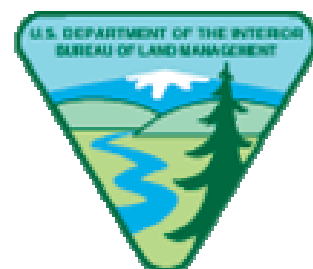


The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area 2007 End of Year Report



Welcome to the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area's Annual Report for 2007. This annual report covers the activities of the AHRA from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007.

2007 was a very great year in terms of both commercial visitation and revenue for AHRA. Great water, a good economy and good weather were major factors contributing to a very successful season.

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. It is expected that under the current management plan, the CTF will continue to play an important role for the partners that form AHRA – Colorado State Parks, BLM, Division of Wildlife 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 seasonal employees with specific job assignments. The many dedicated seasonal employees at AHRA accomplish the visible fieldwork. In a typical season, AHRA employs nearly 30 seasonal staff members. In 2007 AHRA employed 25 seasonal staff. For the majority of 2007, the following full-time staff members supervised the work sections noted below:

AHRA Sections and Supervisors

Maintenance -	John Fell and Ken Lindbloom (Parks)
Rangers -	Stew Pappenfort, Sean Shepherd & Glenn Cottone (Parks)
Administration -	Rose Bayless (Parks)
Commercial Agreements-	John Kreski (Parks)
Recreation Planning -	Position not filled (BLM)
Management -	Rob White, John Geerdes (Parks) and John Nahomenuk (BLM)

In 2007 no Colorado State Parks full-time staff changes occurred. The full-time BLM Contact Representative position eliminated in April 2005 has not been reinstated and so Heather Wright remains in the same capacity with the position being funded jointly by State Parks and BLM as alternating seasonal positions.

Overall AHRA visitation numbers in 2007 increased from 2006 with total activities up by 5.91%. Camping numbers continued their increase, up 18.89%. As the Arkansas River's reputation as a world class fishery continues to spread one of the largest visitation surges occurred in the boat fishing category, up 31.79%. Commercial boating continued its steady increase at a rate of 4.33%. Interestingly, the category that increased the most at 35.03% was the other category which includes many diverse activities such as recreational mining and AHRA Visitor Center visits.

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

ACTIVITY*	2007 PEOPLE	2006 PEOPLE	'06 TO '07 % CHANGE
SIGHTSEEING	256,577	252,132	1.73%
FISHING	Shore	71,206	69,390
	Boat	10,615	7,241
			2.55%
			31.79%
PICNICKING	43,879	42,173	3.89%
BOATING	Commercial	295,172**	282,381**
	Private	30,118	29,385
			4.33%
			2.43%
OTHER (Minerals, Visitor Center, Hunting and Swimming)	44,839	29,131	35.03%
TRAIL	23,980	22,898	4.51%
INTERPRETIVE	10,111	9,829	2.79%
CAMPING	35,183***	28,537***	18.89%
ACTIVITIES TOTAL	821,680	773,097	5.91%

*May include participants in multiple activities

**Actual visitor number, includes guides and clients

***Number of nights camping

The following special activities took place within the Recreation Area in 2007.

<u>Special Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
• Clean Up/Green Up	Arkansas River
• Adventure Race	Buena Vista to Fisherman's Bridge
• Colorado Spider Survey	Park-wide
• Pine Creek Race	Pine Creek
• National Raft Race	Numbers to Railroad Bridge
• Swift Water Rescue Training	Spikebuck, Browns Canyon
• Plastic Duck Race	Salida Whitewater Park
• Rubber Duck Race	Canon City
• Build Your Own Boat Race	Canon City
• Riverboard Demonstration	Salida Whitewater Park
• FIBARK	Park-wide
• Royal Gorge Raft Race	Royal Gorge
• Paddlefest	Buena Vista Whitewater Park
• Ride the Rockies Bike Tour	Hayden Meadows
• CWWA Training Camp	Park-wide
• Gold Prospectors of Colorado Picnic	Point Barr

Overall recreational use was up 5.91% in 2007, and AHRA revenues saw an encouraging 17.60% increase. In addition, AHRA revenues exceeded one million dollars for the first time in the recreation area's history.

