

2014

# ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA ANNUAL REPORT



Silver Bullet Boat Chute: May 2014



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

02/26/2015

**W**elcome to the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area's Annual Report for 2014. This annual report covers the activities of the AHRA from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

A better than average snowpack and the resulting run-off, an improved economy and stable fuel prices helped increase summer vacation travel this past summer which resulted in commercial boat number increase of 6.8% and private boat numbers increases of 12.1% in 2014 as compared to 2013.

The **Citizens Task Force (CTF)** continues to be an instrumental force behind the success of the AHRA. This advisory committee meets five times a year and provides recommendations to the management team on many critical and diverse issues facing the recreation area. In addition, with the AHRA management plan revision process starting in 2015, the CTF will continue to play an important role for the partners that form AHRA - Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service. The Citizens Task Force is composed of two representative members from each of the following AHRA constituency groups:

Anglers	Private Boaters
Commercial Permittees	Local Governments
Environmentalists	River Front Property Owners
Water Users	

For the purpose of daily operation, AHRA is organized into work "sections". Each of these sections has specific responsibilities and is staffed by both full-time and temporary employees with specific job assignments. The many dedicated temporary employees at AHRA accomplish the visible fieldwork. In a typical season, AHRA employs nearly 30 temporary staff members. In 2014 AHRA employed 25 temporary staff members and a volunteer internship. For 2014, the following full-time staff members supervised the work sections noted below:

### **AHRA Sections and Supervisors**

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

In 2014 there were no Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) full-time staff changes.

## 2014 Special Activities

Applicant Group Name	Event Type	Location
Timberline Events LLC	Race	Railroad Bridge
Arkansas River Trust-Salida pole Paddle and Paddle	Ski, Bike & Kayak Race	Big Bend to Salida
Colorado Whitewater Assoc. Training Camp	Kayak Instruction	Various River Sections
Gravity Play Sports, Adventure Xstream	Adventure Race	W.A. Rafting to Fisherman's Bridge
Paddlefest	Multiple Events	Buena Vista Whitewater Park
Aaron Zetler Mann	Gravel Bar Study Browns	Fish to Hecla
TransRockies Run	Trail Running Race	Railroad Bridge Campground
Fremont County SAR	Swiftwater Rescue Training	Centennial Park, Cañon City
Fremont County SAR	Swiftwater Rescue Training	Centennial Park, Cañon City
FIBArk Boat Races Inc.	Whitewater Festival	Ark. River Pine Creek to Cotopaxi
Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival	Whitewater Festival	Cañon City and Royal Gorge
KRDO TV & Heuberger Motors	Commercial Filming	Fisherman's Bridge to Hecla Jct.
Down River Rendezvous	Raft Demons	Buena Vista to Hecla
Chaffee County Heritage Advisory Board	Dedication of Historic Bridge	Stone Bridge
Chaffee County SAR	OHV Training	Big Bend Track
CCCM Projects LLC/Original Media	Film	Various
Grit and Thistle Film	Film	Browns Canyon
Central Colorado Bike Trails	Bicycle Trials Competition	Granite Mountain Site
Rocky Mountain Adventure Quest	Filming	Various
Camp 4 Collective	Filming	Browns Canyon- Hecla Junction
Extreme Makeover Weight Loss S5	Filming	Royal Gorge - Rafting

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

ACTIVITY*	2014 PEOPLE	2013 PEOPLE	'13 TO '14 % CHANGE	
SIGHTSEEING	289,958	248,575	+16.6%	
FISHING	Shore	75,157	68,060	+10.4%
	Boat	5,189	5,090	+1.9%
PICNICKING	42,877	37,093	+15.6%	
BOATING **	Commercial	239,794	224,600	+6.8%
	Private	22,280	19,588	+12.1%
OTHER (Minerals, Visitor Center, Hunting, Other)	38,715	38,183	+1.1%	
TRAIL	23,743	20,094	+15.4%	
INTERPRETIVE/EVENTS	16,121	15,577	+3.5%	
CAMPING	40,876	36,669	+10.3%	
<b>ACTIVITIES TOTAL</b>	<b>786,928</b>	<b>717,791</b>	<b>+9.6%</b>	

\*May include participants in multiple activities

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

### AHRA Administrative Section

The Administrative section for 2014 was staffed by one full-time Colorado Parks and Wildlife Program Assistant I, Rose Bayless; two temporary Customer Service Representatives, Mari Griffin and Jamie Tackel; and temporary summer GOCO Naturalist/Volunteer Coordinator, Jeff Rangitsch.

