1, 80-1, 81-1, 82-1, 83-1, 84-1, 85-1, & 92-13	Measuring commercial and private boating by counting boats not people understates true river use.	While counting boats instead of each individual boater using the Arkansas River may not be the optimum method for monitoring boating use on the river, it has been an acceptable method since the recreation area's creation in 1989 and it was the method used by BLM prior to the recreation area's establishment. It is possible that use may actually be over-counted or over-stated, i.e. a private or commercial raft can hold 8 or 10 persons but the average is nearer to 5 or 6 persons. Private boaters, as well as commercial boaters, are counted in both rafts and kayaks. Significant private boating occurs in both kayaks and rafts. Since all historic use has been carried out this way, it is our intention on continuing this counting method and the accompanying resource monitoring program to ascertain the true affect of use on the river corridor.
47-8, 62-6, 63-6, 64-6, 65-6, 66-6, 67-6, 68-6, 69-6, 70-6, 71-6, 72-6, 73-6, 74-6, & 75-6	Lack of broad-based input into planning process.	While more commercial boaters did actually attend the three early public scoping meetings in 1998, the nine public workshops in 1999, and the five public meetings in 2000 than did private boaters, all had equal opportunity to be involved in the process. Other user groups, i.e. anglers, environmental interests, river property owners, local governmental entities, etc. were also very much involved in the planning process. We did have private boating representatives at the early scoping meetings, substantial private boating representation at most of the nine public workshops, private boaters did attend most of the five public meetings. Private boating is equally represented on the AHRA Citizens Task Force along with environmental, river property owners, anglers, water owners, local governmental entities and commercial boaters.

45-2, 47-1, 47-9, 62-7, 63-7, 64-7, 65-7, 66-7, 67-7, 68-7, 69-7, 70-7, 71-7, 72-7, 73-7, 74-7, 75-7, 76-6, 77-6, 78-6, 79-6, 80-6, 81-6, 82-6, 83-6, 84-6, 85-6, & 92-13	Questioning assumption that capacities can be increased without degrading experience.	We cannot identify where in chapter one we depicted an assumption that capacities can be increased without degrading experience. Reductions in carrying capacity were considered and in fact were made, i.e. Stone Bridge to Big Bend was reduced from 450 to 150 commercial boats and 200 to 150 private boats. Continual monitoring of the physical environment and the user experience has occurred during the last ten years, i.e. five different user surveys throughout the river corridor and five years of physical monitoring in Browns Canyon. These studies and analysis are what determines the need to reduce or increase carrying capacities along the river.
40-23	Conflict on responsibility between CDPOR & CDOW for interpretive & visitor information.	There appears to be no conflict, both agencies have clear responsibility for both interpretive and visitor information programs. In implementing these programs these agencies, as well as BLM and USFS will confer, collaborate, coordinate, etc. to assure that conflicts do not occur and that overlaps are minimized. The CMA language will be clarified to the extent possible.
40-25	CDOW should seek consensus on recreation activities for their {CDOW} land to avoid conflict on plan goals.	CDOW has agreed to confer, collaborate, coordinate, etc. with all of the AHRA partners on their recreation activities on their owned/leased properties within the river corridor to the extent they legally can to avoid conflicts or overlaps.
40 27	Conflicts between management plan and CMA regarding how fees are spent {all to recreation}.	All recreation fees collected on public lands along within AHRA will be used for recreation management within the AHRA. The plan states this and we believe that the CMA says the same thing. The CMA does specifically state that "donations" are to also be used within the recreation area. The CDPOR puts more funding back into the recreation area {about 15% more than is generated from fees} than is brought into the area in all forms of fees. The BLM also puts around \$165,000 in operating into the recreation area that is not generated as fees.

<p>1-2, 2-1, 2-2, 3-1, 5-1, 5-2, 6-1, 6-2, 7-1, 8-1, 8-2, 10-1, 12-1, 13-3, 14-2, 20-3, 23-1, 24-3, 31-4, 31-5, 44-8, 45-1, 45-3, 47-16, 47-17, 48-12, 49-6, 50-6, 51-6, 52-6, 53-6, 54-6, 55-6, 56-6, 57-6, 58-6, 59-6, 60-6, 61-6, 62-13, 62-14, 63-13, 63-14, 64-13, 64-14, 65-13, 65-14, 66-13, 66-14, 67-13, 67-14, 68-13, 68-14, 69-13, 69-14, 70-13, 70-14, 71-13, 71-14, 72-13, 72-14, 73-13, 73-14, 74-13, 74-14, 75-13, 75-14, 76-12, 76-13, 77-12, 77-13, 78-12, 78-13, 79-12, 79-13, 80-12, 80-13, 81-12, 81-13, 82-12, 82-13, 83-12, 83-13, 84-11, 84-12, 85-11, 85-12, 90-2, 90-3, 91-6, 91-7, 92-1 & 92-2</p>	<p>Comment period was too short ...should be extended for 90 days...should hold extra meetings for private boaters in other cities outside of the river corridor, i.e. Denver, Boulder, Kansas City, Albuquerque, etc.</p>	<p>Neither the BLM planning process nor the CDPOR management plan revision policy require an extensive public review process for this management plan revision or supplemental environmental assessment. However, using a designed and very elaborate planning process over a 30 month period {to include thirty seven different briefings with some 600+ citizen and agency contacts in 1998 & 1999, holding three early public scoping meetings in 1998, nine public workshops in 1999, utilizing 21 work committees, five public meetings in 2000, making extensive use of the 14 member multi-representative AHRA Citizens Task Force, mailing out over 200 + printed draft management plans/supplemental environmental assessments, placing the plan revision on various web sites, doing extensive and successful media releases on the availability of the draft plan requesting public comment, and providing for a 30 day comment period} provided more than adequate time for public involvement. At the request of the Denver /Boulder boaters, specifically the Colorado White Water Association, the AHRA Managers traveled to Denver on November 29th to meet with them on their issues and concerns related to the AHRA Management Plan and the Environmental Assessment.</p>
<p>40-1</p>	<p>Canon City shouldn't be the only nomination coordinator for Council of Governments.</p>	<p>The Citizens Task Force has 2 local government representatives, one is currently from Fremont County, a County Commissioner, and the other is the City of Poncha Springs Administrator. The Upper Arkansas Valley Council of Governments, involved with all cities, counties, special governmental districts, etc. is the organization that is used as a clearing house to make recommendations to the AHRA Managers for potential membership on the Citizens Task Force.</p>
<p>40-9</p>	<p>In Chapter II page 18, para 4.... add "or commercial" after recreational to eliminate all forms of motorized use.</p>	<p>This clarification change has been made and now reads, "Do not allow the use of motorized watercraft for recreational or recreational related commercial purposes on the river."</p>

43-2, 43-3.43-4, 43-5, 43-6, & 43-7	Supportive of efforts to protect the Great Blue Heron Rookery, the goal to protect avian and other wildlife from human disturbance, the effort to see cottonwood trees identified as resource for bald eagles, and studies/monitoring to protect herds of Bighorn Sheep. Would like to see efforts also to protect Blue Heron Rookery and wetlands east of Canon City near the Ash Street Hill.	We feel that this lower river stretch has important resources that must be managed and monitored carefully. The acquisition of the Blue Heron Site near Hwy 115 and the river will help in these efforts. The Ash Street site near Canon City is in private hands but is on the desired protection list of the River Walk Group in Canon City.
40-10	In Chapter II on page 20 in para 2 add “or barricade” to avoid adverse impacts.	This clarification change has been made and now reads, “Conduct cultural inventories of areas subject to increased use and physical disturbance; mitigate or barricade to avoid adverse impacts.”
40-15	In Chapter II Section F. - Segment-Specific Actions....There are no fisheries improvement commitments in this section of the plan.	We find several fisheries improvements listed under “Resource Management” actions, i.e. “Protect the quality fishery in Segment 1A”, “Continue.....to provide for rehabilitation of the.....Watershed”, “Maintain and improve fisheries quality....”, “Identify specific points for stream improvement projects...”, “Monitor the quality of fisheries.....”, etc. While no detailed project level proposals are listed in the plan, the AHRA partnership will carry out the collaborative fisheries improvements as they are needed.
38-4	Do not improve Grape Creek site for fishing access and emergency access into the Gorge.	We acquired 460 acres several years ago at the mouth of Grape Creek to provide hike-in fishing access, as well as for emergency access when needed, to the public. Improvements will be limited to completing the obtaining of legal access past the “pink house” fence for trail head parking and signing. We intend to complete this process.
38-5 & 48-7	Use money slated for sunshelters at Parkdale and put it towards purchase and upkeep of native trees.	In the short term we intend to develop one or more large group sun shelters at the Parkdale site and probably some small table shelters. In the long term we will continue to plant and nurture native trees for mature growth to provide additional shade and screening.

43-9	Do not develop a boat chute or portage around the CF&I dam in order to preserve a “quiet area”.	This low head dam is extremely unsafe and absolutely needs to be dealt with as an acquisition or easement to allow the boating public to portage around the dam while canoeing the river. The typical use in this river stretch historically has been non-commercial private individual and family canoeing and kayaking. We feel it is imperative to give solution to this unsafe boating condition.
43-10	Modify plans at Pueblo Reservoir entrance to limit size and reduce impact to heron rookeries.	This comment is unclear to us, however if it is relating to the level of boating use coming down the river to the reservoir....we have reduced the boating capacity, for both commercial and private use, for this segment from the proposed level of 60 boats a day down to 45 boats a day in light of your concern for the avian resources.
30-4	Facilities already at capacity are becoming overcrowded due to increased usage.	We do have some facilities that are nearing or exceeding the planned use capacities. In some instances we are expanding the capacities of the facilities and in some instances we are not, depending upon whether it is appropriate to expand or not.
40-6	In Chapter II on page 12 - Add “weed control” to resource management section.	We have an areawide implementing action on page 2-21 that states to work with agencies to facilitate noxious weed control within AHRA.
40-7	In Chapter II on page 14 - Add “or harden” to river sites found to be unacceptably impacted.	We may or may not exercise the procedure of “hardening” of a site depending upon how appropriate that procedure would be in light of the recreation guidelines for the health of the land as shown in detail in APPENDIX F.
40-13	In Chapter II on page 25, in 2 nd para - “Sanitation Problem”, paragraph inappropriate, para 10 on Page 24 is much better.	The statement now on page 2-22 “Monitor sanitation problems and collaboratively work with users, both private and commercial, to provide appropriate on -river sanitation facilities. “ is still deemed to be appropriate within the plan.
40-14	In Chapter II on page 26, in 1 st para - Too difficult to understand i.e. site development that is done vs. undone.	We have rewritten these sections into table format which should be easier to understand which items have been completed while still showing the plans intention as to the development desired at that site.
40-16	Has list of improvements if needed.	A detailed listing of appropriate improvements that evolved through the plan revision process may be seen in APPENDIX D.
92-4	Make land acquisitions a priority over improvements to existing facilities.	While both processes are important for the full implementation of the management plan the acquisitions usually by necessity come first prior to the improvement or placement of new facilities.

10-2, 13-2, 17-1, 22-2, 34-3, 37-3, 39-2, 47-7, 92-8	Reduce the commercial raft traffic in the Browns Canyon subsection	The present level of rafting, both commercial and private, during the high use season may or may not be reduced in the future depending upon monitoring of conditions within Browns Canyon. Over the last four to five years, excessive degradation at some specific sites has occurred as well as sanitation problems now exist. If future monitoring, increased user awareness, rehabilitation efforts, do not give solution to these issues then it would indicate that raft traffic may need to be reduced. The plan allows for this to occur if required.
14-3, 17-2, 28-2, 31-2, 37-2, 39-1	Do not increase commercial or private raft use in the Brown Canyon subsection.	The plan does not now indicate an increase in rafting capacities. See response above for related details on this issue.
22-4	Ration private boating use in the Browns Canyon subsection.	There are indications that private boating may be reaching the point where rationing may become necessary. See the above two comments and responses for more clarification.
47-5, 62-4, 63-4, 64-4, 65-4, 66-4, 67-4, 68-4, 69-4, 70-4, 71-4, 72-4, 73-4, 74-4, 75-4, 76-4, 77-4, 78-4, 79-4, 80-4, 81-4, 82-4, 83-4, 84-4, 85-4	Supports increasing the private allocation in the Browns Canyon subsection by 50 bpd even though private boaters avoid this area	The plan initially looked at the possibility of increasing private boating numbers in Browns Canyon, but now resolves to keep that level of use the same. See related discussion above in Comment/Response 10-2.

Appendix A

Cooperative Management Agreement

for

Providing Recreation Management

of the

Arkansas Headwaters
Recreation Area

FS Agreement No. 07-MU-11021200-066
BLM Agreement No. BLM-MOU-CO-475
Updated August, 2007

Cooperative Management Agreement

Between

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Royal Gorge Field Office
and
The State of Colorado
Department of Natural Resources
Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
and
The State of Colorado
Department of Natural Resources
Colorado Division of Wildlife
and
United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Pike/San Isabel National Forests &
Comanche/Cimarron National Grasslands
Leadville Ranger District

Providing for Recreation Management
on the Arkansas River

This COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT is hereby made and entered into by and between the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Royal Gorge Field Office, (BLM), The State of Colorado, Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (CDPOR), The State of Colorado, Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) and the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pike/San Isabel National Forest and Comanche/Cimarron National Grasslands, Leadville Ranger District.

I. PURPOSE:

A. The purpose of this agreement is to:

1. Establish a cooperative partnership between the entities for the management of the public land resources in the Arkansas River corridor between Leadville and Pueblo Reservoir as shown in the 2001 Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan {ARRMP} and called the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area {AHRA}. In addition to the responsibilities each agency has for the lands they own, the BLM and the CDPOR are the lead agencies responsible for the management of recreation within the AHRA, including those lands within the Cooperative Management Agreement (CMA), the Recreation and Public Purpose Lease (R&PP) lands, lands under Special Use Permit with the FS and the lands owned by Colorado State Parks. The CDOW will be the lead agency in the management of wildlife populations and wildlife related recreation {i.e. fishing, hunting, etc.}. The BLM and FS will continue to manage other multiple use resources and activities on BLM lands and National Forest System {NFS} lands within the AHRA. For a general description of the lands within the AHRA see illustrations 2-3 through 2-5 in the ARRMP and for detailed descriptions of the various lands covered within this CMA see the large scale AHRA lands GIS map available at any of the entity offices.

2. Ensure that principal policies for affected lands contained in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 {FLPMA} and the National Environmental Policy Act {NEPA} of 1969, that guided the development of the ARRMP, will continue to direct future management of these lands through the implementation of the plan and amendments to it.

3. Implement the revised and approved ARRMP which became effective on January 19, 2001 as per the joint Federal/State Decision Record.

4. Define responsibilities for all entities on lands and related water within the AHRA.

II. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INTERESTS:

The Bureau of Land Management {BLM}, the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation {CDPOR}, the USDA Forest Service {FS} and the Colorado Division of Wildlife {CDOW} seek to:

1. Ensure balanced, equitable and efficient management of the Arkansas River for BLM, CDPOR, National Forest System {NFS} and CDOW lands, related recreation use and facilities along the river;

2. Ensure that all agencies retain on-the-ground visibility in management of the Arkansas River and adjoining lands;

3. Ensure that the public has the same access to the planning process and management of all entity lands as they would if the lands remained under exclusive administration of any of the entities mentioned above;

4. Continue an effective partnership in management of the Arkansas River and associated land and water resources;

5. Recognizing that;

- The upper Arkansas River is a nationally significant multiple-use resource providing a variety of recreation opportunities,
- The upper Arkansas River forms the nucleus of a regional concentration of outstanding recreational opportunities,
- The BLM, CDOW, FS & CDPOR, herein known as the entities, have management responsibilities for recreational use of the Arkansas River,

- There is a need to coordinate recreation management of entity lands so as to best serve the public.