AHRA YEAR 2007 REVENUES

Year 2007 By Month	Park Passes	Camping Permits/ Reservations	Registrations	Special Use Agreements	Other: Penalties, Donations, Misc.	TOTALS
January	\$1,740.34	\$30.00	\$1,133.25	\$1,575.00	\$28.00	\$4,506.59
February	\$1,796.25	\$104.00	\$925.25	\$5,289.75	\$65.00	\$8,180.25
March	\$5,546.95	\$847.10	\$3,323.75	\$24,281.14	\$3.00	\$34,001.94
April	\$7,387.31	\$2,120.10	\$3,285.75	\$15,592.73	\$51.00	\$28,436.89
May	\$20,397.47	\$10,680.75	\$3,774.25	\$61,554.44	\$895.00	\$97,301.91
June	\$27,887.11	\$15,662.95	\$5,303.25	\$224,663.24	\$1,580.37	\$275,096.92
July	\$21,015.10	\$17,792.04	\$5,307.75	\$3,150.00	\$1,271.00	\$48,535.89
August	\$16,328.86	\$12,936.30	\$3,640.75	\$11,636.69	\$1,018.00	\$45,560.60
September	\$7,875.06	\$8,584.05	\$3,511.50	\$1,000.00	\$452.00	\$21,422.61
October	\$3,514.07	\$2,125.10	\$968.75	\$108,524.92	\$324.68	\$115,457.52
November	\$1,758.23	\$380.00	\$1,899.25	\$363,437.77	\$59.00	\$367,534.25
December	\$1,378.60	\$0.00	\$2,970.50	\$39,280.60	-\$24.80	\$43,604.90
TOTALS	\$116,625.35	\$71,262.39	\$36,044.00	\$859,986.28	\$5,722.25	\$1,089,640.27

AHRA YEAR 2007 EXPENDITURES -COLORADO STATE PARKS ONLY-

Year 2007 By Month	Full Time and Seasonal Personnel	Operating	Utilities	Capital Equipment	Controlled Maintenance	GOCO, Grants & Misc. Accounts	TOTALS
January	\$50,866.98	\$7,136.80	\$1,418.26	\$0	\$114.96	\$379.88	\$59,916.88
February	\$51,302.56	\$6,075.86	\$1,311.51	\$0	\$1,263.63	\$399.16	\$60,352.72
March	\$53,032.23	\$5,972.16	\$1,175.05	\$0	\$1,303.57	\$393.95	\$61,876.96
April	\$52,893.08	\$3,585.52	\$738.71	\$0	\$29,325.61	\$4,484.84	\$91,027.76
May	\$74,835.00	\$9,602.60	\$808.38	\$0	\$14,457.10	\$4,693.55	\$104,396.63
June	\$88,492.90	\$12,766.14	\$3,041.66	\$0	\$5,700.78	\$2,312.06	\$112,313.54
July	\$88,346.05	\$13,890.19	\$1,084.25	\$0	\$9,617.56	\$7,160.38	\$120,098.43
August	\$80,939.16	\$13,320.16	\$2,265.72	\$0	\$4,880.10	\$5,278.22	\$106,683.36
September	\$73,706.22	\$9,943.95	\$1,930.75	\$0	\$3,868.24	\$11,078.89	\$100,528.05
October	\$58,651.07	\$8,628.43	\$531.10	\$0	\$84,923.64	\$1,418.77	\$154,153.01
November	\$53,227.65	\$5,711.72	\$1,112.05	\$0	\$15,325.00	\$127.03	\$75,503.45
December	\$54,080.41	\$6,999.38	\$1,071.35	\$0	\$15,529.91	\$3,382.69	\$81,063.74
TOTALS	\$780,373.31	\$103,632.91	\$16,488.79	\$0	\$186,310.10	\$41,109.42	\$1,127,914.53
Total Expenditures for Water Purchases in 2007							\$12,318.00
Grand Total							\$1,140,232.53*