The Administrative Section staff meet and greet visitors to the AHRA Visitor Center, deal with tens of thousands of phone calls and provide a full range of information services on the upper Arkansas River valley and recreational activities including camping, boating, fishing, gold panning, hiking, biking, etc. They handle sales and recordkeeping for all AHRA revenues from commercial Special Use Agreements, notices of violation, special activity/event agreements, Park passes, camping permits, off-highway vehicle, snowmobile and boat registrations, fish and game licenses, and also sell guide books, maps and other items provided by the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA). AHRA administrative staff also sells BLM fuel wood permits, Christmas tree cutting permits, and placer area notifications.

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

The Administrative Section is responsible for reporting and reconciling all revenues received by AHRA from many different sources, as well as maintaining records and reports for budgets and expenditures from a number of funds, including grants. Administrative personnel function as the AHRA base radio dispatchers to field staff, provide administrative support to AHRA and BLM employees, and maintain current CPW website information for AHRA. The Administrative section also coordinates AHRA special events, such as Earth Day and the Annual Arkansas River Cleanup/Greenup; “Junior Rangers”, “TOT’s on Tuesdays” and other youth activities; campground and environmental education programs; administers the AHRA Volunteer Program; and organizes a variety of meetings and events throughout the year. Other duties include training seasonal employees and interns; maintaining AHRA budget, visitation and revenue information and creating related reports; and providing human resources assistance for AHRA staff. It should be noted that with the merger of Parks and Wildlife, the joint accounting system for CPW through the State was updated and went on-line in August 2014. The joint CPW web site also went on-line during 2014.

**Administrative Services, Sales and Revenue Statistics  
(January through December 2014)**

2014 Activity Compared to 2013		
429	Annual parks passes sold	16%
25,355.00	Revenue from annual passes sold	22%
220	Aspen Leaf passes sold	11%
9,105.00	Revenue from Aspen Leaf passes sold *	-17%
101,474.00	Field revenue from daily passes	7%
95,293.96	Revenue from camp permits and reservations	7%
1,705	Boat, Snowmobile, and OHV registrations & permits sold	3%
45,970.00	Revenue from registration sales	3%
15,940.26	Misc revenues (citations, special activities, wildlife licens	2%
773,812.36	Revenue from commercial agreements	9%

\*Issued many “Lifetime Aspen Free” in 2014

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

**Administrative Section Visitor Contacts for 2014**

# Of People	Type of Activity	Compared to 2013
35,170	Visitor Center	+10.9%
1,440	Personal Interpretation/Events	+0%
13,830	Non-Personal Interpretation/Media/Events	+8%
2,924	Environmental Education	+10%

### Volunteer Hours for 2014

# of Hours	Type of Activity	Compared to 2013
*6709 hrs	All Volunteers (groups or individuals)	+6%
596 hrs	AHRA Advisory Groups (CTF, RAAC)	+10.7%

\*AHRA did not have any volunteer camp hosts in 2014

AHRA's **Volunteer Program** hours were up 6% overall but we did not have volunteer campground hosts during the summer of 2014. In 2012 (the last year we had camp hosts), campground hosts contributed 770 hours. The biggest reason AHRA has a difficult time attracting camp hosts is the absence of hook-ups (electric, water, sewer).

A variety of **Interpretive and Environmental Education** programs, hikes and events were presented to the public throughout 2014. GOCO Interpreter Jeff Rangitsch captivated "junior rangers" with programs and activities such as "Wilderness Survival", "Scats and Tracks", "Water Word Search", and "Scavenger Hunt". Excited kids ages 5-11 beat a path each Wednesday morning in Salida and Thursday morning and afternoon in Buena Vista and Leadville to join Jeff as he wove his web of magic and revealed nature's secrets. The grand finale was the Junior Ranger raft trip on August 8, with 25 participants. It was many a child's first time on the river, and although the stretch of river from Johnson's Village to Fisherman's Bridge is a gentle one, the kids were thrilled and had the time of their lives.

