

2016

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA ANNUAL REPORT



Ruby Mountain Campground
Improvements Site #19



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

01/31/2017

Welcome to the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area's (AHRA) Annual Report for 2016. This annual report covers the activities of the AHRA from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

An above average snowpack and the resulting run-off (almost too much), an improved economy and stable fuel prices helped increase summer vacation travel in 2016, which resulted in commercial boat number increase of 11.6% and private boat numbers increases of 8.7% in 2016 as compared to 2015.

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 continuing in 2016, the CTF will continue to play an important role for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The Citizens Task Force is composed of two representative members from each of the following AHRA constituency groups:

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

For the purpose of daily operation, AHRA is organized into work "sections". Each of these sections has specific responsibilities and is staffed by both full-time and temporary employees with specific job assignments. The many dedicated temporary employees at AHRA accomplish the visible fieldwork. In a typical season, AHRA employs nearly 30 temporary staff members. In 2016, AHRA employed 25 temporary staff members. 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 and Andrew Maddox (CPW)
Administration:	Rose Bayless (CPW)
Commercial Agreements:	John Kreski (CPW)
Management:	Rob White, Tom Waters (CPW) and John Nahomenuk (BLM)

In 2016 there were no Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) full-time staff changes.

2016 Special Activities

Applicant Group Name	Event Type	Location
Timberline Events	Relay Race	Railroad Bridge
Colorado Whitewater Association	Kayak Instruction	Various River Sections
Journey Racing	Adventure Race	Cotopaxi to Cañon
Down River Equipment	Raft Demos	Browns Canyon
Paddle Fest	Raft and Kayak Events	BV WW Park & Numbers
TransRockies Run 2016	Race	Railroad Bridge
Phillips Reception	Reception	Collegiate Peaks Overlook
DeMoss/Francis Wedding	Wedding	Jump Rock/ Hecla
FIBArk Boat Races Inc.	Boating Competitions	Salida Whitewater Park etc.
Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival	Boating Competitions	Canon WW Park & Royal Gorge
Ride the Rockies	Bicycle Tour	Haydan Meadows
Colorado Standard	Filming	Browns Canyon
Clear Creek Rafting	Filming	Big Horn Sheep Canyon & Gorge
Prospect Arts and Colorado Arial Filmworks	Filming	Royal Gorge
TK Digital / Echo Canyon Rafting	Filming Japanese TV show	Big Horn Half Day
Central Colorado Bike Trials	Trials Comp	Granite Mountain

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

ACTIVITY*	2016 PEOPLE	2015 PEOPLE	'15 TO '16 % CHANGE	
SIGHTSEEING	303,151	297,207	+2%	
FISHING	Shore	82,518	82,720	-.25%
	Boat	5,477	5,337	+2.5%
PICNICKING	47,532	43,949	+8.2%	
BOATING **	Commercial	278,798	249,621	+11.7%
	Private	24,849	22,867	+8.7%
OTHER (Minerals, Visitor Center, Hunting, Other)	37,727	38,715	-2.5%	
TRAIL	25,837	24,336	+6.2%	
INTERPRETIVE/EVENTS	19,483	16,524	+17.9%	
CAMPING	59,944	49,766	+20.5%	
ACTIVITIES TOTAL	876,544	814,577	+7.6%	

*May include participants in multiple activities

**Actual number, includes guides, trainees and clients

AHRA Administrative Section

The Administrative section for 2016 was staffed by one full-time CPW Program Assistant, Rose Bayless; two temporary Customer Service Representatives, Mari Griffin and Jamie Tackel; and one temporary summer GOCO Naturalist/Volunteer Coordinator, Katie Lotzgesell.

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 also records meeting minutes for the AHRA Citizen Task Force (CTF) and manages communications with the CTF concerning meetings, speakers, reports and other relative information.

The Administrative Section is responsible for reporting and reconciling all revenues received by AHRA from many different sources, as well as maintaining records and reports for budgets and expenditures from a number of funds, including grants.