6. Ensure that management is carried out by the entities in light of the mutually agreed to "Vision Statement" relating to management emphasizing natural resources, resource sustainability, and land health standards, recognizing and respecting private property, while embracing numerous recreational, educational and commercial activities within the river corridor.

III. AUTHORITIES AND DEFINITIONS:

A. Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

- Powers of the Board, CRS 33-10-107
- Powers and Duties of Director, CRS 33-10-109
- Arkansas River Recreational Authority, CRS 33-12.5

B. Bureau of Land Management

- Section 307 {a} and {b} of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act {FLPMA} of 1976
- Recreation and Public Purposes Act {R&PP} of 1926, as amended, 43 U.S.C. 869 et. seq
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended

C. Colorado Division of Wildlife

- Powers of Commission, CRS 33-1-105
- Duties of the Director of the Division, CRS 33-1-110
- Authority to Regulate Taking, Possession and Use of Wildlife, CRS 33-1-110

D. USDA Forest Service

- Section 307 {a} and {b} of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act {FLPMA} of 1976
- Section 4 {5} {c} of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended
- The Organic Administration Act of June 4, 1897

E. Definitions

- AHRA = Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area
- CMA = Cooperative Management Agreement
- BLM = Bureau of Land Management
- CDPOR = Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
- CDOW = Colorado Division of Wildlife
- FS = USDA Forest Service
- ARMP = Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan
- River Corridor = The upper Arkansas River valley above Pueblo Reservoir
- R&PP Lands = Recreation and Public Purposes Act Lease lands
- FLPMA = Federal Land Policy and Management Act
- CAPA = Colorado Administrative Procedures Act
- NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act
- DR = Decision Record
- EA = Environmental Assessment
- Public Lands = Lands administered by BLM
- NFS = National Forest System Lands administered by USDA FS

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROVISIONS:

A. CDPOR SHALL:

1. Provide the on-ground presence and “lead” agency responsible for managing recreational activities on the lands and waters within the AHRA, to include BLM administered lands within the AHRA, including all R&PP Lease lands, Cooperative Management Agreement lands, lands under Special Use Permit with the FS and State Park owned lands within the AHRA.

2. Manage the AHRA in conformance with the revised and approved recreation management plan, FLPMA and NEPA, consistent with applicable BLM recreation policies and regulations in 43 CFR 8300 et. al., and applicable FS recreation policies, on lands under Special Use Permit with the FS, in compliance with the terms and conditions of the FS Special Use Permit.

3. Participate in resource monitoring and enhancement actions to include all cooperative efforts with all other entities. Colorado State Parks and BLM are the “lead” agencies responsible for land resource management and river recreation management on BLM administered lands within the AHRA, including all Recreation and Public Purposes Lease lands, Cooperative Management Agreement lands, lands under Special Use Permit with the FS and on State Park owned lands within the AHRA.

4. Collect all AHRA recreation use fees and donations within the recreation area, including lands under Special Use Permit with the FS. All fee revenue and donations generated will be used in the recreation management and development of lands and resources along the Arkansas River within the AHRA.

a. The R&PP lease is to allow recreational development investment on public lands {BLM} by the CDPOR and to allow collection of user fees for use of these facilities at various locations along the Arkansas River. Segregation of these lands is in effect as long as the property is leased and serves to protect the investment in recreation developments. All user fee revenue and donations collected on R&PP leases will be deposited, retained and used by CDPOR for managing recreation and the protection of resources within the AHRA.

b. User fees from commercial, competitive and organized events for the use of public lands and related waters other than R&PP leased lands, i.e. the lands within this CMA, on State Park owned lands and lands under Special Use Permit with the FS, will also be collected by CDPOR.

c. The FS Special Use Permit is to authorize recreational development investment on NFS lands by the CDPOR and to allow collection of user fees for use of these facilities. NFS land is not segregated by virtue of the special permit.

5. Furnish entities an AHRA annual report that shall include visitor use data showing numbers of visits and user days by activity, amount of associated recreation user fees that are being collected and deposited and the purposes for which all fee revenue generated on the AHRA administered lands are being expended.

6. Prepare final construction plans to implement the conceptual plan that is indicated in the ARRMP and obtain input on these plans from appropriate entities through an environmental assessment process prior to any surface disturbance. This input shall not be unreasonably withheld and shall be made by the entities in a timely manner.

7. Work with the entities to establish river recreation activity capacities and ration river recreation use as specified in the ARRMP.

8. Work cooperatively with the entities in the development of any proposed regulations for the AHRA prior to their initial filing with the Office of Legislative Legal Services and the Colorado Secretary of State.

9. Implement and enforce applicable state laws and regulations on public lands within the AHRA. These generally involve safety, littering, resource protection and public conduct. Initiate the Administrative Procedures Act process necessary to develop regulations, collect fees and to manage and enforce recreation use of the Arkansas River. This is done in accordance with this agreement, as authorized by CRS-33-12.5, and consistent with the ARRMP.

10. Seek involvement and consensus of the entities prior to undertaking any anticipated or planned management actions beyond the scope of the ARRMP so that a plan amendment or plan addendum can first be completed.

11. Expend all of the collected AHRA user fee revenue solely for purposes of management, resource protection, research, interpretation and maintenance activities related to resource protection and recreation management on lands and waters within the AHRA. To the extent feasible, such funds should be used for purposes that are directly related to the activities that generated the funds, including but not limited to water-based recreational activities and camping as directed by the Congress in PL 100-203.

B. BLM SHALL:

1. Continue to manage all resources in the AHRA, other than recreation, on BLM administered lands associated with R&PP Leases, and CMA lands. BLM will manage all resources, including recreation, on BLM administered lands not within AHRA.

2. Participate in and provide review of recreation management, including allocating and rationing of river use of the AHRA, to ensure that FLPMA is carried out on the lands and waters within the recreation area.

3. Continue to enforce applicable Federal laws and regulations pertaining to the AHRA, including FLPMA and NEPA.

4. Monitor user preference and visitor use in order to assess environmental effects and identify appropriate mitigating measures as specified in the ARRMP.

5. Provide the lead role in implementation of identified mitigating measures.

6. Provide other entities with current copies of all acts, policies, regulations and handbooks that are specified in this CMA. Updated copies will be provided when changes or amendments occur.

C. CDOW SHALL:

1. Work cooperatively with the entities in the development of any proposed regulations for the AHRA prior to their initial filing with the Office of Legislative Legal Services and the Colorado Secretary of State.

2. Implement and enforce applicable state laws and regulations on public lands within the AHRA. These generally involve wildlife regulations, safety, littering, resource protection and public conduct.

3. Seek involvement and consensus of the other entities prior to undertaking any anticipated or planned management actions beyond the scope of the ARRMP, to include identifying appropriate planning guidelines and actions, to facilitate future mission accomplishment for all entities.

4. Act as the lead and cooperate with other entities in managing wildlife and all recreation on CDOW controlled lands within the corridor.
5. Provide the "lead" on-ground presence in managing wildlife related activities on lands and waters within the recreation area.
6. Work cooperatively with other entities within the AHRA to implement wildlife related management activities which includes hunting, fishing and watchable wildlife.

D. FS SHALL:

1. Continue to manage all resources in the AHRA other than river related recreation on NFS lands.
2. Participate in and provide review of recreation management and use of the AHRA to ensure that Forest Plan Direction is carried out on the NFS lands and waters.
3. Continue to enforce applicable Federal laws and regulations pertaining to the AHRA, including FLPMA and NEPA.
4. Utilize the abilities within all of the entities involved in the recreation area to incorporate and integrate the goals of the Service First efforts with those of the AHRA.
5. Allow river recreation management by AHRA on NFS lands through a Special Use Permit.

V. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:

1. Each entity will designate an authorized representative to serve as principal contact for this CMA;
 - a. The authorized representative of the BLM is the AHRA BLM River Manager,

b. The authorized representative of the CDPOR is the AHRA Park Manager,

c. The authorized representative of the FS is the Leadville District Ranger,

d. The authorized representative of the CDOW is the Salida Area Wildlife Manager.

2. Each entity will ensure equal recognition of all entities, as appropriate, in signing, publicity, brochures, maps, etc. of the AHRA. All entities will provide suitable logos for inclusion on appropriate signs. All entities will participate in the re-development of a joint signing plan, to include the policies for sign designs and placements.

3. Each entity will review and evaluate the ARRMP annually to determine progress in meeting and maintaining consistency with the plan vision and objectives. An amendment of the ARRMP will be required when a change in type of and degree of development, the use allocation or the overall recreation character of the recreation area occurs. All amendments to the ARRMP must be jointly prepared by the entities and have appropriate public involvement.

4. Each entity will participate in resource monitoring and enhancement activities as a cooperative effort between all the entities on lands and waters within the AHRA.

5. Each entity will respond in a timely manner to all other entity requests for specific review and concurrence on site development plans and complete NEPA compliance requirements {i.e. carry out environmental assessments as needed}.

6. Each entity will share responsibilities, within the limitations of each entities capability for staffing, funding, etc., for public contact, interpretive and other visitor information services on all lands within the AHRA.

7. Each entity will maintain a Citizens Task Force {CTF} sponsored by the Colorado Department of Natural Resources comprised of no more than {14} members to serve as representatives of the seven {7} public interests. Major user-interest groups will be asked to nominate prospective

members to the CTF. These public interests will be composed as follows:

- a. Angler,
- b. AHRA SUA Contractor,
- c. Private Boater,
- d. Environmental,
- e. Water User,
- f. Upper Arkansas Council of Government,
- g. River Front Property Owner.

8. The CTF will meet five times a year and have the following roles:

- a. Provide individual advice and input to the AHRA on resource management issue priorities along the river corridor;
- b. Assist the AHRA in the application of the criteria within the Land Health Standards and the resulting Recreation Guidelines to AHRA issues where applicable;
- c. Assist the AHRA in maintaining a watershed focus;
- d. Provide recommendations and direction regarding growth and value issues to AHRA on development priorities along the river corridor;
- e. Assist the AHRA in resolving other management problems along the river corridor as they arise;
- f. Assist in providing an open communication link between the agencies and the communities along the river corridor.
- g. Provide support to the AHRA in the implementation of plan goals and objectives within the ARRMP.

9. The CTF will also have ad-hoc agency/entity involvement with the following organizations:

- a. USDA FS - Leadville District Ranger
- b. USDA FS - Salida District Ranger

- c. USDI BLM - Royal Gorge Field Office Manager
- d. USDI BOR - Arkansas Frying Pan Project Facilities Manager
- e. CDPOR Southeast Region Manager
- f. CDOW Salida Area Wildlife Manager
- g. Southeast Colorado Water Conservancy District Manager
- h. Upper Arkansas Valley Council of Governments Director
- i. Lake County Commission Chairperson
- j. Chaffee County Commission Chairperson
- k. Fremont County Commission Chairperson
- l. Lake County Open Space Initiative Chairperson

10. Each entity will work collaboratively to implement the revised ARRMP. However, nothing in this agreement shall be construed as obligating any of the entities to expend sums in excess of or for purposes other than that for which appropriation priorities have been set by each agency.

11. Each entity will implement the ARRMP using this CMA as a guideline for roles and responsibilities for each agency. To the degree feasible, prepare coordinated annual work plans that complement the roles and responsibilities of each of the entities within this agreement. Act efficiently and provide timely assistance as appropriate in all matters associated with implementation of the ARRMP.

12. In the event any authority of any agency is repealed, modified or changed to the extent that the ARRMP cannot be effectively continued or implemented, all entities will meet within 90 days to develop a strategy to acquire the necessary authority. In the event additional authority cannot be acquired within a reasonable time frame, a plan amendment will be initiated to determine the future course of recreation management.

VI. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA). Any information furnished to the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management under this instrument is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

B. PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES. This instrument in no way restricts the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Parks or the Colorado Division of Wildlife from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations and individuals.

C. COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION/TERMINATION. This CMA takes effect upon the signatures of the cooperators and shall remain in effect for 5 years from the date of execution. This CMA may be extended or amended upon written request of the BLM, FS, CDPOR or CDOW and the subsequent written concurrence of the other(s). The BLM, FS, CDPOR or CDOW may terminate this CMA with a 60-day written notice to the other(s). This CMA supersedes any and all previous Cooperative Management Agreements (CMA's) entered into by the cooperating partners.

D. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTIES. The respective agencies and offices will handle their own activities and utilize their own resources, including the expenditures of their own funds, in pursuing these objectives. Each party will carry out its separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner.

E. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS. The principal contacts for this instrument are:

Forest Service Project Contact:
Jon Morrissey
District Ranger
Leadville Ranger District
810 Front Street
Leadville, CO 80461
Phone: (719) 486-0749
Fax: (719) 486-0928
E-Mail: Jmorrissey@fs.fed.us

Forest Service Administrative Contact
Monica Cordova
Grants and Agreements Specialist
2840 Kachina Drive
Pueblo, CO 81008
Phone: (719) 553-1443
Fax: (719) 553-1425
E-Mail: mcordova@fs.fed.us

BLM Principal Contact
John P. {Nomi} Nahomenuk
BLM River Manager
Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area
307 West Sackett Ave.
Salida, CO 81201
Phone: (719) 539-7289
Fax: (719) 539-3771
E-Mail: john_nahomenuk@blm.gov

CDPORA Principal Contact
Robert J. {Rob} White
Park Manager
Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area
307 West Sackett Ave.
Salida, CO 81201
Phone: (719) 539-7289
Fax: (719) 539-3771
E-Mail: rob.white@state.parks.co.us

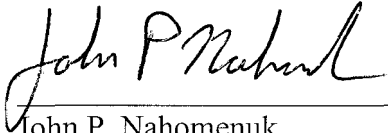
CDOW Principal Contact
Jim Aragon
Area Wildlife Manager
7405 US. Highway 50
Salida, CO 81201
Phone: (719) 530-5520
Fax: (719) 530-5554
E-Mail: jim.aragon@state.co.us

F. NON-FUND OBLIGATING DOCUMENT: Nothing in this CMA shall obligate the partners to obligate or transfer any funds. Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among the various agencies and offices will require execution of separate agreements and be contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Such activities must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This CMA does not provide such authority. Negotiations, execution and administration of each such agreement must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations.

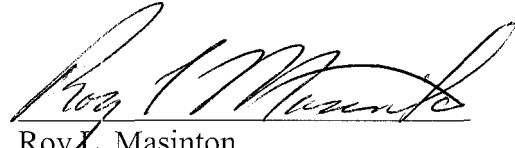
G. ESTABLISHMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY. This CMA is not intended to, and does not create, any right, benefits, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforcement at law or equity, by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

H. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES. By signature below, the cooperators certifies that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the cooperator are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this agreement.