*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 three full-time staff members typically hire up to twelve seasonal staff members to assist them with their patrol responsibilities. The AHRA Seasonal Work Program (SWP) budget for FY 06/07 allowed eight, 40 hour per week seasonal rangers and one, 16 hour per week seasonal ranger to be hired during the 2007 summer season. The river section had four, 40 hour per week seasonal river rangers assigned to it and one, 40 hour per week Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) ranger (funded by OHV grant). The land section had four seasonal rangers during the weekdays and one additional ranger to make five on weekends. Because of reduced budgets, AHRA continues to struggle to regain its former SWP ranger staffing levels.

Seasonal rangers assigned to land-based operations are responsible for managing visitor use in the busy recreation sites and campgrounds and for collecting field revenue critical to AHRA operations. These vital field staff are the primary resource our visitors come into contact with during the summer months. Because of SWP budget and associated seasonal staff cuts, the seasonal staff were unable to maintain typical coverage of two shifts per day, seven days a week, patrolling both upstream and downstream of Salida. Even with some seasonal shifts covered by full-time supervisors, there were some weekdays with only one shift both up and downstream.

Four of the AHRA seasonal 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 and hazards, provide whitewater search and rescue support, inspect commercial and private boat trips for adequate safety equipment and operations, investigate boat accidents and provide expert river education to AHRA visitors in the field. As the Arkansas River is the most commercially rafted river in the world, 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 ranger is part of a three-person multi-agency trail crew working in the Upper Arkansas Valley. The trail crew members represent Colorado State Parks, U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. 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 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 seasonal law enforcement rangers are Title 33 commissioned officers. 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.

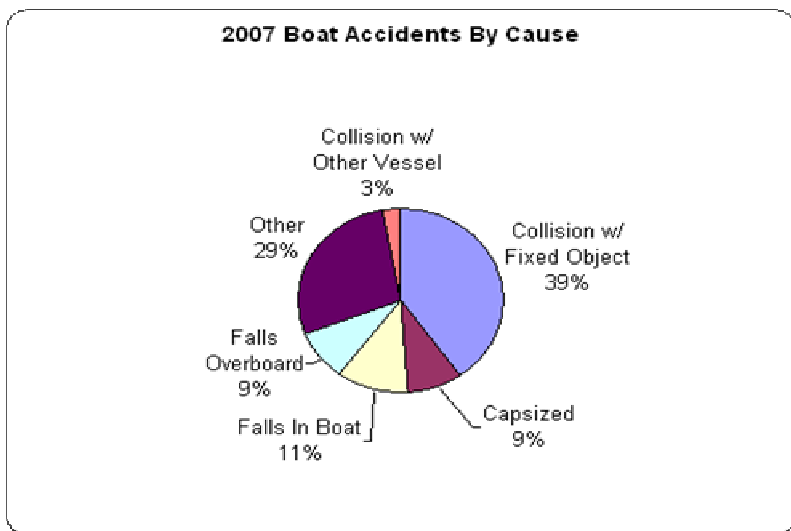
In the winter the full-time rangers continue to patrol AHRA sites along the river corridor. Winter search and rescue activities usually amount to assisting other agencies with motorists that end up in the river and snowmobile patrols/avalanche rescue activities. Additionally, rangers manage several snowmobile trail-grooming contracts and patrol snowmobile trails on Bureau of Land Management, National Forest and other public lands within the river corridor as part of the Colorado State Parks 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	89
River Outfitter Office Records Inspections	17
River Assists	144
Search, Rescue and Recovery Operations	8
River Hazard Removal Operations	17

*There have been no private river fatalities for the last four years within the AHRA.

*There were five commercial river fatalities within the AHRA in 2007.