Administrative personnel function as the AHRA base radio dispatchers to field staff, provide administrative support to AHRA and BLM employees, and maintain current CPW website information for AHRA. The Administrative section also coordinates AHRA special events, such as Earth Day and the Annual Arkansas River Cleanup/Greenup; “Junior Rangers”, “TOT’s on Tuesdays” and other youth activities; campground and environmental education programs; administers the AHRA Volunteer Program; and organizes a variety of meetings and events throughout the year.

Administrative Services, Sales and Revenue Statistics (January through December 2016)

2016	Activity	Compared to 2015
\$28,618	Revenue from Annual Passes Sold	-1.6%
\$10,550	Revenue from Aspen Leaf Passes Sold*	+1.8%
\$125,134	Revenue from Daily Individual and Vehicle Passes	+9.25%
\$138,011	Revenue from Camp Permits and Reservations	+7.5%
\$44,671	Revenue from Registration Sales	-7%
\$14,937	Misc. Revenues (Citations, Special Activities, Wildlife Licenses)	+1%
\$900,054	Revenue from Commercial Agreements***	+14.4%

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

Administrative Section Visitor Contacts for 2016

# Of People	Type of Activity	Compared to 2015
34,030	Visitor Center	-3.35%
1,860	Personal Interpretation/Events	+12.6%
15,000	Non-Personal Interpretation/Media/Events	+7.8%
2,800	Environmental Education	-4.4%

Volunteer Hours for 2016

# of Hours	Type of Activity	Compared to 2016
4093 hrs	All Volunteers (groups or individuals)	-15%
944 hrs	AHRA Advisory Groups (CTF, RAAC)	+24%

AHRA’s **Volunteer Program** hours were down overall, but the Citizen Task Force (CTF) and Rationing and Agreement Advisory Committee (RAAC) contributed more hours than in 2015 as AHRA continued to work on revisions to the Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan. Volunteers at the annual Arkansas River Cleanup/Greenup events contributed over 1,000 hours; campground hosts contributed 600 hours; and Court Ordered volunteers contributed 430 hours.

A variety of **Interpretive and Environmental Education** programs, hikes and events were presented to the public throughout 2016. GOCO Naturalist Katie Lotzgesell captivated Junior Rangers ages 5-10 in Salida, Buena Vista and Leadville with programs and activities such as “Eye See You”, “Camouflage Craze” and “Survivor Showdown”. The grand finale was the Junior Ranger raft trip on August 10, with 32 participants. It was the first time on the river for many of the children, and although the stretch of river from Johnson’s Village to Fisherman’s Bridge is a gentle one, the kids were thrilled and had the time of their lives!

Little children ages 2-4 were captivated each week in Salida with “TOTS on Tuesday”. Their rapt attention was matched with that of their accompanying parents, as Katie revealed nature’s secrets with crafts and nature walks.

AHRA continued to be very active in 2016 with area schools, local recreation programs and other youth groups to provide environmental education that is consistent with their own curriculum. AHRA participated in GOCO-sponsored environmental education initiatives SOLE (Schools and Outdoor Learning Environment) for 4th graders in Salida; and INSPIRE youth/community programs in Lake (GOL! - GO Leadville!) and Chaffee (ICC - Inspire Chaffee County) counties. The objective of INSPIRE is to connect youth and their families with the outdoors to learn and have fun.

AHRA teamed up with Trout Unlimited for “Fourth Friday Fishing” to teach youth how to fish. AHRA and CPW staff, as well as GARNA, recruited volunteers to monitor bluebird houses at AHRA recreation sites for the National Bluebird Monitoring Project.