AHRA continued to be very active in 2014 with Project Wild, area schools, local recreation programs and other youth groups to provide environmental education that is consistent with their own curriculum. AHRA teamed up with CPW staff and GARNA to recruit volunteers to monitor bluebird houses at AHRA recreation sites for the National Bluebird Monitoring Project. We were also very fortunate to have some valuable and faithful volunteers to assist with staffing the Poncha Springs "Heart of the Rockies" visitor center", and many volunteers assisted with our 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual River Cleanup in May, and with special projects, events and programs. Volunteer Naturalist, Bob Hickey, was instrumental in many hikes and an automobile tour of AHRA, as well as assisting with the "Gathering of the Guides" workshop and other campground programs.

AHRA also participated in many community events including Paddlefest and Gold Rush Days in Buena Vista; Earth Day, the River Guide "Gathering of the Guides" workshop and FIBArk held in Salida; and the Canon City River Festival. AHRA, GARNA, and the FIBArk "Cruiser Crit" parade partnered together for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual National River CleanUp/GreenUp on May 17<sup>th</sup>.



## AHRA YEAR 2014 REVENUES

Year 2014 by Month	Park Passes	Camping Permits/ Reservations	Registrations	Special Use Agreements	Penalties, License Sales, Special Activities, COSAR, etc.	Totals
January	1,359.06	128.00	810.00	2,000.00	889.75	5,186.81
February	833.76	173.00	830.00	8,442.50	46.50	10,325.76
March	3,583.28	323.00	5,895.00	23,225.53	1,014.02	34,040.83
April	9,808.26	3,330.40	5,115.00	11,146.95	1,657.25	31,057.86
May	20,933.85	12,271.25	6,000.00	98,682.20	2,003.25	139,890.55
June	34,472.64	21,743.84	7,130.00	207,673.63	2,042.50	273,062.61
July	29,570.78	24,537.00	7,395.00	1,200.00	2,983.94	65,686.72
August	20,662.36	20,629.55	4,270.00	2,250.00	2,672.75	50,484.66
September	13,370.40	8,810.92	3,640.00	2,371.99	1,484.50	29,677.81
October	5,632.54	2,360.00	1,735.00	210,209.68	860.05	220,797.27
November	2,384.73	875.00	1,510.00	174,294.00	200.25	179,263.98
December	934.00	112.00	1,640.00	32,315.88	85.50	35,087.38
<b>2014 Totals</b>	<b>143,545.66</b>	<b>95,293.96</b>	<b>45,970.00</b>	<b>773,812.36</b>	<b>15,940.26</b>	<b>1,074,562.24</b>
<b>2013 Totals</b>	<b>120,393.26</b>	<b>88,807.06</b>	<b>44,756.50</b>	<b>708,151.24</b>	<b>15,570.11</b>	<b>974,579.77</b>

\*AHRA revenues saw an overall --- **10.3%** increase in 2014 as compared to 2013

## AHRA CALENDAR YEAR 2014 EXPENDITURES - CPW ONLY

Year Totals	*Temporary Personnel All Sources	Operating	Utilities	Capital Projects/ Equipment	Controlled Maintenance	GOCO, Grants & Misc. Accounts	TOTALS
<b>2014 TOTALS</b>	<b>\$303,321.56</b>	<b>\$174,263.22</b>	<b>\$29,409.70</b>	N/A	<b>\$82,636.08</b>	<b>\$30,825.00</b>	<b>\$620,455.56</b>
Total Expenditures for Water and Related Costs in 2014				Southeast Colorado Water Cons. District			\$ 1,000.00
				Bureau of Reclamation			\$33,790.00
				Ordway Water Lease			\$12,375.00
				Pueblo Board of Water Works			\$ 5,330.00
				USGS Water Gages			\$16,100.00
<b>**Grand Total</b>							<b>\$689,050.56</b>