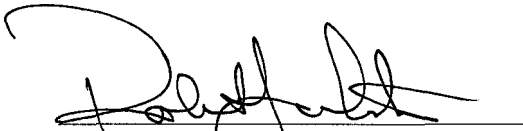
RECOMMENDED:



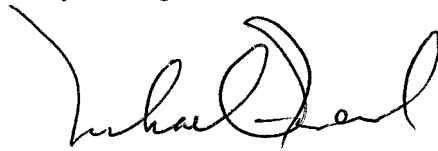
John P. Nahomenuk
BLM River Manager
Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area



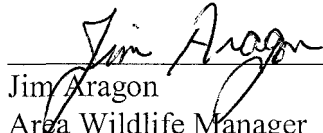
Roy L. Masinton
BLM Field Manager
Royal Gorge Field Office



Robert J. White
AHRA Park Manager
Colorado Division of Parks and
Outdoor Recreation



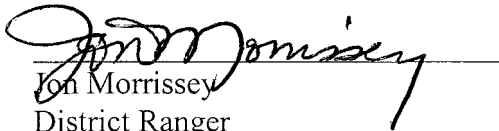
Mike French
Southeast Region Manager
Colorado Division of Parks and
Outdoor Recreation




Jim Aragon
Area Wildlife Manager
CDOW Salida Service Center



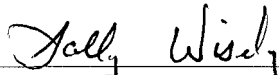
Dan Prenzlow
Regional Manager
CDOW Southeast Region



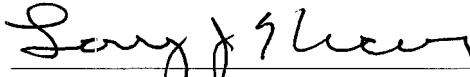
Jon Morrissey
District Ranger
Leadville Ranger District
USDA Forest Service

The authority and format of this instrument has been reviewed and approved for signature.	
 Agreements Coordinator	8/30/07 Date

APPROVED:



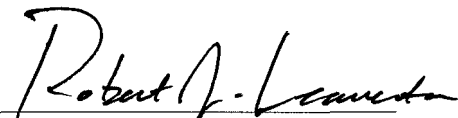
Sally Wisely
Colorado State Director
Bureau of Land Management
US Department of the Interior




Larry Kramer
Acting Director
Colorado Division of Parks and
Outdoor Recreation
Department of Natural Resources
State of Colorado

9/12/07
Date Signed

8-14-07
Date Signed



Robert J. Leaverton
Forest Supervisor
Pike and San Isabel National Forest
Cimarron and Comanche
National Grasslands
US Forest Service
US Department of Agriculture



Mark Konishi
Acting Director
Colorado Division of Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources
State of Colorado

8/30/07
Date Signed

9/24/07
Date Signed

Appendix B

1990 - 2000 AHRA Recreation Use

This appendix is a detailed listing of all recreation use within the AHRA by activity, with monthly and annual totals, from January of 1990 through December of 2000. The following ten tables depict each of those one year periods. This recreation use data has been developed from the AHRA Monthly Park Manager Reports except that the commercial boating figures are the actual numbers from the commercial post season use reports. This data is summarized in Table 1-1 in Chapter 1 of this plan.

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA

1990	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
<u>ACTIVITY</u>													
SIGHTSEEING					12,600	16,785	11,334	6,854	6,250	4,600	4,800	5,520	68743
FISHING													
Shore					2,440	1,264	2,006	3,061	2,536	1,365	1,010	420	14102
Boat					125	130	230	320	36	12	0	0	853
PICNICKING					1,406	3,322	2,378	2,748	1,621	1,204	755	610	14044
BOATING													
Commercial					4,978	51,875	64,597	53,080	4,160	0	0	0	178690
Private					1,394	6,786	6,686	3,597	380	130	35	35	19043
OTHER					2,990	706	449	542	577	778	323	67	6432
INTERPRETIVE					249	495	55	45	66	74	197	35	1216
CAMPING					2,476	1,974	1,768	1,598	794	90	36	12	8748
TOTAL					28,658	83,337	89,503	71,845	16,420	8,253	7,156	6,699	311,871

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA

1991	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
<u>ACTIVITY</u>													
SIGHTSEEING	4558	4110	6135	8053	14220	19023	24467	14382	9520	10800	5500	6110	126878
FISHING													
Shore	332	427	585	870	1850	1665	2415	2908	2586	3943	825	440	18846
Boat	0	0	0	0	130	160	620	545	42	85	0	0	1582
PICNICKING	320	310	424	780	1650	3400	3430	2915	1903	2285	620	635	18672
BOATING													
Commercial	0	0	0	724	9420	54717	75888	45847	2999	83	0	0	189678
Private	20	20	310	805	1579	7268	6281	2241	395	605	105	75	19704
OTHER	57	108	323	639	2708	1961	1256	1397	685	1082	445	83	10744
INTERPRETIVE	0	70	15	30	126	183	72	90	115	145	125	0	971
CAMPING	0	0	5	45	1972	2451	2400	1675	910	187	55	37	9737
TOTAL	5,287	5,045	7,797	11,946	33,655	90,828	116,829	72,000	19,155	19,215	7,675	7,380	396,812

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA

1992	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
<u>ACTIVITY</u>													
SIGHTSEEING	5278	3978	7845	9120	21220	21305	27403	19105	11448	11050	5700	6510	149962
FISHING													
Shore	345	380	1010	1460	1840	1740	2810	3152	2642	4105	900	520	20904
Boat	0	0	0	15	120	185	680	605	180	90	10	0	1885
PICNICKING	345	315	510	1100	2700	3630	4350	3665	2145	2350	630	680	22420
BOATING													
Commercial	0	0	0	349	12946	59316	84590	58473	4189	31	0	0	219894
Private	125	250	610	1485	2258	5410	4085	1848	529	600	85	75	17360
OTHER	70	105	365	967	2945	4323	2462	2092	806	630	455	100	15320
INTERPRETIVE	36	96	101	325	100	85	65	66	35	30	35	0	974
CAMPING	0	0	30	72	2288	2860	3190	1960	960	215	55	44	11674
TOTAL	6,199	5,124	10,471	14,893	46,417	98,854	129,635	90,966	22,934	19,101	7,870	7,929	460,393

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA

1993	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
<u>ACTIVITY</u>													
SIGHTSEEING	5300	4185	8110	9330	22315	24420	30828	24550	13737	13720	5750	6730	168975
FISHING													
Shore	360	380	1080	1620	2105	1220	2550	4050	3170	4200	850	581	22166
Boat	0	0	0	80	105	62	560	712	216	105	10	0	1850
PICNICKING	345	330	600	1210	2815	3290	4894	4709	2574	2520	640	621	24548
BOATING													
Commercial	0	0	0	441	16344	53819	89281	61783	4730	108	0	0	226506
Private	125	270	875	1540	2020	7647	7750	2862	1052	700	95	116	25052
OTHER	80	128	467	1085	3175	2425	2703	2688	1022	1285	480	112	15650
INTERPRETIVE	130	85	100	115	700	145	111	15	30	0	66	3	1500
CAMPING	0	0	35	91	2410	2500	3589	2517	1152	240	65	45	12644
TOTAL	6,340	5,378	11,267	15,512	51,989	95,528	142,266	103,886	27,683	22,878	7,956	8,208	498,891

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA

1994	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
<u>ACTIVITY</u>													
SIGHTSEEING	5800	4590	8510	9200	24110	26862	33911	25777	14424	14110	5810	7268	180372
FISHING													
Shore	410	410	1505	1408	2340	1020	3115	4252	3328	4250	830	627	23495
Boat	0	0	0	90	445	71	780	680	175	95	5	0	2341
PICNICKING	375	365	670	1090	2908	3619	5383	4944	2657	2640	640	671	25962
BOATING													
Commercial	0	0	0	253	15706	64231	101586	58752	3547	69	0	0	244144
Private	145	0	1015	1320	2670	7992	8092	2246	670	500	80	125	24855
OTHER	95	155	585	940	3765	4485	3182	2848	1134	1445	485	127	19246
INTERPRETIVE	3	35	112	10	515	492	128	71	50	355	0	50	1821
CAMPING	0	254	56	65	2645	2750	3948	2631	1199	230	55	47	13880
TOTAL	6,828	5,809	12,453	14,376	55,104	111,522	160,125	102,201	27,184	23,694	7,905	8,915	536,116

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA

1995	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
<u>ACTIVITY</u>													
SIGHTSEEING	6206	4774	9020	9568	25074	25787	35084	27066	15145	15097	6042	7558	186421
FISHING													
Shore	439	630	1595	1478	2433	979	2859	3984	3294	4547	863	652	23753
Boat	0	0	35	95	682	35	45	420	245	220	10	0	1787
PICNICKING	376	380	710	1136	3024	3387	5113	5190	2789	2824	665	697	26291
BOATING													
Commercial	0	0	0	490	14761	53929	84559	76576	12009	300	0	0	242624
Private	155	360	1075	1386	3204	4909	6138	5079	1771	980	86	130	25273
OTHER	104	199	617	979	3934	4287	2398	2988	1189	1506	479	132	18812
INTERPRETIVE	7	8	12	103	686	49	75	58	3	88	2	3	1094
CAMPING	19	0	60	68	2529	2622	3750	2762	1258	245	56	49	13418
TOTAL	7,306	6,351	13,124	15,303	56,327	95,984	140,021	124,123	37,703	25,807	8,203	9,221	539,473

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA

1996	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
<u>ACTIVITY</u>													
SIGHTSEEING	6140	4798	9290	9950	25826	27076	33825	28689	16356	15852	6344	8011	192157
FISHING													
Shore	434	712	1659	1784	2503	2107	4210	4223	3656	4774	914	691	27667
Boat	0	0	36	142	610	225	410	780	647	224	35	0	3109
PICNICKING	338	385	738	1204	3114	3612	5368	5536	3010	2965	705	724	27699
BOATING													
Commercial	0	0	0	511	17147	65811	117281	71437	3923	15	0	0	276125
Private	153	370	1118	2009	3100	7462	7491	2407	646	833	103	137	25829
OTHER	107	207	699	1128	4003	6013	3553	3200	1370	1581	513	143	22517
INTERPRETIVE	3	25	105	21	1125	20	203	277	252	12	10	110	2163
CAMPING	18	0	64	127	2603	2910	4365	2934	1357	257	62	52	14749
TOTAL	7,193	6,497	13,709	16,876	60,031	115,236	176,706	119,483	31,217	26,513	8,686	9,868	592,015

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA

1997	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
ACTIVITY													
SIGHTSEEING	6508	5037	10541	9925	28952	28429	37884	30697	17500	16486	6401	8054	206414
FISHING													
Shore	447	747	1644	2238	3631	2859	5123	5518	4094	6349	920	716	34286
Boat	0	0	46	175	912	255	729	834	1183	233	36	0	4403
PICNICKING	358	396	830	1197	3487	3792	6120	5926	3274	3095	710	753	29938
BOATING													
Commercial	0	0	7	752	15693	64117	118373	79619	5137	164	0	0	283862
Private	162	388	1214	2178	3875	3090	7852	3569	723	867	110	150	24178
OTHER	114	224	745	1142	4466	7389	4007	3422	1244	1649	529	167	25098
INTERPRETIVE	500	65	72	283	490	210	50	7	75	0	0	0	1752
CAMPING	19	11	138	118	2914	3113	4919	3138	1454	205	62	57	16148
TOTAL	8,108	6,868	15,237	18,008	64,420	113,254	185,057	132,730	34,684	29,048	8,768	9,897	626,079

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA

1998	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
<u>ACTIVITY</u>													
SIGHTSEEING	7028	5320	10857	11414	30399	29223	42051	31924	16450	14546	7437	9306	215955
FISHING													
Shore	473	803	1726	3021	7262	3530	5328	5738	4995	5602	1395	955	40828
Boat	0	0	69	228	1094	720	862	1480	887	206	48	40	5634
PICNICKING	365	390	879	1317	4112	5158	6710	6162	3078	2564	858	784	32377
BOATING													
Commercial	0	0	6	740	19435	72866	124880	76540	6802	121	0	0	301390
Private	170	408	1274	2614	4260	8256	7465	3155	699	765	161	174	29401
OTHER	161	336	827	1292	6258	7947	4410	3873	813	1424	746	328	28415
INTERPRETIVE	0	186	350	15	963	758	1190	848	120	194	0	113	4737
CAMPING	34	12	147	171	3290	3828	5458	5894	854	523	75	45	20331
TOTAL	8,231	7,455	16,135	20,812	77,073	132,286	198,354	135,614	34,698	25,945	10,720	11,745	679,068

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA

1999	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
ACTIVITY													
SIGHTSEEING	7077	7536	12564	9948	28649	37411	59063	41368	17809	12652	8031	5490	247598
FISHING													
Shore	512	1263	2976	4029	7337	4081	7839	7439	7075	5162	1789	865	50367
Boat	22	54	118	252	1030	741	1319	1618	1102	202	62	18	6538
PICNICKING	298	552	992	1006	3874	5936	8508	6790	3145	2131	1004	288	34524
BOATING													
Commercial	0	5	23	470	16795	70890	124938	72475	8118	134	0	0	293848
Private	212	527	1538	2569	3146	7745	7945	3077	899	561	187	144	28550
OTHER	349	498	1154	1328	5900	9561	8377	7461	2312	1732	824	297	39793
INTERPRETIVE	176	152	229	243	537	1458	2353	2102	1695	810	638	388	10781
CAMPING	31	96	456	569	2840	4377	9804	5331	2439	485	94	96	26618
TOTAL	8,677	10,683	20,050	20,414	70,108	142,200	230,146	147,661	44,594	23,869	12,629	7,586	738,617

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA

2000	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
<u>ACTIVITY</u>													
SIGHTSEEING	7065	6621	10877	10299	16807	45633	69228	52155	15050	18013	8619	6309	266676
FISHING													
Shore	698	1122	3050	6261	5858	7592	16314	8799	6308	7590	1836	998	66426
Boat	19	45	105	285	823	791	1479	1833	901	272	60	18	6631
PICNICKING	350	471	871	1137	3091	8859	13893	8580	2652	2883	1032	341	44160
BOATING													
Commercial			25	518	20016	79157	135774	63949	3555	101	6	0	301152
Private	196	269	1351	2618	6111	7032	7088	2417	265	505	191	62	28105
OTHER	382	417	925	1433	5056	7642	9327	5525	1440	2089	633	400	35269
INTERPRETIVE	412	398	517	625	1097	2046	2646	1991	1019	252	235	336	11574
CAMPING	14	35	232	856	1871	5990	7514	4760	807	650	230	14	22973
TOTAL	9,136	9,378	17,953	24,032	60,730	164,742	263,263	150,009	31,997	32,355	12,842	8,478	782,966

Appendix C

Public Involvement Summary

The process began in the spring of 1998 in two ways: 1} with a shared concern between the Citizens Task Force Members and the AHRA Managers over new issues needing to be resolved or addressed for the AHRA; and 2} with the direction in the existing river plan suggesting that after ten years the plan be revisited for potential updating or revising. In the summer and early Fall of 1998 various public notices, announcements, informal briefings, etc. were carried out by the AHRA Managers to begin discerning what those potential issues were. The chart on the following pages give a summary level of information to provide an understanding of the River Management Plan Process that was developed and followed so that a revised plan would be in place by January of 2001. See Chapter 5 for other related information on the draft plan review comments and responses. If more details are desired on the public record of this planning process, the persons/agencies/entities contacted, or any other details, can be obtained by visiting the AHRA office and reviewing the record.

Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan Revision Process

January 2001

Step	Time	Process Description	Responsibility
#1 Plan Issue Development	Aug > Oct 98	Carry Out Notification & Begin Collecting Public Scoping Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do public notices * Begin holding informal meetings to solicit public issues of concern <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [CTF Regular Sept Meeting] [Informal Meetings/Briefings] [News Releases & FR notice] 	AHRA Staff & CTF Members
	Nov 98	Develop Initial Plan Issues & Plan Process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Develop initial plan issues with formative descriptions * Do initial categorization * Set up issue workshops * Set up plan revision process steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [News Releases out] 	AHRA Staff
	Nov 98 > Dec 98	Carry Out collection Of Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Collect public scoping comments * Do a finalization of plan issues to be addressed in the issue workshops * Do final categorization of issues into groupings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Meet with CTF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [Public Scoping Meetings] [CTF Regular Nov Meeting] 	AHRA Staff & CTF Members {+ Retreat Committee Organized}

#2 Plan Revision Development	Jan 99 > Mar 99	<p>Begin The Development Of Plan Revision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Develop AHRA 2010 Vision Statement * Assess the potential changes to area wide multiple use goals, the areawide recreation goals and segment-specific recreation management objectives * Work through the 90+ categorized collected river plan issues....determine if they need to be addressed * Do write-ups or any clarifications on how to address issues to be addressed in the plan revision {using sub-work groups in between the workshops as needed!} <p>[Hold Nine Public Plan Workshops]</p>	AHRA Staff & CTF Members {+ any public attendees who join up}
	Apr 99	<p>Share Revision Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do attendance & presentation at Ark River Watershed Forum in Canon City [April 23 & 24] 	AHRA Staff & CTF Members
		<p>Carry Out CTF/AHRA Staff/Agency Retreat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Check our progress in the plan revision process since Aug 98...has it worked? * Re-look at our plan revision five step process....will it work? * Clarify retreat purpose & define those end products of the retreat! * Prioritize those desired end products! * Get at it....produce those end products! <p><i>Vision statement for 2010 , Plan preamble, Plan objective changes as needed, Finalize issues to be addressed in the plan revision in priority order, then provide guidance/direction to AHRA managers and/or a Plan/SEA working committee to build the rough draft plan revision</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Consider organizing a CTF/AHRA Plan/Supplemental Environmental Assessment [SEA] Committee <p>[April 28 & 29 Retreat]</p>	AHRA Staff, Agency Staff & CTF Members

	May > Sept 99	Produce A Rough First Draft Plan Revision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Develop a first rough draft plan revision {a first cut ...initial preferred alternative....a proposal}....based on the retreat products....i.e. agreements, guidance, direction, etc. * Share this rough draft informally with CTF Members, AHRA Staff + Agency Ex-Officio Members * Obtain comments/suggestions/rewrites, etc. at our August CTF meeting [Late Sept Mailing of 1st rough cut informal preferred alternative] [CTF MeetingLate September] 	AHRA Staff
#3 Draft Plan Environmental Assessment	Oct 99 > Feb 2000	Produce Draft Plan Revision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A CTF Plan Revision draft is prepared * Carry out internal review { CTF Members, Agency Ex-Official Members, AHRA Staff & Field Office Staff + Carry out briefings for the Colorado State Parks Board & BLM Leadership} * Finalize at a CTF meeting [Internal mailings go out & briefings are done] [Regular Jan CTF Mtg & Workshop] 	Field Office Staff, AHRA Staff & CTF
	Mar 3> Apr 15 2000	Agency Review Of CTF Plan Revision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * BLM/Parks Staff provide internal review of plan revision {Chap 2}....& feed back their critical issues/concerns to AHRA Managers 	Agency Staff
	Mar 3> Sept 8 2000	BLM Prepares Affected Environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * BLM Inter-disciplinary team prepares updated Affected Environment chapter {Chap 3}! 	BLM Field Office Staff
	May 26> July 28 2000	Consult W/CTF On Plan Revision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * AHRA Managers finalize the plan revision {Chap 2} & feed back to the interdisciplinary team for their preparation of the EA not later than late July!! [Regular May CTF Mtg & Workshop] 	AHRA Managers & CTF
	Jun 9 > Sept 8 2000	Develop Supplemental EA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A Supplemental Environmental Assessment [SEA] ...{which is Chap 4} prepared on the Plan Revision{which is Chap 2} using the completed Affected Environment...{which is Chap 3} not later than early September! 	BLM Field Office Staff

	Sep 8> Oct 20 2000	Obtain Public Comment: * Copy the complete Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan Revision/Supplemental Environmental Assessment & get mailed out for general public review {to include mailing to all scoping & issue workshop participants + briefings for CTF Members, BIM Leadership, Colorado State Park Management Team & Park Board} * Do collection of comments on this ARRMP/SEA document! [Regular Fall CTF Mtg] [Public Notices Go Out....News Releases] [Mailings of Draft Plan Revision/SEA Go Out] [Public Comment Workshops]	Field Office Staff, AHRA Staff & CTF
#4 Final Plan Environmental Assessment	Oct>Nov 2000	Respond to Comments: * Write responses to documented comments received! * Change Plan Revision/Supplemental Environmental Assessment as needed w/CTF	Field Office Staff, AHRA Staff & CTF
	Nov> Dec 2000	Do Final Review: * Carry out review of Plan Revision/SEA + final review by Field Office Staff, CTF Members, AHRA Staff & Agency Ex-Official Members {to include mailing to CTF + briefings for BIM Leadership & the Colorado State Parks Board} [State Park Briefing] [Mail out internal final review copies]	Field Office Staff & AHRA Staff + Agency Ex-Official Members & CTF
	Dec 2000/	Fix Final Plan/SEA: * Make final text changes or modifications * Do graphics, maps, etc. to get a camera ready version for plan signing	AHRA Staff
#5 Final Plan Completion	Jan 2001	Do Formal Adoption Of The Plan & Signing Of The SEA Decision Record: * Have agencies Ex-Officio members, AHRA Staff, CTF members, agency managers, etc....do formal signing of final plan revision {including the amended CMA & the SEA Decision Record} [State Park Board Meeting] [CTF & Agency Meeting]	Field Office & Parks Regional Managers, BLM River & Park Managers of AHRA & CTF Members + other agency reps as desired
	Feb 2001	Publish & Disseminate Final Plan: * Carry out publishing/mailing of final management plan CMA!	AHRA Staff

Appendix D

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA

Remaining

Land Acquisition & Development Needs

This appendix is a listing of the *remaining*, meaning those actions still needing to be carried out, land acquisition and recreation development needs at the various sites within the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area. This listing may be modified or updated from time to time as required and is not considered absolutely tied verbatim to the planning directions described within the front of this document. It is for guidance only and represents opportunities along the river corridor that, with funding permitting, agencies may work towards in the future.

Remaining AHRA Acquisitions/Exchanges/Easements/Agreements

Project Site	Acquisition/Exchange/Easement/ Agreement Needs {Acres}	Acquisition Costs/Methods	Potential Source of Funding
River Segment One			
Crystal Lakes Gateway Site	* Continue AHRA management of a portion of FS lands for a AHRA Gateway Site & for recreational access to the river in collaboration with CDOW and other partners {3 acres}	* AHRA [BLM/CDPOR] Cooperative Management Agreement with Leadville Ranger District	* FS renewal of the FS/AHRA special use agreement or do a special use permit
Lake County Open Space Initiative Lands	* Acquire the Hayden Ranch for open space, wildlife habitat, 7 miles of Arkansas River frontage & 2 miles of Box Creek frontage for riparian/ wetlands {2175 acres}	* BLM fee purchase of \$940,000 for the Hayden Ranch property from the City of Aurora	* BLM with Land & Water Conservation Funds or BOR with River Restoration Funds
	* Acquire northern part of the Hallenbeck Ranch for open space & wildlife habitat {160 acres}	* BLM land exchange for a 160 acre isolated portion of the Hallenbeck Ranch with Lake County & City of Longmont	* BLM land elsewhere
	* Acquire southern parts of the Hallenbeck Ranch for open space, wildlife habitat & riparian/ wetlands {120 acres}	* BLM fee purchase of \$260,000 of 120 acres of the Hallenbeck Ranch outside the FS from Lake County	* BLM with Land & Water Conservation Funds
	* Acquire remaining parts of the Arkansas River Ranch for open space, wildlife habitat that will include portions of the Big Union Creek frontage for riparian/wetlands {57 acres} * Acquire easement on trailer tract {5 acres}	* BLM fee purchase of \$200,000 for two lots & for one isolated parcel within the Arkansas River Ranch from private owner * BLM easement on other parcels	* BLM with Land & Water Conservation Funds and/or BLM land elsewhere

Granite Access Site	* Acquire a legal access site, either the current UPRR site, or one other private parcel upriver currently under fishing easement with CDOW {1 acre}	* Special use agreement, lease agreement or easement	* CDPOR
Clear Creek Access Sites	* Continue AHRA management of Clear Creek parcels between US Hwy 24 & the Arkansas River for open space, wildlife habitat, 1 mile of Arkansas River frontage & riparian/wetlands {37 acres}	* AHRA [BLM/CDPOR] agreement with the Pueblo Board of Water Works * Begin a land exchange on these lands with the Pueblo Board of Water Works	* Pueblo Board of Water Works Clear Creek lands *BLM land under Clear Creek Dam & Reservoir
Pine Creek Site	* Acquire the CSLB parcel along river at Pine Creek Rapids for public boating safety portage, rapids scouting, fishing and other public recreational access {400 acres}	* BLM land exchange for 400 acres of CSLB lands	* BLM land elsewhere
Numbers Access Sites	* Continue AHRA management of portions of FS lands for recreation access to river {10 acres} * Acquire “Numbers” stretch along 2.5 miles of the Arkansas River for safety scouting & general access to these world class whitewater rapids { 41 acres} called the Skoggsberg Estate or the “Arkansas River Placer”	* AHRA [BLM/CDPOR] Cooperative Management Agreement with Leadville Ranger District * USFS acquisition or land exchange with private estate & then begin a AHRA [BLM/CDPOR] Cooperative Management Agreement with Leadville Ranger District	* FS renewal of the FS/AHRA special use agreement or do a special use permit * FS funds or exchange for FS/BLM land elsewhere, then do a FS/AHRA special use permit for recreation management of the 41 acres if acquired
Otero Bridge Access Site	* Acquire Otero Bridge south parcel for rapid safety scouting & portage as well as public fishing access along east side of river{4 acres} * Acquire Otero Bridge north parcel for rapid portage & rapid scouting as well as for public fishing access {2 acres}	* BLM fee purchase of \$190,000 {or land exchange} * Cooperative Management Agreement with Homestake Water Group who own this parcel	* BLM with Land &Water Conservation Funds {and/or exchange for BLM land elsewhere} * AHRA CMA with Homestake Project
Frog Rock Access & Rock Climbing Site	* Acquire parcel for river access near Frog Rock & rock climbing activities near Elephant Rock {8 acres}	* AHRA special use permit with FS Leadville Ranger District	* FS/AHRA special use permit for recreation management

Split Rock Climbing Site	* Acquire small parcel at Split Rock for rock climbing site {1 acre}	* CDPOR acquisition or donation from private owner & agreement with UPRR	* Potential donation * UPRR special use agreement
River Segment Two			
Helena Ditch Dam Boat Chute	* Acquire two small parcels for legal access for portage & boat chute operations for safety purposes {3 acres}	* CDPOR fee purchase of \$260,000 of river front parcel	* CDPOR funds
River Bend Site	* Acquire parcel on river along US Hwy 285 for public recreation site {40 acres}	* BLM land exchange with private owner	* BLM land elsewhere
Fishermen's Bridge Site	* Acquire a small parcel for legal access for portage above the bridge for safety purposes {4 acres}	* BLM fee purchase of \$180,000 of river front parcel above & below the bridge	* BLM with Land & Water Conservation Funds
Ruby Mtn Site	* Acquire small parcel for open space & riparian /wetland protection along river adjacent to Ruby Mtn Recreation Site {13 acres}	* BLM fee purchase of \$160,000 {or land exchange} of this riverfront parcel	* BLM with Land & Water Conservation Funds {and/or exchange for BLM land elsewhere}
Stone Bridge Site	* Acquire small strip of land for access along the river for a public access fishing easement upstream of the Stone Bridge recreation site. This 1/4 mile access strip provides access to an additional 2 miles of public frontage {2 acres} * Acquire small in-holding parcel within Stone Bridge Rec Site {2 acres}	* BLM fee of \$2,000 for a public fishing access easement * BLM land exchange for in-holding within recreation site	* BLM public fishing easement funding * BLM land elsewhere
Poncha Springs Gateway Site	* Acquire small parcel at junction of US Hwys 285 & 50 for gateway site to establish & operate a public visitor information center with various partners [i.e. FS, CDOW, City of Poncha Springs, CDOT, GARNA, UAWC, BLM, etc.]{5 acres}	* Potential donation or land term use agreement	* City of Poncha Springs
AHRA HQ Expansion	* Acquire a small parcel for HQ complex expansion {less than one acre...one & one half lots} adjacent to the existing complex. Note: Drop acquisition if the Multi-Agency Natural Resource Center location is pursued	* \$200,000 for fee acquisition and for renovation of the lots { i.e. removal of old structure, fencing, grading, spreading road base, etc.}	* CDPOR funds

River Segment Three

Wellsville Bridge Access Site	* Acquire a river front parcel up river from bridge for additional access, open space & riparian/wetland protection along ½ mile of Arkansas River frontage {190 acres}	* BLM land exchange with private land owner	* BLM land elsewhere
Howard River Access Site	* Acquire a small parcel near Howard Cemetery for public access for fishing along 1/4 mile of river frontage adjacent to CR 45 {20 acres}	* BLM fee purchase of \$50,000 from private land owner {or land exchange}	* BLM with Land & Water Conservation Funds {and/or exchange for BLM land elsewhere}
Vallie Bridge Site	* Acquire one small adjacent parcel for open space, riparian/wetland & river based group campsite {6 acres}	* CDPOR land exchange with private land owner	* CDPOR adjacent land

River Segment Four

Texas Creek Access Site	* Acquire a small strip of land along 3/4 mile of riverfront for public access for fishing {6 acres}	* BLM fee purchase of \$20,000 from private land owner {or land exchange}	* BLM with Land & Water Conservation Funds {and/or exchange for BLM land elsewhere}
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River Segment Five

Royal Gorge Access Site	* Acquire a use agreement or easement to allow public to use road/trail through the “pink house” property into BLM lands at the mouth of Grape Creek in the Royal Gorge {2 acres}	* BLM purchase of a \$5,000 public access easement	* BLM easement funds
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River Segment Six

CF&I Dam Access Site	* Acquire small parcel at MacKenzie Blvd & river down to the CF&I Dam for legal access for boat portage for public boat safety purposes around the CF&I Dam & public access to river {10 acres}	* Fee purchase of river frontage from the Valco gravel pit lake down to the dam for \$50,000	* BLM with Land & Water Conservation Funds
Estes Gateway Site	* Acquire small parcel at Hwy 67 & US 50 near Fremont County Airport for AHRA Gateway Site {2 acres} in partnership with BLM, CDPOR, Gold Belt Byways Group, Garden Park Dinosaur Group, CDOT & others	* BLM land exchange with private owner	* BLM land elsewhere
Blue Heron Site	* Acquire the Blue Heron Property along river near the CO Hwy 115 bridge east of Florence for additional access, canoe landing, open space, riparian/wetland, protection of heron rookery & public fishing access {10 acres}	* Fee purchase of \$700,000 property & water rights to keep two lakes on property operational	* BLM with Land & Water Conservation Funds
Beaver Creek Site	* Acquire Beaver Creek property at junction of river & Beaver Creek for public access {12 acres}	* BLM land exchange with private owner	* BLM land elsewhere

Remaining Acquisitions/Exchanges/Easements/Agreements Needs Totals

	Acres	Amount of Funds	Sources of Funds/Lands
Fee Acquisitions	2510	\$ 2,750,000	L&WCF
	5	\$ 460,000	CDPOR
Land Exchanges	843		BLM
	6		CDPOR
	41		USFS
Easements	10	\$ 7,000	BLM
Agreements	28		AHRA
TOTAL = 3,443 Acres		\$ 3,217,000	

Note: Acquisitions/Exchanges/Easements/Agreements are contingent upon future priority setting by agencies and subsequent allocation of funds. Figures shown in this table are for guidance only and represent opportunities along the river corridor that, with funding permitting, agencies may work towards in the future.