We were also very fortunate to have some faithful volunteers who continue to staff the Poncha Springs’ Crossroads of the Rockies Visitor Center, assist with our 25th anniversary Arkansas River Cleanup/Greenup on May 21st, and help out with a variety of special projects, events and programs. Volunteer Naturalist, Bob Hickey, continues to be instrumental in leading many hikes and an auto tours of the AHRA, as well as assisting with the “Gathering of the Guides” workshop and other programs. Bob’s love and knowledge of local geology has built up a region-wide following who participate in his talks and hikes year-round.

2016 Community Events

Event	Event Type	Location
Earth Day	Multiple Vendors	Riverside Park, Salida
Cleanup/Greenup	AHRA Beautification Project	Multiple Locations
Paddlefest	Boating Competitions/Multiple Vendors	Buena Vista Whitewater Park
Gathering of the Guides	Workshop	Salida Steamplant
FIBArk	Boating Competitions/Multiple Vendors	Riverside Park, Salida
Canon City Whitewater Festival	Boating Competitions/Multiple Vendors	Centennial Park, Canon City
Gold Rush Days	Multiple Vendors	Buena Vista
National Public Lands Day	Volunteer Trail Building	Multiple Locations

AHRA CALENDAR YEAR 2016 REVENUES

Year 2016 By Month	Park Passes	Camping Permits/Reservations	Registrations	Special Use Agreements	Penalties, License Sales, Special Activities, COSAR, etc.	TOTALS
January	\$1,323.00	\$88.00	\$1,700.00	\$650.00	\$42.40	\$3,803.40
February	\$2,629.00	\$442.00	\$1,185.00	\$5,621.98	\$510.25	\$10,388.23
March	\$5,406.00	\$1,126.00	\$4,950.00	\$29,832.67	\$395.15	\$41,709.82
April	\$11,236.00	\$4,798.00	\$5,665.00	\$17,471.28	\$1,521.25	\$40,691.53
May	\$22,628.00	\$14,766.55	\$5,735.00	\$115,090.11	\$1,747.75	\$159,967.41
June	\$31,414.00	\$27,778.15	\$6,790.00	\$194,063.66	\$2,871.75	\$262,917.56
July	\$33,352.00	\$31,333.41	\$6,120.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,657.50	\$75,562.91
August	\$25,053.00	\$28,313.42	\$4,135.00	\$2,020.70	\$3,055.30	\$62,577.42
September	\$12,898.00	\$17,641.79	\$2,625.00	\$42,217.04	\$1037.00	\$76,418.83
October	\$8,042.00	\$9,736.00	\$1,180.00	\$275,328.80	\$1,122.75	\$295,409.55
November	\$2,772.00	\$1,673.00	\$1,550.00	\$188,141.29	\$274.62	\$194,410.91
December	\$591.00	\$144.00	\$2,630.00	\$27,516.21	\$212.00	\$31,093.21
**Contra Adjustment	\$6,953.49					+6,953.49
2016 TOTALS	\$157,344.00	\$137,840.32	\$44,265.00	\$900,053.74	\$15,447.72	\$1,261,904.27
2015 TOTALS	\$145,680.06	\$115,228.80	\$47,430.25	\$770,458.28	\$15,725.98	\$1,101,724.96

*AHRA revenues saw an overall 14.5% increase in 2016 as compared to 2015

**AHRA self-serve field revenue difference between actual park pass/camp permit cost and amount received

AHRA FISCAL YEAR 2016 EXPENDITURES - CPW ONLY

Year Totals	Temporary Personnel	Operating	Utilities	Capital Projects/ Equipment	Controlled Maintenance	TOTALS
2016 TOTALS	\$264,905	\$158,034	\$32,303	\$831,000	\$114,849	\$1,401,091
Total Expenditures for Water and Related Costs in 2016						
				BOR Storage		\$40,040
				USGS Gage Maintenance		\$16,680
				PBWW - West Pueblo Ditch		\$5,471
				SECWD Maintenance		\$1,750
				Ordway Lease		\$89,000
				TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$1,554,032