\*Does not include Full-Time Personnel

\*\*Does not include pro-rated system-wide Division expenditures

## AHRA Ranger Section

The Ranger Section patrols all portions, both land and river, of the AHRA throughout the year. In the past, the three full-time staff members hired up to twelve temporary staff members to assist them with their patrol responsibilities. The AHRA Temporary Work Program (TWP) budget allowed for eight, 40 hour per week temporary rangers at the start of the 2014 summer season. The river section had four, 40 hour per week temporary rangers assigned to it. The land section had four, 40 hour per week temporary rangers. In addition to these eight TWP rangers there were two TWP Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Rangers. These positions were funded by an OHV grant and were supervised by the Land Ranger Supervisor. The OHV rangers worked with two OHV rangers assigned to the U.S. Forest Service funded by the same grant. Youth Internship Program (YIP) grant money funded one of the four Land Ranger temporary positions starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. YIP funding allowed AHRA to hire a winter temporary ranger in the later part of 2014 and continuing into 2015. In the 2015 summer season the YIP grants will fund two River Ranger Interns and Land Ranger Intern that will be in addition to the four temporary rangers in each section.

Temporary rangers assigned to land-based operations are responsible for managing visitor use in the busy recreation sites and campgrounds and for collecting field revenue critical to AHRA operations. This vital field staffs are the primary personnel our visitors come into contact with during the summer months. Because of TWP budget and associated seasonal staff cuts, the temporary staff was unable to maintain ideal coverage of two shifts per day, seven days a week, patrolling both upstream and downstream of Salida. Even with some temporary shifts covered by full-time supervisors, there were some weekdays with only one shift both up and downstream. Night shifts occurred on Friday, Saturday and holiday evenings and were staffed by one TWP and one full-time ranger. The shortening of TWP seasons and shifting duties to full-time staff during the shoulder seasons seems to be the preferred method of staying within the TWP budget.

Four of the AHRA temporary rangers specialize in whitewater boating activities on the river. Known as river rangers, they patrol whitewater sections of the Arkansas otherwise inaccessible to AHRA staff. These rangers actively monitor river flows, mitigate hazards, provide whitewater search and rescue support, inspect commercial and private boat trips for adequate safety equipment and operations, investigate boat accidents and provide expert river education to AHRA visitors in the field. The 2014 boating season saw a record number of serious accidents creating significant additional workload and stress to the temporary and full time ranger staff. As the Arkansas River is one of the most commercially rafted rivers in the United States, much of the river rangers' time is spent administering the state River Outfitter Licensing Program. In addition, river rangers also undertake a variety of resource related projects such as river camp and picnic site monitoring and the control of invasive plant species in remote sections of the recreation area.

The OHV rangers are part of a four-person multi-agency trail crew working in the Upper Arkansas River Valley. The trail crew members represent Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service. Funding for this collaborative effort comes from an OHV grant funded by OHV registrations. The trail crew maintains trails and OHV



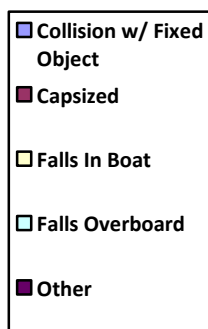
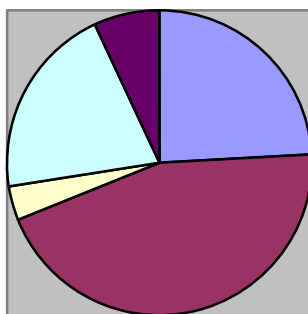
routes, provides input on new OHV routes, and enforces OHV registration and equipment requirements. The trail crew promotes motorized recreation by encouraging safe riding practices and Stay the Trail and Tread Lightly guidelines. The trail crew also works with local OHV riding clubs to promote volunteer opportunities by means of the U.S. Forest Service Adopt a Trail program.

The three full-time park rangers, the state park manager, and the assistant park manager are all certified Colorado peace officers. Additionally, all AHRA temporary law enforcement rangers are limited commission, Title 33 officers who enforce only Colorado Parks and Wildlife laws and regulations. When necessary, all rangers can take the appropriate law enforcement action necessary to protect our visitors, preserve the resource and ensure compliance with other administrative regulations. While law enforcement may not be the primary function of any ranger’s job, it is an important and necessary responsibility of all rangers. It should also be noted that AHRA rangers work closely with other local, state and federal peace officers and resource managers in the performance of their duties.