Remaining AHRA Development Needs

Project Site	Site Development Needed	Funding Needed	Potential Source of Funding
River Segment One			
Crystal Lakes Gateway Site	One info 3 panel sign....{AHRA gateway theme}	\$ 2,400	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance} CDOW Funds {Watchable Wildlife funds of about \$ 20,000}
	Reconstruct gateway sign	\$ 5,000	
	One small single vault brick toilet	\$ 20,000	
	Develop access trail down to river {collaborate with CDOW/USFS}	\$ 400	
	Signing & additional interpretive work	\$ 1,000	
	Watchable wildlife kosk	\$ 20,000	
	Four picnic sites	\$ 3,200	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 52,000	
Hayden Meadows Recreation Site {fomerly known as the High Lonesome Site}	One large info kiosk/3 panel sign + entrance/directional signing	Lake County & GOCO Funds {Phase One of a two phase GOCO Grant thru Lake County of \$378,000 has already been secured} National BYWAYS Grant Funds {\$128,000 National BYWAYS Grant has been secured} CDOW Fishing is Fun Funds {\$272,000 Fishing is Fun Grant has been secured}	
	One 1/3 mile trail, two fence crossings & various walkways		
	Environmental center & one interp kiosk {river restoration/wildlife} {potential phase III funding in collaboration with CMC}		
	One 2 acre & one 7 acre pond		
	One large duplex vault brick toilet		
	Eight picnic sites w/shelters		
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 778,000	
Kobe Access Site	One info/3 panel station....{cultural interpretive theme}	\$ 2,400	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}

	Entry sign & other signing	\$ 900	
	Two picnic sites	\$ 1,600	
	Single vault brick toilet	\$ 20,000	
	Two fence crossings & fencing	\$ 3,200	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 28,100	
Sawmill Gulch Site	One small info sign, other signing & entry sign	\$ 1,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Parking improvements & barrier posts	\$ 1,400	
	Two picnic sites	\$ 1,600	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 4,000	
Granite Access Site	One entry sign & other signing	\$ 1,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Info/3 panel station	\$ 2,400	
	One each double vault toilet with changing shelter	\$ 33,000	
	Develop parking	\$ 2,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 38,400	
North Clear Creek Access Site	One info/3 panel station	\$ 2,400	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Entry sign & other signing	\$ 700	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 3,100	
South Clear Creek Access Site	One info/3 panel station	\$ 2,400	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Entry sign & other signing	\$ 700	
	Portable potty screen	\$ 300	
	Two picnic sites	\$ 1,600	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 5,000	

Stone Cabin Access & Primitive Camping Site	Two single vault CXT type toilet	\$ 32,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Entry & other signing	\$ 1,800	
	Ten primitive camping sites	\$ 10,000	
	Road & parking improvements	\$ 2,000	
	One info/3 panel station & road/parking improvements	\$ 2,400	
	Renovation of stone cabin to primitive rental	\$ 8,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 56,200	
Pine Creek Site	Signing	\$ 400	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Trail improvements	\$ 600	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 1,000	
Numbers Access Site	One double vault brick toilet/change shelter	\$ 33,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	One info/3 panel station	\$ 2,400	
	Boat slide & steps rehabilitation	\$ 24,000	
	Entry sign, other signing & minor fencing	\$ 1,900	
	Four picnic sites	\$ 3,200	
	Road & parking improvements	\$ 5,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 69,500	
Rapid # Four Access & Primitive Camping Site	Entry sign, info/3 panel station & other signing	\$ 3,400	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Four primitive camping sites	\$ 4,000	
	Two picnic sites	\$ 1,600	
	Road & parking improvements	\$ 500	
	One single vault toilet CXT type	\$ 16,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 25,500	

Otero Bridge Access Site	Entry signs {for Rapid #4 site & Otero site} & other signing	\$ 1,400	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance} HOMESTAKE Funds {Potential Partnership Funding Potential for Interpretive Kiosk of about \$10,000}
	Parking improvements	\$ 2,000	
	Interpretive kiosk small....{Homestake Project Theme}	\$ 20,000	
	Scouting trail & platform	\$ 8,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 31,400	
Five & One Half Rapid Site	Parking improvements	\$ 500	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Trail construction	\$ 500	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 1,000	
Riverside Upper Access & Primitive Camping Site	Entry sign & other signing	\$ 800	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Six primitive camping sites	\$ 6,000	
	Road & parking improvements	\$ 3,000	
	One info/3 panel station	\$ 2,400	
	One single vault brick toilet	\$ 20,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 32,200	
Riverside Lower Access & Primitive Camping Site	Entry sign & other signing	\$ 800	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Five primitive camping sites	\$ 5,000	
	Parking improvements	\$ 2,000	
	One info/3 panel station	\$ 2,400	
	One single brick vault toilet	\$ 20,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 30,200	

Railroad Bridge Recreation Site	Well & potable water system development-solar powered	\$ 25,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance} SANDIA LABS SOLAR Funds {solar pump & materials partially acquired through Sandia Labs Grant of \$ 3,000} GPPA Funds {Partial contribution match for the interpretive display by gold prospectors group of \$ 4,500}
	Replace entry sign & other signing	\$ 1,500	
	One small interpretive display....{recreational gold place ring theme}	\$ 9,000	
	One double unit vault brick toilet	\$ 25,000	
	Rebuild boat ramp with slide	\$ 20,000	
	Remove abandoned pipe	\$ 500	
	Addition of sixteen developed campsites	\$ 48,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 129,000	
Frog Rock Access Site/Elephant Rock Climbing Area	Entry signs & other signing	\$ 1,800	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance} USFS/BLM Funds {Public Health & Safety Funds for approximately \$ 28,000}
	Info/3 panel station	\$ 2,400	
	Road & parking area improvements {In two locations...one by Elephant Rock & one by climbing area}	\$ 5,000	
	One single vault toilet CXT type	\$ 16,000	
	Develop interpretive displays	\$ 4,500	
	Access trails {one down to river & one at climbing rock}	\$ 1,200	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 30,900	
Split Rock Climbing Access Site	Entry & other signing	\$ 900	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Parking improvements	\$ 2,000	
	Info/3 panel station	\$ 2,400	
	One single vault brick toilet	\$ 20,000	
	Fencing {railroad security fencing & decorative county road fencing}	\$ 4,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 29,300	
River Segment One Total Development Needs		\$ 1,344,800	
<i>River Segment Two</i>			

Helena Ditch Boat Chute	Portage & scouting trail	\$ 1,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Signing	\$ 400	
	Fencing	\$ 4,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 5,400	
Collegiate Peaks Overlook Gateway Site	Additional signing	BLM Funds {Final phase of BLM improvements at this site planned for 2004 of \$133,000}	
	Addition of new parking & entrance road area {closing of existing road & conversion to walking path}		
	Completion of eight picnic sites w/shelters		
	Entrance ramp to double vault toilet & interpretive shelter area		
	Large gateway sign {i.e. Crystal Lakes Site}	\$ 5,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance + potential for state OHV funding for portion of signing & the 3 panel station}
	One info/3 panel station.....{AHRA gateway theme & OHV info}	\$ 2,400	
	Entry signs {one on US Hwy 24 & one on county road}	\$ 1,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 141,400	
River Bend Recreation Site	Entry sign & other signing	\$ 1,500	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Well & potable water system development-solar powered	\$ 25,000	
	One info/3 panel station	\$ 2,400	
	One double vault brick toilet w/change shelter	\$ 33,000	
	Completion of 15 campsites	\$ 45,000	
	Boat landing improvements	\$ 5,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 111,900	
Fisherman's Bridge Recreation Site	Two each four table shelters	\$ 32,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Additional signing & directional sign for Ruby Mtn Site	\$ 900	

	Portage trail around bridge & interpretive sign	\$ 10,000	
	One small info display on south end	\$ 400	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 43,300	
Ruby Mountain Recreation Site	Well & potable water system development-solar powered	\$ 25,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance} SANDIA LABS GRANT {solar pump & materials partially acquired through Sandia Labs Grant of \$3,000} BLM Funds {Wilderness Mangt funds of \$10,000}
	Addition of eight developed campsites	\$ 24,000	
	Two entry signs	\$ 1,000	
	One double unit vault brick toilet	\$ 25,000	
	Addition of WSA info signing	\$ 4,500	
	Addition of WSA parking area	\$ 1,200	
	Fencing along wetland land acquisition	\$ 2,000	
	Addition of two additional picnic sites on east end & two on new purchase on southwest end	\$ 3,200	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 85,900	
Browns Canyon	Additional signing at various sites in canyon	\$ 35,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Site-rehabilitation at various sites in canyon		
	Lunch/camp stop improvements at various sites in canyon		
	WSA informational signing		
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 35,000	
Hecla Junction Recreation Site	Well & potable water system development-solar powered	\$ 25,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance} {+ solar pump & equipment acquired through Sandia Labs Grant of \$3,000}
	Entry sign, WSA info station & other signing	\$ 5,500	
	Additional trail improvements	\$ 4,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 34,500	
Stone Bridge Recreation Site	Additional road & trail improvements	\$ 5,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}

	Add two picnic table shelters	\$ 1,600	
	Two entry signs	\$ 1,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 7,600	
Big Bend Recreation Site & OHV Play Area	Entry signs & other signing	\$ 1,400	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Addition of two picnic sites	\$ 1,600	
	Parking & barrier improvements	\$ 2,500	
	Trails & walkways	\$ 1,000	BLM Funds {T&E Plant Species & Cultural Interpretive contribution} { \$5,000}
	Interpretive kios k	\$ 20,000	
	Development of the family OHV riding area project (trail construction, CXT toliet, signing, parking, etc.)	\$ 60,000	Colorado State Trails Grant Funds \$ 60,000
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 86,500	
Poncha Springs Gateway Site	Gateway sign	\$ 5,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Info/1 panel sign & other signing	\$ 1,500	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 6,500	
Salida Open Boating Zone	Entry sign & other signing	\$ 2,500	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Parking improvements {at both low head dam & ballfield/railroad property}	\$ 2,000	
	Open Boating Zone landing development {low head dam}	\$ 5,000	Other Potential Partners in this open boating zone are the CDOW, City of Salida & the Arkansas River Trust
	New railroad/ball field commercial boat ramp development	\$ 10,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 19,500	
AHRA HQ Remodel & Expansion	Expansion of the AHRA HQ complex space in Salida {removal of old house, fencing, lighting, etc., if acquisition occurs}	\$ 250,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 250,000	
Salida Boat Ramp	Boat ramp info sign	\$ 400	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}

	SITE TOTAL	\$ 400	
River Segment Two Total Development Needs		\$ 827,900	
<i>River Segment Three</i>			
Salida East Recreation Site	Boat ramp & parking area improvements	<p>BLM Funds {Final phase of BLM improvements & controlled maintenance enhancements at this site planned for 2003 of \$109,000}</p> <p>CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance of \$58,400 for 3 panel station & brick toilet/change area}</p>	
	Develop double unit vault brick toilet/change area		
	Additional road improvements...including culvert & rock bank work between the east & west sides of site		
	Addition of a group use area...including large group shelter		
	Closure of 2 nd highway access entrance		
	Entry sign & additional signing		
	One info/3 panel station		
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 167,400	
Point Barr Recreation Site	Redevelopment of entrance road downriver to site from county road	\$ 175,000	<p>BLM Funds {Public Health & Safety Funding for 2001}</p> <p>CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}</p> <p>GPPA Funds {Gold Panning & Prospectors Association funds of \$4,000}</p> <p>CDOW Funds {Watchable Wildlife funds of \$16,000}</p>
	Two entry signs, info/3 panel station & other signing	\$ 4,200	
	Interpretive kiosk {recreational gold placering & fishing theme}	\$ 20,000	
	One single unit vault & one double unit vault brick toilet	\$ 45,000	
	Parking & road improvements	\$ 3,400	
	One small group 4 table shelter at landing area/group lunch/group campsite	\$ 16,000	
	Twelve camping sites	\$ 36,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 299,600	

Rincon Recreation Site	Boat ramp enhancements	\$ 1,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Entry sign & additional signing	\$ 700	
	Two picnic table sun shelters	\$ 1,600	SANDIA LABS GRANT {solar pump& materials partially acquired of \$3,000}
	Well & potable water system development-solar powered	\$ 25,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 28,300	
Howard River Access Site	Parking improvements	\$ 1,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Signing	\$ 400	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 1,400	
Vallie Bridge Recreation Site	Road & parking area improvements serving the picnic area & group overnight area	\$ 20,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Boat ramp enhancements	\$ 5,000	
	Addition of three additional picnic sites w/shelters	\$ 4,800	
	Entry signs & additional signing	\$ 1,200	
	River group overnight facilities on east end w/landing	\$ 12,000	
	Info/3 panel station	\$ 2,400	
	One single unit vault brick toilet	\$ 20,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 65,400	
River Segment Three Total Development Needs		\$ 562,100	

River Segment Four

Canyon Trading Post Recreation Site	Wildlife viewing station....{.Bighorn Sheep Viewing Theme }	\$ 4,500	CDOW Funds {funding for developing this station & trail} \$4,500
	Bank stablization work	\$ 5,000	
	Fishing trail developement	\$ 2,000	DPOR Funds {Controlled Maintenance}
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 11,500	
Loma Linda Access Site	Signing	\$ 400	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Trail enhancements & step work	\$ 800	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 1,200	
Lone Pine Recreation Site	Adding sun shelters to four picnic sites	\$ 3,200	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Entry sign	\$ 500	
	Boat landing enhancements	\$ 2,000	CDOW Watchable Wildlife Funds {funding for developing this station}
	Wildlife viewing station	\$ 4,500	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 10,200	
Fernleaf Gulch Access Site	Small info sign	\$ 400	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Parking barriers & wetland protective work	\$ 500	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 900	
Texas Creek Recreation Site & Down River Ranger & Maint Station	Additional enhancements to this down river ranger & maintenance station {i.e. handicapped ramps at house, re-roofing of house & garage, slab flooring in garage, etc.}	BLM FUNDS {Second phase of BLM improvements & controlled maintenance enhancements at this site of \$159,000}	

	Additional road & parking area improvements		
	One info/3 panel station on the west end & one small info sign on east end		
	Two each double unit vault brick toilets {one on east end & one on west end} + west end one with a change shelter		
	Wildlife viewing station	\$ 20,000	CDOW Watchable Wildlife Funds {funding for developing this station} { \$ 20,000}
	Eight picnic sites {2 w/shelters on east end & 2 w/shelter on west end of site}	\$ 9,600	
	Additional fishing access trails	\$ 3,000	
	West end boat ramp enhancements	\$ 10,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Group overnight facilities & boat landing on east end	\$ 12,000	
	Twelve camping sites	\$ 36,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 249,600	
Maytag Access Site	Entry sign & additional signing	\$ 800	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	One single unit vault brick toilet	\$ 20,000	
	Three primitive camping sites	\$ 3,000	CDOW Funds {funding for developing this station & trail} \$ 4,500
	Road & parking improvements	\$ 1,000	
	Info/3 panel station	\$ 2,400	
	Wildlife viewing station.....{sheep viewing theme}	\$ 4,500	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 31,700	
Devil's Hole Access Site	Signing	\$ 200	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Group lunch & overnight facilities {tent pads & fire grills}	\$ 4,000	

	SITE TOTAL	\$ 4,200	
Pinnacle Rock Recreation Site	Adding sun shelters to six picnic sites	\$ 4,800	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance} CDOW Funds {funding for developing this station} \$ 4,500
	Wildlife viewing station	\$ 4,500	
	Entry sign	\$ 500	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 9,800	
Three Rocks Rapid & Portage	Development of landings & portage/scouting trail	\$ 4,600	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Signing	\$ 400	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 5,000	
Salt Lick Access Site	Parking improvements	\$ 5,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Info/3 panel sign	\$ 2,400	
	Entry sign	\$ 500	
	One double vault brick toilet	\$ 25,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 32,900	
Five Points Recreation Site	WSA small information sign	\$ 1,000	BLM Funds {Wilderness Mgmt Funding} \$1,000
	Adding sun shelters to four picnic sites & to five campground tables	\$ 7,200	
	Entry sign	\$ 500	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Additional interpretive panels	\$ 9,000	
	Well & potable water system development-solar powered	\$ 30,000	

	SITE TOTAL	\$ 47,700	
Lower Floodplain Lunch Stop	Small 4 table sun shelter	\$ 16,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Toilet {new porty potty over vault} & a new screening structure NOTE: May have to add vault if it proves to need replacement!	\$ 1,500	
		SITE TOTAL	\$ 17,500
Spikebuck Recreation Site	Entry sign & other signing	\$ 900	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Adding three picnic tables one with shelter	\$ 2,300	
	Info/3 panel station	\$ 2,400	
	Berm addition	\$ 2,000	CDOW Funds {Watchable Wildlife Funding} \$9,000
	Wildlife viewing station.....{sheep viewing theme}	\$ 9,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 16,600	
Bootlegger Access Site	Entry sign & other signing	\$ 900	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Info/3 panel sign	\$ 2,400	
	Parking improvements	\$ 1,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 4,300	
Parkdale Recreation Site	Entry sign	\$ 500	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Two small four table sun shelters on west end & one on east end	\$ 48,000	
	Road & trail improvements including turn around to west end	\$ 6,000	
	Add four tablesun shelters {up on parking level}	\$ 3,200	
	Large sun shelter addition to table area	\$ 30,000	AROA Funds {Possible \$10,000 in assistance funding from this group}
	Two double unit vault brick toilets {one on west end & one up on parking level}	\$ 50,000	