*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. The rangers are put into three sections, Land, River and Off Road Vehicle. This year the AHRA Temporary Work Program (TWP) budget allowed for eight, 40 hour per week temporary rangers for the 2016 summer season. In addition, in 2016 funding from the Youth Internship Program (YIP) grants allowed one additional summer temporary ranger position to be filled. Distribution of these temporary ranger positions were as follows: The river section had four, 40 hour per week temporary rangers assigned to it. The land section had five, 40 hour per week temporary rangers assigned to it. In addition to these nine TWP or YIP funded 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 CPW/AHRA OHV Rangers worked with two OHV Rangers assigned to the U.S. Forest Service funded by a similar grant. YIP funding also allowed AHRA to hire a winter temporary ranger in the later part of 2016 and continuing into 2017. Because YIP funding was reduced in the F/Y 16/17 funding cycle two less River Rangers were staffed than in the F/Y 15/16 funding cycle.

The 5 temporary rangers assigned to land-based operations are responsible for managing visitor use in the busy recreation sites and campgrounds and for collecting field revenue critical to AHRA operations. These vital field staff members are the primary personnel our visitors come into contact with during the summer months. Night shifts occurred on Friday, Saturday and holiday evenings and were staffed by one temporary ranger and one full-time ranger.

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 River 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 2016 boating season saw excellent river flows. With average to slightly above average flows, the dedication and cooperation of commercial outfitters and private boaters helped the number of serious accidents stay below average for the conditions.

Since the Arkansas River is one of, if not the most commercially rafted rivers in the United States, much of the river rangers' time is spent administering the State River Outfitter Licensing Program. Removing tree hazards from the river when a public safety concern is present, also occupied a significant amount of river ranger time. River rangers also make many private boater contacts informing boating visitors of current conditions and ensuring they understand the challenges of the section of river they are attempting to boat. In addition, river rangers also undertake a variety of resource related projects such as monitoring of river camp and picnic sites and the monitoring of invasive plant species in remote sections of the recreation area.

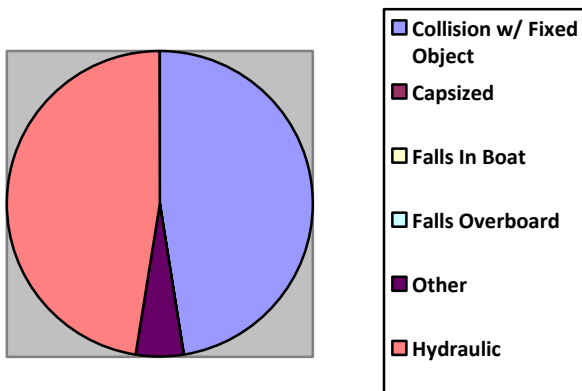
The OHV rangers are part of a four-person multi-agency trail crew working in the Upper Arkansas River Valley. The trail crew members represent Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service. Funding for this collaborative effort comes from an OHV grant funded by OHV registrations. The trail crew maintains trails and OHV routes, provides input on new OHV routes, and enforces OHV registration and equipment requirements in the San Isabel National Forest as well as the Big Bend OHV Tracks. 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 operations manager are all certified Level I Colorado Peace Officers. Additionally, all AHRA temporary law enforcement rangers have limited commissions. These Title 33 officers only enforce 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, AHRA rangers manage three snowmobile trail-grooming contracts and patrol snowmobile trails on Bureau of Land Management, National Forest and other public lands in Chaffee, Lake, Gunnison and Saguache counties as part of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Snowmobile Program responsibilities. Winter is also the ideal time for rangers to complete most of their training and re-certifications, to organize and evaluate programs and plan for the up-coming high use season.