In the winter the full-time rangers continue to patrol AHRA sites along the river corridor. Winter search and rescue activities usually amount to assisting other agencies with motorists that end up in the river. Full time rangers also conduct snowmobile patrols as well as avalanche rescue activities. Additionally, rangers manage several snowmobile trail-grooming contracts and patrol snowmobile trails on Bureau of Land Management, National Forest and other public lands in Chaffee, Lake, Gunnison and Saguache counties as part of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Snowmobile Program responsibilities. Winter is also the ideal time for rangers to complete most of their training and re-certifications, to organize and evaluate programs and plan for the up-coming high use season.

### Summary of Public Safety Field Actions

River Outfitter Safety Inspections	90
River Outfitter Office Records Inspections	13
River Assists	292
Search, Rescue and Recovery Operations	21
River Hazard Removal Operations - River	17



### 2014 BOAT ACCIDENTS BY CAUSE

CAUSE	TOTAL
Collision w/ Fixed Object	7
Capsized	13
Falls In Boat	1
Falls Overboard	6
Other	2
Collision w/ Other Vessel	0
<b>TOTAL ACCIDENTS</b>	<b>29</b>

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

## 2014 Investigated and Reported Incidents

Reportable Commercial Boat Accidents	19
Private Boat Accidents	8
Other Commercial Accidents	10
Other Non-Commercial Accidents	0
OHV Accidents	1
Interagency Assists / SAR	10
Vandalism / Theft	1
Hazard Removal / HAZMAT - Land	0
Other	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>56</b>
Above incidents include 9 fatalities investigated	

## 2014 Citations Issued

Pass/Permit Violations	295
Resource Protection Violations	6
Public Safety Violations	11
Records/Reporting Violations	14
<b>*Total</b>	<b>326</b>
*Above total includes 18 citations to commercial outfitters	

## AHRA Special Use Agreement Section

The **Special Use Agreement Section** exists to accurately and efficiently administer AHRA Special Use Agreements as well as administer the Rationing Plan for Commercial Boating on the Arkansas River within the AHRA. AHRA had 59 commercial contractors in 2014. Permitted contractors provided various combinations of activities such as whitewater rafting, float fishing, walk & wade fishing, shuttle services, rock climbing, hiking, Mt. biking and photo/video imaging to over 194,032 paying clients in 2014. In 2014, commercial use at AHRA INCREASED by 6.33% as compared to 2013. Gross revenue received from commercial operations within the AHRA in 2014 was 9.12% ABOVE revenue received in 2013. This total includes revenue only from total gross receipts and **does not** include administrative and assessment fees. The Arkansas River within the AHRA remains the most commercially rafted river in the United States.

This section also administers the AHRA Rationing Plan that regulates commercial boat per day (bpd) carrying capacities on thirteen different river Sections. In 2014, river sections had commercial bpd carrying capacities ranging from 360 bpd to 10 bpd with differing Section specific boating restrictions.

In addition, this section develops data control methods and commercial use verification for Contractor Special Use Agreement compliance. Assisting in this program is a two person temporary Count Crew responsible for collecting Spot Checks and maintaining an electronic database for Trip Log comparison. This section also has two temporary Rationing Program Assistants, one of which is employed during the winter months, and one of which is employed during the summer months, to assist with annual boat allocations and oversee the Special Use Agreement Application program.

### AHRA Commercial Special Use Agreements - By Type

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Boating .....	53	50
Imaging .....	25	26
Walk and Wade Fishing .....	15	15
Shuttle Services .....	3	5
Rock Climbing, Hiking & Mt. Biking.....	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>102</b>

### Rationed Days - By Section

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Section 1c - The Numbers .....	9	9
Section 2b - Browns Canyon.....	9	10
Section 2d - Big Bend to Salida .....	9	10
Section 3 - Salida to Vallie Bridge .....	47	50
Section 4b - Texas Creek to Parkdale.....	4	4
Section 5 - The Royal Gorge .....	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>97</b>

## AHRA Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management recreation staff continues to see some changes over what was reported in the 2013 report. BLM recreation staff members in 2014 were the River Manager, a seasonal park ranger whose focus was on wilderness characteristic inventory, and a seasonal administrative position.