	SITE TOTAL	\$ 137,700	
River Segment Four Total Development Needs		\$ 580,800	
<i>River Segment Five</i>			
Parkdale South Access Sites {two locations}	Parking, road & trail improvements	\$ 1,600	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Additional signing	\$ 400	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 2,000	
Royal Gorge Access Site	Entry sign & signing	\$ 1,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Road & trail improvements	\$ 3,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 4,000	
River Segment Five Total Development Needs		\$ 6,000	

River Segment Six

Estes Overlook Gateway Site	Gateway sign	\$ 5,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Entry signing & other signing	\$ 800	
	Info/3 panel station	\$ 2,400	Additional development would be needed & done through partnerships with Gold Belt Byways, DinoDepot, BLM, CDOW, CDOT, etc.
	One single vault brick toilet	\$ 20,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 28,200	
CF&I Dam Portage Site {Valco Pond}	Entry sign, info/3 panel station & other signing	\$ 3,700	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance}
	Parking improvements	\$ 2,500	
	Six picnic sites w/sun shelters	\$ 9,600	
	One double vault brick toilet	\$ 20,000	CDOW Funds {Watchable Wildlife Funding} \$41,000
	Portage trail/stairs improvements	\$ 4,300	
	Handicap fishing access pier on pond	\$ 32,000	Additional development would be needed & done through partnerships with Canon City Metro Rec District, Ark River Greenbelt, Fremont County
	Wildlife viewing station	\$ 9,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 81,100	

Blue Heron Recreation Site	Entry signs, info/3 panel station & other signing	\$ 12,400	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance of \$162,800 } BLM Funds { BLM Public Health & Safety + Controlled Maintenance Funds of \$90,000} CDOW Funds {Potential Watchable Wildlife and/or Fishing is Fun funding of \$105,000} Additional development would be needed & done through partnerships with Audobon Society, Fremont County, CDOT, Colorado Transit Mix, etc.
	Entrance station	\$ 40,000	
	Two double unit vault brick toilets	\$ 50,000	
	Heron rookery interpretive area parking improvements	\$ 8,000	
	Heron rookery interpretive kiosk	\$ 20,000	
	Heron rookery viewing station & trail	\$ 24,000	
	One double vault brick toilet w/changing shelter at canoe landing	\$ 33,000	
	Develop 18 picnic sites w/shelters at three locations	\$ 28,800	
	Fishing lake parking area & road improvements	\$ 29,000	
	Canoe launch landing area & road improvements	\$ 13,000	
	Well & potable water system development	\$ 30,000	
	Develop 12 camping sites w/table shelters	\$ 45,600	
	Riparian/wetland interpretive kiosk	\$ 20,000	
	Riparian/wetland interpretive trail	\$ 4,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 357,800	
Beaver Creek Access Site	Entry sign & other signing	\$ 1,000	CDPOR Funds {Development or Controlled Maintenance Funds} [This site would need to be developed more extensively if Blue Heron is not acquired as planned]
	Parking improvements	\$ 4,000	
	Trail improvements	\$ 3,000	
	SITE TOTAL	\$ 8,000	
River Segment Six Total Development Needs		\$ 475,100	

Remaining <i>Development Needs Totals</i>		
TOTAL - CDPOR Funds {Development & Controlled Maintenance Funds}	52 %	\$ 1,991,200
TOTAL - BLM/FS Funds {Development, Public Health/Safety & Controlled Maintenance Funds}	19 %	\$ 710,000
TOTAL - Other Funds/Grants {Homestake, Sandia Labs, AROA, County Funds, CDOT, GPPA, GOCO Grants & Other Grants, Etc.}	16 %	\$ 594,500
TOTAL - CDOW Funds {Watchable Wildlife Funds & Fishing is Fun Grants}	13 %	\$ 501,000
GRAND TOTAL - All Funds	100 %	\$ 3,796,700

Note: Developments are contingent upon future priority setting by agencies and subsequent allocation of funds. Figures shown in this table are for guidance only and represent opportunities along the river corridor that, with funding permitting, agencies may work towards in the future.

Appendix E

BLM/FS

Recreational Placering Information

Within the

AHRA

This appendix is a copy of the BLM/USFS Recreational Placering Information within the AHRA. It was jointly developed by the FS and BLM and is provided to the public as an informational sheet. This is the operational guidance for recreational rockhounding, metal detecting, panning, dredging or sluicing on public lands along the Arkansas River corridor and its tributaries for the recreation area.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Royal Gorge Resource Area
3170 East Main Street
Cañon City, CO 81212

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Pike and San Isabel National Forest
Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands
1920 Valley Drive
Pueblo, CO 81008-1797



RECREATIONAL PLACERING INFORMATION SHEET FOR OPERATIONS CONDUCTED IN THE PIKE AND SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FOREST OR THE BLM ROYAL GORGE RESOURCE AREA

Rockhounding, metal detecting, panning, dredging or sluicing have become very popular activities on public lands administered by the USFS and BLM in southeastern Colorado. For the purposes of this information sheet, we will collectively refer to these activities as "recreational placering". The public land management agencies in southeastern Colorado have agreed to a consistent policy and process that is both efficient and easy to understand. However, even this process has requirements which must be met. In general, you will find that operations with increased potential for surface disturbance require more agency oversight and operator documentation. We hope this information sheet and packet help you better understand how to enjoy whatever recreational placer activity you pursue while assuring the wise use of your public lands. This information does not apply to private property, you must have the permission of the surface owner to operate on these lands.

*** Where can recreational placering be done in this area?** The Recreational Placering Map that accompanies this information sheet gives a general description of the lands covered by this policy. It includes the Pike and San Isabel National Forest (map identifies individual Ranger Districts) and the BLM Royal Gorge Resource Area. This map is of such a small scale that it only provides information on lands which are open or closed to recreational placering and the responsible office. We encourage you to obtain BLM or USFS maps of larger scale for more detailed information.

*** What are the areas where recreational placering is NOT allowed?** Recreational placering operations are NOT allowed in lands designated as Wilderness. For BLM Wilderness Study Areas, a Plan of Operations must be submitted and approved prior to the conduct of any surface disturbing recreational placer operations. These areas are identified on the Recreational Placering Map. Withdrawn lands are areas closed to the location of mining claims, however they may or may not be available for recreational placer operations. Please contact the appropriate USFS/BLM office for more information.

*** What is recreational placering and how are activities defined? How do I get started?** The attached Recreational Placering Table identifies several types of recreational placer activities and provides information on what type of actions are necessary prior to beginning work. Please contact any USFS or BLM office should you have additional questions after reviewing the table. In many cases no notification to the USFS and/or BLM is necessary and you may begin work immediately. We do however, encourage you to contact either agency with any questions you may have.

*** What mitigation measures need to be met? Do I need a Section 404 permit from the Army Corp of Engineers?** The attached Recreational Placer Form includes mitigation measures applicable to each agency. These requirements are quite similar between agencies but, may vary based on the type of operation involved and its location. Information on section 404 requirements may be obtained from the appropriate Army Corp of Engineers office.

*** Do I need to submit anything to the USFS or BLM?** Use the Recreational Placering Table to determine what; if anything; you may need to provide. For motorized placer operations, the agencies recommend that you complete and submit the "Recreational Placer Notification" that is included. Should you prefer not use this form, you still must provide the needed information in whatever format you decide. This information will help the BLM and/or USFS assess the level of impacts associated with your proposed operation. This form would also serve as a Notice of Intent under both agencies surface management regulations.

*** How do I get information on recreational placering and what is the process for handling motorized operations?** Interested individuals should contact the USFS or BLM by phone or in person and request information. You will be provided with this packet of information which includes; this information sheet, the Recreational Placering Map, and a Recreational Placering Notification format including general conditions. The individual(s) determines what actions are needed based on what activities he or she plans and provides the appropriate information to the USFS or BLM office. The Recreational Placering Notification, if necessary, is filled out and sent to the agency responsible for activities in the particular area. This notification is reviewed to determine the level of impact and the individual is notified within 15 days whether (a) to proceed, or (b) additional information or documentation requirements are necessary.



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**GUIDELINES AND GENERAL PROCEDURES
FOR RECREATIONAL PLACER OPERATIONS ON
PUBLIC LANDS ADMINISTERED BY THE
PIKE & SAN ISABEL FOREST OR ROYAL GORGE RESOURCE AREA**

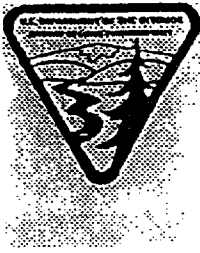
The following information should be used as a guide for understanding the different types of activities involved with recreational placering and the various requirements or restrictions concerning these activities. The attached map provides information concerning land status, agency boundaries and office locations/addresses. Persons conducting recreational activities must respect the rights of existing mining claimants. Contact the BLM concerning the presence or absence of mining claims in your area of interest.

NON-MOTORIZED PLACER ACTIVITIES

Activity	Description	Needed Action by Individual	Activity Allowed on.....
Rockhounding	The collection of small amounts of rock, minerals, etc. for personnel use. Quantities limited to 50 lbs/ day to a total of 250 lbs./person/year.	No permits are necessary. Specific information may be obtained from any USFS/BLM office.	All public and national forest system lands in the RGRA or P&SINF, <u>except</u> for USFS Wilderness Areas. Contact local BLM/USFS office concerning Withdrawn lands.
Metal Detecting	Use of hand held metal detecting devices in the search for native metals.	No permits are necessary. <u>Contact BLM or USFS office concerning use of metal detection equipment in the search for coins, treasure, historic items....</u>	All public and national forest system lands in the RGRA or P&SINF, <u>except</u> for USFS Wilderness Areas. Contact local BLM/USFS office concerning Withdrawn lands.
Panning/ Sluicing	The use of hand held, non-motorized implements for the separation of minerals (ie gold, garnet, etc) from native materials.	No permits are necessary. Operators may want to consult with BLM concerning the presence of mining claims in the area.	All public and national forest system lands in the RGRA or P&SINF, <u>except</u> for USFS Wilderness Area. Contact local BLM/USFS office concerning Withdrawn lands.

MOTORIZED PLACER ACTIVITIES
Recreational Placer Notification Necessary

Motorized Placer Operations	The conduct of any operations which may involve motorized equipment (ie- dredging, highbanking, trommel, etc).	Written notification to the appropriate USFS/BLM office. Use of attached format is encouraged. Notification should be submitted 15 days in advance of operations. No operations may begin pending response from USFS/BLM.	All public and national forest system lands in the RGRA or P&SINF, <u>except</u> for USFS Wilderness Areas, BLM Wilderness Study Areas, and Wild & Scenic Rivers. Contact local BLM/USFS office concerning Withdrawn lands.
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BLM AND USFS PERSONNEL FOR INFORMATION ON RECREATIONAL PLACER MINING

BLM Office

Office Contact

Royal Gorge Resource Area
3170 East Main St.
Canon City, CO 81212
(719) 269-8500

Charlie Fair or Kevin Andersen

USFS Office

Contact

USFS Office

Contact

South Park Ranger Dist.
320 Highway 285, Box 219
Fairplay, CO 80440
(719) 836-2031

Clint Kyhl

Salida Ranger Dist.
325 W. Rainbow Blvd.
Salida, CO 81201
(719) 539-3591

Mike Sugaski

Leadville Ranger Dist.
2015 N. Poplar
Leadville, CO 80461
(719) 486-0749

Leonard Newton

Pikes Peak Ranger Dist. Tim Grantham
601 S. Weber Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
(719) 636-1602

San Carlos Ranger Dist.
3170 East Main St.
Canon City, CO 81212
(719) 269-8500

Dave Crumley

South Platte Ranger Dist. Steve Priest
19316 Goddard Ranch Ct.
Morrison, CO 80465
(303) 275-5624

P&SINF Supervisors Office Ken Marler
1920 Valley Dr.
Pueblo, CO 81008
(719) 545-8737

US Army Corp of Engineers

Arkansas River Drainage

Albuquerque District
Southern Colorado Project Office
720 N. Main St., Suite 205
Pueblo, CO 81003-3046
(719) 543-9459

Platte River Drainage

Omaha District
Tri Lakes Project Office
9307 Colorado Highway 121
Littleton, CO 80123-6901
(303) 979-4120



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Recreational Placering Map
Pike & San Isabel National Forest
BLM Royal Gorge Resource Area



LEGEND

RCRA/P&SINF Boundary



USFS Wilderness



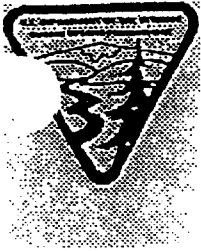
BLM Wilderness Study Areas



North



BLM/USFS Addresses
on reverse side



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**RECREATIONAL PLACER NOTIFICATION FOR
MOTORIZED PLACER OPERATIONS
IN THE ROYAL GORGE RESOURCE AREA OR
THE PIKE & SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FOREST**

NAME: _____ DATE: _____
ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: () _____

OPERATION TYPE: (ONE OR MORE MAY BE IDENTIFIED)

DREDGE _____ HIGHBANKER _____ SLUICE _____
DRY WASHER _____ TROMMEL/SCREEN _____
OTHER (ATTACH DESCRIPTION) _____

EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS:

INTAKE HOSE DIAMETER _____
ENGINE SIZE (HP): _____
RATED CAPACITY OF EQUIPMENT (CUBIC YARDS/HOUR) _____

ANTICIPATED START DATE: _____
ANTICIPATED END DATE: _____

LOCATION OF OPERATION(S) (IDENTIFY BELOW ALL AREAS YOU PROPOSE TO WORK IN)
(INCLUDE LOCATION ON A MAP OF MINIMUM SCALE 1/4 IN. = 1 MI.)

TWP. _____ RGE. _____ SEC(S) _____ 1/4 SEC _____

TWP. _____ RGE. _____ SEC(S) _____ 1/4 SEC _____

TWP. _____ RGE. _____ SEC(S) _____ 1/4 SEC _____

CLAIM INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)

CLAIM NAME _____ CMC NUMBER CMC- _____

CLAIM NAME _____ CMC NUMBER CMC- _____

DESCRIBE ACCESS: (WILL USE EXISTING ROADS & TRAILS, WILL CONSTRUCT, OFFROAD, VEHICLE TYPE, ETC.) _____

OPERATOR SIGNATURE

DATE

(attach additional pages if necessary)

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR RECREATIONAL PLACER OPERATIONS

- (1) All materials too large in size to be moved by hand or hand held implements shall remain undisturbed.
- (2) All refueling of motorized equipment shall take place out of the waterway or adjacent wetlands with no fueling conducted closer than 20 feet from such areas.
- (3) All water based activities shall be conducted to prevent undercutting of banks.
- (4) Access shall be restricted to existing roads and trails. Motorized vehicles are restricted to a minimum distance of 20 feet from all waterways, riparian areas or wetland sites.
- (5) Operations shall not be located within 200 feet of a public water supply intake, fish hatchery intake, irrigation diversion structure or 100 feet of a bridge support without the written approval of the entity responsible for the structure.
- (6) No activity under this notification shall jeopardize the continued existence or habitat of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation.
- (7) No activity under this notification may adversely affect historic properties which are listed on, or determined eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places. All potential properties shall be left intact and immediately reported to the USFS or BLM.
- (8) All excavations occurring out of the water shall have materials replaced upon completion of operations. No sites shall be left open in excess of 14 days.
- (9) The applicant is responsible for obtaining and compliance with all necessary federal, state and/or local requirements.
- (10) No operations of any type are to occur on an existing mining claim without the permission of or authorization from the claim owner(s).
- (11) Camping is limited to 14 consecutive days at any one site.
- (12) Operations shall not disturb in excess of 2 cubic yards of material per day.
- (13) Anchorage systems shall not span the stream or interfere with the passage of water craft.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:(ADDITIONAL SPECIAL CONDITIONS MAY BE NEEDED BASED ON ACTIVITY/LOCATION)

- (1) All non-water based operations are allowed only in the Point Bar Special Area, or on mining claim(s).
- (2) No riparian vegetation or wetland areas are to be damaged or impacted by operations conducted under this notification.
- (3) Water based operations are prohibited in waterways containing brown trout between 1 October and 31 March. In addition, dredging in streams designated by the Colorado Division of Wildlife as "Gold Medal Streams" and/or "Wild Trout Water" is prohibited between 1 October and 30 June.