Summary of Public Safety Field Actions

River Outfitter Safety Inspections	94
River Outfitter Office Records Inspections	10
River Assists	253
Search, Rescue and Recovery Operations	2
River Hazard Removal Operations - River	12



CAUSE	TOTAL
Collision w/ Fixed Object	9
Capsized	0
Falls In Boat	0
Falls Overboard	0
Other	1
Hydraulic	9
TOTAL ACCIDENTS	19

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

2016 Investigated and Reported Incidents

Reportable Commercial Boat Accidents	19
Private Boat Accidents	0
Other Commercial Accidents	8
Other Non-Commercial Accidents	0
OHV Accidents	1
Interagency Assists / SAR	7
Vandalism / Theft	14
Law Enforcement	4
Other	7
Totals	60
Above incidents include 2 fatalities investigated	

2016 Citations Issued

Year	2016
Pass/Permit Violations	522
Resource Protection Violations	5
Public Safety Violations	19
Records/Reporting Violations	33
*Total	579
*Above total includes 54 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 57 commercial contractors in 2016. Permitted contractors provided various combinations of activities such as whitewater rafting and kayaking, float fishing, walk & wade fishing, shuttle services, rock climbing, hiking, Mt. biking, food vendor and photo/video imaging to over 226,615 paying clients in 2016. In 2016, commercial use at AHRA INCREASED by 13.52% as compared to 2015. Gross revenue received from commercial operations within the AHRA in 2016 was 18.42% ABOVE revenue received in 2015. This total includes revenue only from total gross receipts and **does not** include administrative and assessment fees. The Arkansas River within the AHRA remains one of, if not 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 2016, river sections had commercial bpd carrying capacities ranging from 360 bpd to 10 bpd with differing section specific boating restrictions.

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

AHRA Commercial Special Use Agreements by Type

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Boating.....	47	49
Imaging.....	27	26
Walk and Wade Fishing.....	15	15
Shuttle Services.....	7	6
Rock Climbing, Hiking & Mt. Biking.....	3	4
Food Vendor.....	1	1
Total	100	101

Rationed Days By Section

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Section 1c – The Numbers	3	4
Section 2b – Browns Canyon	5	4
Section 2d – Big Bend to Salida.....	9	8
Section 3 – Salida to Vallie Bridge.....	27	38
Section 4a – Vallie Bridge to Texas Creek	17	17
Section 4b – Texas Creek to Parkdale.....	0	1
Section 5 – The Royal Gorge	10	12
Total	71	84

AHRA Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management recreation staff continues to see changes over what was reported in the 2015 report. The BLM recreation staff members in 2016 were the River Manager and a seasonal (6 months) administrative position that is responsible for the operation of the front desk of the AHRA Visitor Center.

The BLM River Manager (John P. Nahomenuk) works side by side with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Manager to assure that the decisions within the Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan (ARRMP) are fully implemented, as well as working with a multitude of other agencies, interest groups and organizations unique to this multi-agency partnership. He is also responsible for the maintenance and enhancement, where possible, of the overall health of the public lands along the river corridor. The BLM River Manager is responsible to the Royal Gorge Field Office Manager 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, Gunnison and San Luis Valley Field offices.

Jamie Tackel was our Administrative Assistant in 2016. Jamie was funded six months through the BLM and six months through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Her year-round support to the Administrative section and AHRA provides much needed consistency to our very busy office. Jamie is the first line of contact for visitors in need of information whether in person or on the phone. She also sells Colorado off highway vehicles, boats and snowmobile registrations. Hunting and fishing licenses are also available at the AHRA Visitor Center. Jamie also issues permits for firewood gathering, Christmas trees and recreational mining.

The Royal Gorge Field Office continued to prepare the Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan (RMP) in 2016. The RMP is the overriding document that will guide the management of BLM lands for the next 20 years. The ARRMP river plan will be adopted into the RMP.

Revisions of the Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan started in late 2015 and continued through 2016. These updates will focus on issues that were not addressed during the first revision that was approved in January 2001.

Browns Canyon National Monument continues to see an increase in visitation and interest. The national monument will have its own management plan prepared and is in the beginning stages of this preparation. The monument will be managed by BLM and the USFS in partnership with CPW.