The BLM River Manager (John P. Nahomenuk) works side by side with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Manager to assure that the decisions within the Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan (ARRMP) are fully implemented, as well as working with a multitude of other agencies, interest groups and organizations unique to this multi-agency partnership. He is also responsible for the maintenance and enhancement, where possible, of the overall health of the public lands along the river corridor. The BLM River Manager is responsible to the Royal Gorge Field Office, Assistant Field Office Manager for Renewable Resources (Melissa Garcia) located at the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office in Canon City, CO. Keith E. Berger is the Royal Gorge Field Office Manager and Tom Heinlein is the District Manager who oversees the Royal Gorge and San Luis Valley Field offices.

Janine Snyder (seasonal Park Ranger) was our main public contact representative in 2014 and spends a great deal of her time patrolling the uplands and making contacts with the recreating public. She is also responsible for maintaining trails and facilities. Janine's main project last year focused on conducting the Wilderness Characteristic Inventory for the Royal Gorge Field Office. This inventory looked at BLM lands that were Roadless and were greater than 5,000 acres in size. These lands also need to have outstanding opportunities for solitude, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation and feature naturalness, with any work by humans being substantially unnoticeable. Janine receives assistance from the recreation staff out of Canon City. Janine left the seasonal BLM on October 30, 2014 and took a permanent position with the US Forest Service in Fairplay, Co.

Mari Griffin was our Administrative Assistant. Mari was funded six months through BLM and six months through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Her year-round support to the Administrative section and AHRA provides much needed consistency to our very busy office. Mari is the first line of contact for visitors in need of information or to register Off Highway Vehicles and boats. Mari also issues permits for firewood gathering, Christmas trees and recreational mining. Mari left her position at AHRA on September 30 to work in the private sector. Jamie Tackel replaced Mari and began working year round funded by BLM and CPW.

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

## AHRA Maintenance Section

The Maintenance Section is responsible for year-round daily site cleaning, repair, and improvements for the entire recreation area from the Crystal Lakes Recreation Site near Leadville, to the Pink House Recreation Site in Canon City.

The maintenance section is extensively involved in site maintenance, improvements and modifications suggested by our visitors, outfitters and staff. To assist AHRA in achieving many of its maintenance goals in 2014 the maintenance section extensively utilized Department of Corrections Sign Shop and Labor Crews, volunteer groups, community service workers. The Department of Corrections Labor Crews contributed 850 hours towards grounds maintenance of land under AHRA jurisdiction. In addition the maintenance staff provided 760 hours of weed control efforts. During 2014 the maintenance department accomplished the following:

- Recreation Area and Visitor Center maintenance.
- Coordinated DOC labor crew spring and fall clean up.
- Working with CDOT on highway signage for AHRA.
- Sign designing with Department of Corrections Sign Shop on signage for AHRA.
- Attended PRT training in Pueblo.
- Contracted Custom Weed Control (CTS) for bare ground herbicide application on roads and parking lots.
- Contractor replaced deteriorating turbines and risers on older brick vault toilets.
- Interviewed applicants for temporary summer positions.
- Installed CPW logos on park signage.
- Installed webcam on Salida Steam Plant overlooking Arkansas River Whitewater Park.
- Installed bird proof screens on CXT vents.
- Set up for Stone Bridge historical designation ceremony.
- Fence repairs around AHRA visitor center perimeter.
- Continued research and development for a more secure pay tube system.
- Installed signage for the newly developed Pink House Recreation Site.
- Expanded our use of Southland Organics "OP-Port" vault toilet odor control product to include all of our sites.
- Continued to improve our AHRA signage throughout the park.
- Research and development for fish hatchery low head dam illuminated signage.
- Worked with Engineers and ACA on the Helena Project
- Met with Engineers, Fisheries Biologist to assess the function of the Helena Improvements
- Tested the Helena Improvements with an Oar Boat
- Worked closely with Engineer (Eric Stenke) on plans and design for Hecla CG
- Oversaw operations and construction of Hecla renovation
- Worked on plans and design for the Arkansas River Placer Property
- Worked with ACA on the Flood Damage Contract at Pink House, Parkdale, Pinnacle, Trading Post and Hecla