Appendix F

Final

Recreation Management Guidelines

for

Colorado

This appendix is a copy of the Final BLM Recreation Management Guidelines, completed in December of 2000 by the Resource Advisory Councils of Colorado in partnership with BLM. It is to be used as general guidance for managing recreation activities on public lands in Colorado, including all BLM administered lands within the recreation area. These guidelines are based upon the BLM Standards for Public Land Health of November 1996.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES TO MEET PUBLIC LAND HEALTH STANDARDS ON BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LANDS IN COLORADO

December 11, 2000

INTRODUCTION

Colorado's population has grown significantly in the past ten years - the state's growth rate is among the highest in the nation. As the state becomes more crowded, an increasing number of people seek out undeveloped land to recreate. In addition, Colorado remains a popular destination for tourists, especially those seeking experiences in a backcountry or wildland setting. As a result, public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are absorbing increasing recreational use. In many areas, the increased use has resulted in user conflicts and damage to vegetation, soils, wildlife habitat, and other natural resources.

In February 1997, Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado (Standards) were approved by the Secretary of Interior and adopted as decisions in all of BLM's land use plans, commonly referred to as Resource Management Plans (RMP). The Standards describe natural resource conditions that are needed to sustain public land health. The Standards encompass upland soils; riparian systems; plant and animal communities; special, threatened, and endangered species; and water quality. The Standards relate to all uses of the public lands. The full text of the Standards is found in Attachment 1.

Based on the increased awareness and understanding of the social and environmental impacts of outdoor recreation, the following establishes recreation management guidelines to help achieve and maintain healthy public lands as defined by the Standards. The guidelines are tools, methods, and techniques that can be used by managers to maintain or meet the standards.

It is the intent of these guidelines to encourage and permit a variety of recreational opportunities and enjoyable experiences that are managed to avoid conflicts and serve diverse recreational interests, while at the same time minimizing and preventing adverse impacts to land health, ecosystems, and cultural or natural resources, including historic and archaeological sites, soils, water, air, vegetation, scenery, wildlife habitats, riparian areas, endangered or threatened species, and wilderness areas. Recreational uses are a highly regarded social value of our society which impacts our public lands, and accordingly BLM in Colorado will plan, manage, and pursue funding sources so that various services, areas, and

activities are environmentally sustainable for present and future populations.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

A. Standards 1 & 2: Upland Soils and Riparian Systems

1. Manage recreational activities to maintain sufficient vegetation on upland areas to protect the soil from wind and water erosion and to buffer temperature extremes.
2. Minimize disturbances and manage recreation use in riparian areas to protect vegetation, fragile soils, springs, and wetlands.
3. Plan and locate routes, trails, and developments away from riparian and wetland areas, and highly erosive soils.
4. Reduce stream crossings to the minimal number dictated by the topography. Reduce sedimentation and compaction associated with stream crossings.
5. Manage watercraft types and uses as appropriate to protect riparian systems and water quality from adverse impacts.

B. Standard 3: Healthy Plant and Animal Communities

1. Manage recreational use on public lands to promote the survival and health of native plants and animals.
2. Protect against the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.
3. Protect wildlife habitat by preserving connectivity and avoiding fragmentation.
4. Minimize wildlife disturbances and artificial attractions such as feeding wild animals or improper disposal of garbage.
5. Protect plant and animal communities by limiting recreational use by type, season, intensity, distribution, or duration.

C. Standard 4: Special Status and Threatened and Endangered Species

1. Protect habitat for federal and state Threatened and Endangered Species and other special status species.

D. Standard 5: Water Quality

1. Manage recreational uses in coordination with other uses on public lands to achieve or exceed applicable water quality standards.
2. Control water quality impacts resulting from recreational use, such as human waste, trash, and other elements.

E. Public Values and Education

1. Use information and interpretative services as major tools to protect public land health and significant natural, cultural, and recreational resources. As appropriate, improve public knowledge by locating kiosks, interpretive signs, and visitor information facilities at visitor contact points. Provide guidebooks and pamphlets for users.

2. Increase efforts to educate public lands visitors about an ethic of responsible use, through programs such as Tread Lightly, Leave No Trace, Project Archeology, the International Mountain Bike Association's "Rules of the Trail," and the Public Lands Watch program.
3. Communicate to the members of the public their individual rights and responsibilities in the use and preservation of public lands, including the recognition of the rights and responsibilities of others because public lands are our legacy for the future.
4. Initiate and maintain collaborative partnerships among government agencies, local governments, business communities, volunteers, user groups, stakeholders, educational institutions, individuals, and the private sector to achieve recreation management objectives and implement these guidelines.
5. Encourage the development of a concise educational program to be implemented at the initial point of contact with the public, to promote public land values, knowledge of rights and responsibilities, environmental awareness, communication between the BLM and the public, and changing management practices and policies.
6. In order to mitigate adverse impacts to the public lands, work with the private sector to integrate a responsible recreational use message with the goods or services they provide.

F. Recreation Management

1. Protect natural resources with a priority on management methods that effectively maintain healthy public lands. Utilize the least restrictive but appropriate limitations on public lands activities and users. Recognize that in some cases various levels of regulations and limits on users are necessary.
2. In the development of recreation plans, use the best current and sound recreation science practices to enhance public land health.
3. Develop and maintain updated inventory and monitoring information concerning both the resource and the recreational uses.
4. Use on-the-ground presence as a tool to protect public lands.
5. In order to prevent adverse impacts to the public land health, establish appropriate levels and types of recreational use. Utilize public participation in the development of these levels and types. Where long-term adverse impacts are created or anticipated by recreational uses, limit or control activities through specialized management tools including, but not limited to, designated campsites, permits, area closures, and limitations on stays and number of users.
6. Locate permanent facilities away from riparian areas, cultural sites, or other locations subject to adverse impacts, and relocate existing facilities away from areas that have been adversely impacted.
 - If it is determined that a facility must be located in these areas, it must be properly mitigated. For example, if it is determined that a path must cross a wetland area, appropriate mitigation such as a wooden boardwalk may be

constructed to avoid water quality problems and other wetland disturbance.

7. Manage recreational uses to protect cultural, historical, and archeological resource sites, and areas where there are unique wilderness or environmental values. Where appropriate, set aside some areas for certain scientific, environmental, and archaeological activities, and limit or prohibit other recreational uses in these areas.
8. Allow and manage dispersed recreation activities so that the nature and the frequency of such activities does not create adverse impacts to public land health.
9. Set aside areas, limited in number and size, for certain high impact recreational uses, such as off-road vehicles, motorcycles, and target practice to be relatively unrestricted. Establishment of such areas must be consistent with the Standards and other RMP decisions.
10. Manage activities associated with hunting and fishing to protect the resource from adverse impacts to public land health.
11. Often a land area is utilized by many users; implement feasible management methods to maintain the essential enjoyment elements of the various user groups.
12. Encourage public land recreational activities near population centers and highway corridors by placement of appropriate visitor use infrastructure. Provide restrooms and other facilities adequate for anticipated uses at designated campgrounds, trail heads, and other areas where there is a concentration of recreational users.
13. Build collaborative partnerships with local communities and the private sector to provide recreational support services on private land near public land access points where possible.

G. Routes, Trails, and Travel management

1. Work expeditiously toward the goal of a statewide inventory of routes and trails.
2. Place a high priority on developing local travel management plans with public participation. Travel management plans should consider all forms of travel in the affected area (i.e., motorized, mechanized, and non-motorized). The plans should address travel management prescriptions (such as open, closed, and limited off-road vehicle designations), and identify appropriate actions to meet or maintain public land health standards and meet the needs of the visitor.
3. Until local travel management plans are prepared and implemented, BLM will take prompt action using existing authorities to prevent the proliferation of roads and trails that have caused or will lead to conditions whereby the Standards are not met. Existing authorities include, but are not limited to, restrictions under the specific rules section for off-road vehicle use¹, amending land use plan decisions

¹ **43CFR834.1.2 ("Special rules" section - Off-Road Vehicles)**

pertaining to off-road vehicles², and closure and restriction orders for other uses³.

4. When developing travel management plans and/or implementing travel management decisions, managers should consider the following:

- a. Where adverse impacts, user conflicts, damage to ecosystems, injury to the environment, or other conditions are anticipated or are occurring that would impair the health of the public lands and diminish recreational opportunities, restrict recreational travel to designated routes or take other appropriate action such as seasonal closures.
- b. Cross-country travel (i.e., off of roads and trails) should only be permitted in areas that meet the designation criteria for “open” areas⁴, and the Standards.
- c. Where conflicts among recreational users can be minimized, combine multiple uses on one route instead of establishing parallel or alternative routes.
- d. Where and when appropriate, plan, develop, and designate in cooperation with user groups new routes and trails, as well as selected areas for open travel, that enhance and expand recreational opportunities and encourage responsible use with little or no adverse impacts.
- e. Relocate, abandon, or close routes and trails seasonally or temporarily that adversely impact riparian and wetland areas, wildlife, highly erosive soils, cultural sites, and sensitive ecological systems, and abandon routes that are duplicated or unneeded. Where routes, trails, or other facilities have been abandoned, provide for restoration and revegetation of the site.

5. Where adverse impacts or safety considerations warrant, limit or prohibit public access when authorizing specific routes to oil and gas locations, mines, timber sales, or other areas or sites under permit or lease.

6. Provide clear maps, signs, guidelines, descriptions, and other information for users of routes, trails, and other facilities or areas, including mileages and estimated hours of travel by type, limitations caused by travel surfaces and conditions, and availability of loop trails. Provide clear information to the public when closures, seasonal use, and other regulations or limits are placed on public lands.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

² **43CFR 1610.5-5 (“Amendment” section - Resource Management Planning) ; 43CFR8342 (“Designation of Areas and Trails” - Off-Road Vehicles)**

³ 43CFR8364 (“Closures and Restrictions” - Visitor Services)

⁴ 43CFR8342 (“Designation criteria” section - Off-Road Vehicles)

In addition to the implementation objectives included in the Standards, the following critical issues should be considered for successful implementation of the Recreation Guidelines:

1. The guidelines contained in this document are designed to provide direction, yet allow flexibility for local implementation of RMP decisions. Typically, decisions made in RMPs provide resource goals and objectives, allocate resources, identify land areas for limited, restrictive or exclusive use, and provide guidance for implementation. During the implementation process, additional planning may be needed to better define goals, make objectives more specific, and identify or add specific detail to implementing actions. Frequently, multiple guidelines may be used to maintain or achieve the land health standards. All implementing actions will be completed in consultation, cooperation, and coordination with local communities and the interested public.
2. Declining federal budgets challenge the ability of the BLM to provide services adequate to meet growing recreational demands, create difficult management concerns, and place the health of public lands at risk. Addressing current and future needs will require increased agency budgets as well as collaboration, partnerships, and shared responsibility among public land agencies and the various constituencies using public lands.
3. Increasing recreational uses of public lands create increased needs for funding, manpower, and other resources to simultaneously protect the environmental and ecological values of public lands consistent with multiple use and sustained yield principles. Management practices specifically tailored to recreational impacts are necessary to improve and expand recreational facilities and protect effective planning, maintenance, enforcement, monitoring, and programming of public recreational opportunities. Possible supplementary funding resources to meet these goals should be considered, including non-federal resources such as state, county, and local governments, non-profit entities, and private interests.
4. Important to implementing multiple use recreation management and environmental management objectives are: an achievable scientific approach to the inventory and analysis of biological and ecological data; gathering of accurate data on recreational needs, benefits, demands, carrying capacities, and trends; and developing consensus on difficult issues relating to economically sustainable programs, use controls, other limitations and resolution of user conflicts.
5. The involvement by the BLM of the public, other governmental entities, and various recreational constituencies is necessary throughout the planning, use, and evaluation cycle to establish appropriate management priorities. This

involvement should encourage a high degree of public interaction, foster collaboration, educate and inform the public regarding important land use issues, and contribute to the successful implementation of the Standards for Public Land Health and Recreation Management Guidelines.

6. Not all RMP decisions require subsequent planning such as activity plans or transportation management plans. If the actions needed to implement RMP decisions are well defined, then only appropriate environmental assessment documentation may be needed. If, however, the decisions and information in RMPs do not contain enough detail, additional planning may be needed to better define goals, make objectives more specific, and identify or add specific detail to implementing actions.

7. During the implementation process, it may be determined that existing RMP decisions are no longer valid or do not adequately meet the needs of the resource or the public. Therefore, it may be necessary to initiate a plan amendment to address the affected decisions in the RMP.⁵

8. It is not possible for each acre to achieve every standard. It is important to assess and consider the overall health of a landscape when applying the recreation guidelines. For example, when determining how to manage vehicle parking in a landscape, it may be determined to concentrate vehicles in a small confined area, rather than having uncontrolled parking throughout the landscape. In this example, this approach would result in improved resource conditions overall although the site specific impacts at the small parking area would be high (e.g., vegetation disturbance).

The guidelines contained in this document are designed as “tools” to assist managers implement recreation management decisions and actions. At this stage, the environmental effects of implementing the guidelines are too broad, speculative, or conjectural to lend themselves to meaningful environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Furthermore, most implementing actions will be subject to further NEPA analysis. Therefore, adoption of the guidelines are categorically excluded from NEPA analysis⁶. **GLOSSARY:**

Activity plan: A detailed, site specific plan for management of one or more

⁵ Subject to the provisions of 43CFR161 0.5-5 (**“Amendment” section - Resource Management Planning**)

⁶ Pursuant to 516 DM 2.3A(2) and 516 DM 2, Appendix 1.10.

resource programs. An activity plan provides additional specificity needed to implement RMP decisions. Activity plans are completed only if necessary. When multiple programs are addressed, activity plans may be called Integrated Activity Plans or Coordinated RMPs.

Guidelines, Recreation: Recreation management tools, methods, and techniques designed to provide activities, experiences, and benefits for the recreating public while maintaining or achieving healthy public lands as defined by the standards. The recreation guidelines contained in this document are directed toward maintaining or achieving public land health.

Landscape: A defined land area that forms a management unit or basis of analysis.

Mechanized Vehicle: Any non-motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land. An example of a mechanized vehicle is a mountain bike.

Motorized Vehicle: Synonymous with off-road vehicle. Examples of this type of vehicle include all-terrain vehicles (ATV), Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV), motorboats, and snowmobiles.

Non-Motorized Use: Recreational human and animal foot traffic. Examples include horses, llamas and other domestic animals.

Off-Highway Vehicle: This term is synonymous with the term off-road vehicle (or ORV). Whereas off-road vehicle is used in the regulations and includes any motorized vehicle, the term off-highway vehicle (or OHV) is a more contemporary term.

Off-Road Vehicle: Any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding: (1) any non-amphibious registered motorboat; (2) any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes; (3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer, or otherwise officially approved; (4) vehicles in official use; and (5) any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies.

Off-Road Vehicle Designations:

Open area means an area where all types of vehicle use is permitted at all times, anywhere in the area subject to the operating regulations and vehicle standards set forth in subpart 8341 and 8342 of this title.

Limited area means an area restricted at certain times, in certain areas, and/or to certain vehicular use. These restrictions may be of any type, but can generally be accommodated within the following type of categories: Numbers of vehicles; types of vehicles; time of season of vehicles use; permitted or licensed use only; use on existing roads and trails; use on designated roads and trails; and other restrictions.