The “Over the River” project has been cancelled by artist, Christo as he will no longer pursue this project.

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 2016 the maintenance section extensively utilized Department of Corrections Sign Shop and Labor Crews. The Department of Corrections Labor Crews contributed 970 hours towards grounds maintenance of land under AHRA jurisdiction. During 2016 the maintenance department accomplished the following:

- Recreation Area and Visitor Center Maintenance.
- Coordinated DOC Labor Crew spring and fall clean up.
- Worked with CDOT on highway signage for AHRA.
- Sign designing with DOC Sign Shop on signage for AHRA.
- Re-designing park pass metal boxes with DOC metal shop.

- Installed traffic counters at Pink House, Salida East, and Ruby Mt. Recreation Sites.
- Replaced old cedar sign posts with channel iron at re-built Ruby Mt. Recreation Site.
- Contracted Complete Door Systems to replace obsolete overhead door closers.
- Replaced fluorescent lamps with LED lamps at all of the AHRA campground solar systems.
- Worked with Bradley Metals Co. Inc. on automated gate for the Pink House Recreation Site.
- Assisted with annual Green Up Clean Up.
- Worked with The Central Colorado Conservancy (CCC) and The Salida Mountain Trail on a Ecological Restoration Project (STERP) on the wetland area at our Visitor Center.
- Installed refrigerated drink fountain with bottle filling feature.
- Assisted BLM with boarding up condemned Texas Creek house.
- Installed road closure, advisory, and warning signs at the Point Barr Recreation Site.

Project Maintenance

- Managed the Ruby Mountain Campground Project.
- Worked with Shaun Gordon on the replacement of foot bridges at Hayden Meadows.
- Worked on the plan and design for improvements at the Arkansas River Placer Property.
- Designed, fabricated and installed the Salida Boat Chute Sign.
- Managed the Rincon Shade Shelter Project.
- Managed the Bald Mountain Gulch Project.
- Planned and worked with engineers for improvements on the Point Barr Road.
- Managed the Ruby Mountain Boat Ramp Project.
- Re-Certified for Swift Water Rescue.
- Managed the Hayden Meadows Handicapped Fishing Project.
- Planned and Designed new Picnic Area for Pinnacle Rock.
- Constructed new section and overhauled the existing track on the Little Big Bend Track.
- Worked on Big Bend Track.
- Worked with CYCA on projects at Big Bend, Collegiate Peaks and the Hayden Meadows Recreation Sites.
- Planned and prepared for the Boat Ramp construction project at the Rincon Recreation Site.
- Worked on plans for the Stone Bridge Shade Shelter
- Worked on plans for new Pay Tubes and Three Panel Signs
- Maintained Roads and Parking Areas
- Assisted with hazard trees

AHRA State Park Management

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

This year, as in past years, AHRA rangers, count crew and administrative 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.

During 2016 the AHRA ranger, count crew and administrative staff accomplished the following: (In addition to their regular day to day responsibilities)

- Contacted presenters for the Gathering of the Guides.
- Measured Ruby Mountain for campground site attributes.
- Attended RMS River Ranger Rendezvous.
- Responded to several campsite disputes.
- Continued with researching new fee collection bag.
- Worked with a Restorative Justice Work Crew at Stone Bridge.
- Estimated the percent of river shoreline that is accessible to the public.
- Prepared nominations for CPW Partnership Awards.
- Hosted SE Region snowmobile riding clinic.
- Inspect Big Bend OHV Track.
- Provided River Rangers support for the Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival.
- Provided River and Land Ranger support for FIBArk.

This concludes the 2016 Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area Annual Report. If you should have any questions regarding this report please contact Rob White, the AHRA Park Manager, or John Nahomenuk, the AHRA BLM River Manager at (719) 539-7289 or via e-mail at ahra@state.co.us. Additional copies of this report can be downloaded from: <http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/Parks/ArkansasHeadwatersRecreationArea>.