- Worked on Big Bend track and parking
- Maintained all roads and parking areas
- Built Three Panel and Welcome signs
- Attended Advanced WSTA at Steamboat Lake
- Attended Annual PRT Training in Pueblo
- Refreshed skills in the Swift Water Rescue Course
- Worked with CYCA at Arkansas River Ranch and Big Bend
- Worked with the OHV Crew at Texas Creek, Triad Ridge and Ute Trail
- Assisted with the removal of multiple hazard trees in the river
- Built new Overflow Parking at Railroad Bridge
- Worked on flood damage from heavy rains at Ruby, Hecla, Stone Bridge, Salida East and Rincon
- Installed the bollards at Hayden Meadows and Arkansas River Ranch and scarified reclamation area
- Assisted Rangers with the removal of back boards in Browns Canyon
- Attended 13th Annual Colorado Snow and Avalanche Workshop
- Attended Outdoor Emergency Care Refresher for EMT Continuing Education Unit's
- Attended IMBA Trail Building Workshop
- Attended Stage Coach Trail Public Meeting in BV
- Trained with WSTA Instructors on Snowmobile Riding and Instructing Techniques
- Planned and helped instruct the Avalanche Course
- Assisted Chaffee County Search and Rescue with stranded snowmobilers
- Repaired the Visitor Center Fence

### **AHRA State Park Management**

**Park Manager, Rob White, and Assistant Park Manager, Tom Waters,** oversee and coordinate the daily visitor service and maintenance operations and overall programs and projects for the entire work unit described above. They are the communication link between field staff and the Southeast Region Office in Colorado Springs and Colorado Parks and Wildlife offices in Denver and Littleton. They also work closely with the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service to insure that management plan goals and directives are being met and to implement the Upper Arkansas River Voluntary Flow Management Program (VFMP) each year. Most importantly, they work with the public to provide the many community and resource wide coordination activities and efforts needed throughout the 152-mile river corridor and continue to develop and enhance communication and cooperation among visitors as well as current and potential partners.

This year, as in past years, AHRA staff continued to maintain the essential quality of management practices and public services that help conserve the Arkansas River and its unique features for everyone's enjoyment.



## 2014 Annual Report Accomplishments

- Worked on SUA Red Line version including “non-owned” auto insurance requirements and low water exception
- Prepared 2014 invoices
- Published use reports on Boating, Walk/Wade, Private boating and Float Fishing
- Completed AIARE Instructor Course
- Instructed at AWSTA-Steamboat Lake State Park
- Assisted Chaffee South S&R with training
- Worked on the Helena Project with ACA making daily visits
- Started Flood Damage work downstream with ACA
- Worked on Big Bend track and parking
- Attended Colorado River Outfitters Association February 4<sup>th</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup>
- Work on the new deployment of AHRA Waterflow website
- Met with the New CPW Director at the SE Region office
- Reworked the Count Crew temp budget
- Instructed at West Slope in-service
- Attended disaster meeting in Fremont County
- Attended Park Resource Technician training at Lake Pueblo
- Sign design with DOC sign shop for “FEE” and “Welcome To” signs
- Completed MRMI requests
- Processed Task Force nominations. Completed CTF Selection Matrix
- Worked on roads and parking at Railroad Bridge, Collegiate Peaks Overlook, Fisherman’s Bridge, Big Bend, Salida East and Rincon
- Met with Engineers for problems at Helena
- Met with Engineer for Hecla Campground
- Fibark Pine Creek and Hooligan Safety
- Researched Boat Safety Equipment Grant Request
- Chaffee Search and Rescue Training
- Met with Engineer and Contractors for Hecla CG Bid Show
- Removed hazard tree from Hecla Day Use Area and trail to Seidels
- Repairs on Ruby Mt. flood damage. Replaced damaged picnic table at site #21.
- Attended water treatment class held in Alamosa.
- Did concrete work for bollards at Hayden Meadows and Arkansas River Ranch

*This concludes the 2014 Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area Annual Report. If you should have any questions regarding this report please contact Rob White, the AHRA Park Manager, or John Nahomenuk, the AHRA BLM River Manager at (719) 539-7289 or via e-mail at [ahra@state.co.us](mailto:ahra@state.co.us). Additional copies of this report can be downloaded from: <http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/Parks/ArkansasHeadwatersRecreationArea>.*