Closed area means an area where off-road vehicle use is prohibited. Use of off-road vehicles in closed areas may be allowed for certain reasons; however, such use shall be made only with the approval of the authorized officer.

Protect: To take actions to guard against injury or loss.

Standards for Public Land Health: A description of conditions needed to sustain public land health; the standards relate to all uses of the public lands in Colorado.

Recreation Support Services: Resource, facility, and visitor management actions taken to provide activities, experiences, and benefits for the recreating public.

Resource Management Plan (RMP): A BLM multiple use planning document, prepared in accordance with Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, that

- a. establishes resource conditions goals and objectives to be attained;
- b. allocates resources and identifies allowable uses;
- c. identifies land areas for limited, restrictive, or exclusive uses; and
- d. provides guidance for implementation of the decisions made in the plan.

Transportation Management Plans: An activity plan that focuses on all aspects of transportation in a land area. Transportation planning can also be accomplished within Integrated Activity Plans, or Coordinated RMPs where multiple resource programs are planned for concurrently.

Visitor Use Infrastructure: Amenities such as roads, parking areas, and facilities, to protect the resource and support the recreation user in his/her pursuit of activities, experiences, and benefits.

ATTACHMENT 1

Note: The following is the full text of the Standards as it appears in each Resource Management Plan in Colorado.

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH **IN COLORADO**

November 1996

PREAMBLE

Humans use and derive benefits from public lands administered by BLM in Colorado in many ways: to earn a livelihood, to recreate, for education, for science, and to enjoy and appreciate open spaces and irreplaceable cultural heritage resources. Healthy public lands and the uses of those lands contribute to the health and economic well-being of Colorado communities. In turn, healthy human communities create healthy public lands by conserving, protecting, and properly utilizing public land resources and by effectively resolving conservation issues. Healthy public lands and healthy human communities are interrelated; therefore, social, economic, and environmental considerations must be properly balanced.

The interdependent relationship between human communities and their public land brings together people of diverse backgrounds and interests. Open, honest, and sincere interactions, in a spirit of trust and respect, are essential to achieving and maintaining healthy public lands. While all individuals have a voice in public land management goals, the responsibility to maintain healthy public lands ultimately falls with the users of those lands.

To help determine what constitutes healthy public lands, Standards for Public Land Health, by which the health of the land is measured, need to be established. This document defines such standards for BLM lands in Colorado.

INTERPRETATION

Standards and guidelines can be an effective communication tool, providing a common understanding of expected resource conditions and acceptable management practices. Although the standards are the measures by which health of the land will be assessed, the results of these assessments are not well-suited for direct reporting of accomplishments. Any reporting of progress associated with application of these standards will need to consider and address the following factors:

- Standards and guidelines for each state will be different.
- To be meaningful, public land health assessment must be determined based upon all standards and not solely upon each individual standard.
- It will be many years before a full assessment of public land health is completed. Initially, statistics concerning public land health may be skewed due to the priority setting process which directs management attention to lands where problems exist.

Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health, and relate to all uses of the

public lands. The standards are written in a two-part format. The standard is first described in a statement. Then indicators which relate to the standard are identified. The indicators help define the standard and describe features which are observable on the land. Additional indicators may also be applicable to some sites, and some indicators may not apply to every specific site. While a site should match the indicators it is not necessary for each site to perfectly match all the indicators to comply with the standard.

The appropriate use of resources will be determined by the authorized officer on a case by case basis, in consultation, coordination and cooperation with local cooperators and the interested public and in accordance with law and regulation.

Standards are observed on a landscape scale. It is not possible for each acre to achieve every standard. For example, a mosaic of vegetation types and age classes may produce the diversity associated with a healthy landscape; however, some individual vegetation communities within the mosaic may lack diversity.

Standards always relate to the potential of the landscape. Climate, landform, geologic, and biologic characteristics are factors that affect potential. Each landscape has a specific ability to provide values important to humans such as timber, livestock forage, water, wildlife, and minerals. Therefore, the potential of a site can also be altered through a wide variety of human socio-economic factors. When this occurs, a new potential exists. The authorized officer, through the consultation process, will evaluate the site based on its new potential. Comparative analysis of nearby landscapes, (that appear to have similar climate, geology, landform, biologic and socio-economic characteristics), is considered the most reliable means to identify the potential landscape.

It is common for landscapes with nearly identical potential to differ, in their appearance, and in the values they provide. Variability results from both natural plant succession patterns, and human uses. While the climax plant community is significant as an indicator of potential, the climax community does not automatically provide the comparative basis for evaluating the standard. In many circumstances local goals will identify a different plant community which provides the most optimum values. When this occurs, the plant community identified in the local goal replaces the climax community as the foundation for evaluating the standard.

Often, existing information will be sufficient to determine public land health. It is not always necessary to collect measurable baseline data for each standard on each site to determine public land health. However, baseline data is important to establish so that changes can be observed and measured. The BLM's authorized officer will determine the amount and type of data each situation requires in consultation, coordination and cooperation with local cooperators and the interested public. In areas where the standards are not being achieved, current uses and management actions will be reviewed and modified if necessary to assure significant progress toward achieving a healthy ecosystem.

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH

STANDARD 1: *Upland soils* exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, land form, and geologic processes. Adequate soil infiltration and permeability allows for the accumulation of soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth and vigor, and minimizes surface runoff.

Indicators:

- Expression of rills, soil pedestals is minimal.
- Evidence of actively-eroding gullies (incised channels) is minimal.
- Canopy and ground cover are appropriate.
- There is litter accumulating in place and is not sorted by normal overland water flow.

- There is appropriate organic matter in soil.
- There is diversity of plant species with a variety of root depths.
- Upland swales have vegetation cover or density greater than that of adjacent uplands.
- There are vigorous, desirable plants.

STANDARD 2: *Riparian systems* associated with both running and standing water, function properly and have the ability to recover from major disturbance such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods. Riparian vegetation captures sediment, and provides forage, habitat and bio-diversity. Water quality is improved or maintained. Stable soils store and release water slowly.

Indicators:

- Vegetation is dominated by an appropriate mix of native or desirable introduced species.
- Vigorous, desirable plants are present.
- There is vegetation with diverse age class structure, appropriate vertical structure, and adequate composition, cover, and density.
- Streambank vegetation is present and is comprised of species and communities that have root systems capable of withstanding high stream flow events.
- Plant species present indicate maintenance of riparian moisture characteristics.
- Stream is in balance with the water and sediment being supplied by the watershed (e.g., no headcutting, no excessive erosion or deposition).
- Vegetation and free water indicate high water tables.
- Vegetation colonizes point bars with a range of age classes and successional stages.
- An active floodplain is present.
- Residual floodplain vegetation is available to capture and retain sediment and dissipate flood energies.
- Stream channels with size and meander pattern appropriate for the stream's position in the landscape, and parent materials.
- Woody debris contributes to the character of the stream channel morphology.

STANDARD 3: Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat's potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population level are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations, and ecological processes.

Indicators:

- Noxious weeds and undesirable species are minimal in the overall plant community.
- Native plant and animal communities are spatially distributed across the landscape with a density, composition, and frequency of species suitable to ensure reproductive capability and sustainability.
- Plants and animals are present in mixed age classes sufficient to sustain recruitment and mortality fluctuations.
- Landscapes exhibit connectivity of habitat or presence of corridors to prevent habitat fragmentation.
- Photosynthetic activity is evident throughout the growing season.
- Diversity and density of plant and animal species are in balance with habitat/landscape potential and exhibit resilience to human activities.
- Appropriate plant litter accumulates and is evenly distributed across the landscape.
- Landscapes composed of several plant communities that may be in a variety of successional stages and patterns.

STANDARD 4: Special status, threatened and endangered species (federal and state), and other

plants and animals officially designated by the BLM, and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy, native plant and animal communities.

Indicators:

- All the indicators associated with the plant and animal communities standard apply.
- There are stable and increasing populations of endemic and protected species in suitable habitat.
- Suitable habitat is available for recovery of endemic and protected species.

STANDARD 5: The water quality of all water bodies, including ground water where applicable, located on or influenced by BLM lands will achieve or exceed the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado. Water Quality Standards for surface and ground waters include the designated beneficial uses, numeric criteria, narrative criteria, and antidegradation requirements set forth under State law as found in (5 CCR 1002-8), as required by Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act.

Indicators:

- Appropriate populations of macroinvertebrates, vertebrates, and algae are present.
- Surface and ground waters only contain substances (e.g. sediment, scum, floating debris, odor, heavy metal precipitates on channel substrate) attributable to humans within the amounts, concentrations, or combinations as directed by the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado (5 CCR 1002-8).

FLEXIBILITY

The standards are designed to maintain or achieve healthy public lands while allowing for the development of local goals and objectives. For example, on sites of similar potential a desired plant community designed to provide deer winter range would differ from one designed for cattle summer range, yet both could achieve the standards. Local goals and specific objectives consistent with standards will be developed by BLM in consultation, cooperation and coordination with local cooperators and the interested public.

IMPLEMENTATION

Recognizing that social and economic factors must be considered in achieving healthy public lands, the authorized officer will coordinate, consult and cooperate with the local cooperators and interested publics during all phases of implementing standards and guidelines, whether it be for an allotment, group of allotments, or watershed. BLM will strive to make use of collaborative approaches involving the various interested publics within an affected allotment, group of allotments, or watershed. The Resource Advisory Council (RAC) may be requested by any party to assist in reaching agreement in resolving disputes. As greater understanding of ecosystems, including socio-economic factors, becomes available, it will be applied to our management of public lands.

The section below describes the general process for applying the Colorado standards and guidelines in the field. If mutual agreement on a course of action is reached at any point during this process, such agreement may eliminate the need for some of the process steps described.

It is unreasonable to assume that standards and guidelines will be applied to all public lands immediately upon adoption. Therefore, it is imperative that a logical system for prioritizing work be adopted. Following are some criteria that the authorized officer uses to prioritize areas such as allotments, watersheds, or other landscapes:

- Are there situations where legal requirements must be met?

- Is there information to indicate resources at risk, or that the severity of resource damage demands immediate attention? (monitoring results, allotment categorization, professional judgement, results of ESI or other inventory data, etc.)
- Is use conflict present?
- Is there public concern or interest for possible resources at risk?
- What is scheduled for completion according to the RMP implementation schedule?
- Where can efficiencies with limited resources be realized?
- Where are the best opportunities to effect positive change toward public land health?
- Are there permits or other resource use authorizations that need to be acted upon (e.g. grazing, right-of-ways, timber sales, etc.)?

The following steps describe a typical sequence for assessing public land health and trend on established priority areas. The authorized officer will:

1. Using public scoping, identify issues and values in detail; identify existing management objectives from sources such as the Resource Management Plan (RMP), and activity plans.
2. Assess public land health and if possible determine the trend relating to public land health.
3. Determine the relationship between existing land uses and the assessed health of the land.
4. If needed, establish measurable objectives or redefine/modify existing management objectives that will result in desired conditions. (Note: If significant changes to RMP decisions are needed, an amendment to the RMP will be needed.)
5. Identify which land use actions will achieve the desired objectives and resource conditions.

NOTE: This document addresses the livestock grazing guidelines; guidelines that relate to other land uses will be consulted or developed as necessary to deal with the appropriate objectives.

6. Identify specific management practices, in conformance with the guidelines, and attach as terms and conditions on grazing permits, or as stipulations on specific projects or actions.
7. Establish an evaluation schedule to determine if the standard is being achieved or if significant progress is being made.

- If the evaluation indicates that objectives are being achieved or there is movement towards the objective, continue with management practices.
- If the evaluation indicates no movement or movement away from the objectives, reassess the objectives and management actions. Determine the objectives and management actions necessary to assure significant progress toward achieving the standards. Amend plans and permits as necessary.

The authorized officer will take immediate administrative action to implement appropriate guidelines upon a determination that the following three circumstances all apply:

1. Public land health is unacceptable;
2. Existing management is not likely to produce significant progress towards public land health; and
3. The consultation process has failed to yield a negotiated resolution.

If needed, future modifications to the Standards and Guidelines may be made. Typically, a

proposal for modification is presented to the local Designated Field Official (DFO). The DFO then forwards the proposal for modification to other DFOs throughout the state for consideration in consultation with the RACs. (A copy of the proposal for modification is also submitted to the State Director). The DFOs considering advise from the RACs then submit to the State Director recommendations regarding the proposal for modification. The State Director decides if the proposal for modification has merit. If so, a determination is made whether the modification is a maintenance change to the Resource Management Plans or requires a plan amendment. Maintenance changes require no action except to make a notation in the RMPs (43 CFR 161.0.5-4). Actions requiring a RMP amendment will require NEPA analysis and conformance with 43 CFR 161.0.5.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THE STANDARDS

Activity Plan - A more detailed and specific plan for management of a single resource program to achieve specific objectives undertaken only when needed to implement the more general Resource Management Plan (RMP) decisions. Activity planning is now accomplished with Integrated Activity Plans (IAP), or Coordinated Resource Management Plans (CRMP).

Allotment - An area of land designated and managed for the grazing of livestock by one or more livestock operators. It generally consists of public lands, but may include parcels of private or State-owned lands. The number of livestock and period of use are stipulated for each allotment.

Allotment Management Plan - A written plan for livestock grazing management, including supportive measures if required, designed to attain specific multiple-use management, sustained yield, economic and other goals in a grazing allotment.

Best Management Practices - Best Management Practices (BMPs) are methods, measures, or practices to prevent or reduce water pollution, including, but not limited to, structural and nonstructural controls and operation and maintenance procedures. Usually BMP's are applied as a system of practices rather than a single practice. BMPs are selected on the basis of site-specific conditions that reflect natural background conditions and political, social, economic, and technical feasibility.

Biodiversity or Diversity - The variety of plants and animals that occupy a landscape.

Climax - The natural plant community that occurs at the end of the plant successional path, in the absence of disturbances or physical site deterioration.

Desired Plant Community - A plant community that meets the goals established for a landscape.

Ecosystem - Living organisms and non-living substances, interacting to produce and exchange material between the living and non-living parts.

Endemic Species - A species or subspecies native to a particular location with narrow limits of habitat variability.

Goal - A general description of a desired future condition. (e.g. improve watershed conditions, achieve a desired plant community)

Grazing Permit - A document authorizing use of public lands within an established grazing district.

Habitat Management Plans - A type of activity plan relating to wild life habitat.

Heritage Resources - Any prehistoric, historic, landscape, site, building, structure, or object, normally greater than 50 years of age and includes artifacts, records, and material remains associated therewith.

Interested Public - An individual, group or organization that has submitted a written request to the authorized officer to be provided an opportunity to be involved in the decision making process for the management of livestock grazing on specific allotments or has submitted written comments to the authorized officer regarding the management of livestock grazing on a specific allotment.

Landscape - A defined area that forms a management unit or basis of analysis.

Land Treatments - Controlled burning, mechanical, biological, or chemical manipulation of the land.

Local Cooperator - An individual who directly influences the management of public lands, and who's cooperation is needed to alter existing conditions. BLM permit holders are local cooperators.

Objective - A measurable description of a desired future condition that specifies, what is to be accomplished, location, and time frame.

Plant and Animal Communities - Those plant and animals which occur on public land; the definition excludes people, livestock, and crops.

Potential - The ecological condition of an area that is possible due to physical, biological, social, and economic factors.

Preliminary Assessment - An analysis of a tract of land that provides general information on the status of the land. This assessment does not provide in-depth issue analysis.

Public Lands - Those tracts of land owned by the people of the United States, that are administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Riparian - An area of land directly influenced by permanent water. It has visible vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of permanent water influence. Lakeshores and streambanks are typical riparian areas. Excluded are such sites as ephemeral streams or washes that do not have vegetation dependent on free water in the soil.

Trend - The direction of change in health of the land, observed over time.