2007 BOAT ACCIDENTS BY CAUSE	
CAUSE	TOTAL
Collision w/ Fixed Object	14
Capsized	3
Falls In Boat	4
Falls Overboard	3
Other	10
Collision w/ Other Vessel	1
TOTAL ACCIDENTS	35

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

Investigated and Reported Incidents for the Year 2007

Reportable Commercial Boat Accidents	29
Other Commercial Accidents	4
Other Non-Commercial Accidents	4
Interagency Assists / SAR	2
Vandalism / Theft	14
Hazard Removal / HAZMAT	17
Other	8
Total	85

Note: the State-wide River Outfitting Licensing Program investigated one boat accident that occurred in the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area

Citations Issued for the Year 2007

Year	2007
Pass/Permit Violations	237
Resource Protection Violations	44
Public Safety Violations	8
Records/Reporting Violations	3
OHV Violations	1
Snowmobile Violations	3
Other Violations	4
*Total	300
*Above total includes 4 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 84 commercial contractors in 2007. Permitted contractors provided various combinations of activities such as whitewater rafting, float fishing, walk and wade fishing, shuttle services and photo/video imaging to over 239,887 clients in 2007. In 2007 commercial use at AHRA increased by 4.7% from 2006. Gross revenue received from commercial operations within the AHRA in 2007 was 8.3% above revenue received in 2006. The Arkansas River remains the most commercially rafted river in the world.

This section also administers the AHRA Rationing Plan that regulates commercial boat per day (bpd) carrying capacities on thirteen different river sections. In 2007, river sections had commercial bpd carrying capacities ranging from 360 bpd to 10 bpd with differing section specific boating restrictions.

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

AHRA Commercial Special Use Agreements By Type

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Boating	55	55
Imaging	10	11
Walk and Wade Fishing.....	15	15
Shuttle Services.....	4	5
Total	84	86

Rationed Days By Section

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Section 1c – The Numbers	19	22
Section 2b – Browns Canyon.....	12	7
Section 2d – Big Bend to Salida	8	10
Section 3 – Salida to Vallie Bridge.....	34	44

Section 4b – Texas Creek to Parkdale	4	2
Section 5 – The Royal Gorge.....	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>
Total	89	96

AHRA Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management recreation staff continues to see some changes over what was reported in the 2006 report. BLM recreation staff members in 2007 were the River Manager, a BLM Student Training Employment Program (STEP) individual who in the later part of 2007 was converted into the BLM Student Career Experience Program (SCEP), a seasonal recreation Off-Highway Vehicle trail crew member and a winter seasonal administrative position (October 2007 – March 2008).

The BLM River Manager (John Nahomenuk) works side by side with the Colorado State Park Manager to assure that the decisions within the Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan (ARRMP) are fully implemented, as well as working with a multitude of other agencies, interest groups and organizations unique to this multi-agency partnership. He is also responsible for the maintenance and enhancement, where possible, of the overall health of the public lands along the river corridor. The River Manager receives management recommendations from the Arkansas River Citizens Task Force. The BLM River Manager is responsible to the Royal Gorge Field Office Renewable Resource Supervisor (Paul Trentzsch) located at the BLM headquarters in Canon City, CO.

STEP – Starr Jamison started her second year as a Recreation Technician in the BLM’s Student Training Experience Program (STEP). This position provides assistance to visitors in BLM uplands and carries out patrols and maintenance on public lands immediately adjacent to AHRA sites along the river corridor. She provides support for OHV partnership projects, coordinates volunteer resource improvement projects and works to support AHRA in the Geographical Information System process. She also collects data with the Global Position System in order to record the locations of roads, trails and other recreational use sites within the river corridor. Data collected will be used to support the Travel Management Planning process. The position is also part of an AHRA team that performs resource monitoring (in its ninth year) of lunch and campsites within Browns Canyon

Starr was moved into BLM’s Student Career Employment Program late in 2007. The SCEP position requires the student to complete 640 hours of mentoring, and if successful, will be offered a position (budget allowing) with BLM upon graduation. Starr is expected to graduate in December of 2008. This position is targeted to work out of the AHRA office in Salida. Duties this position will be responsible for include management of the BLM upland recreation program associated with the Arkansas River corridor. This position is directed to work closely with AHRA staff, other Federal and state agencies, local government entities and user groups on issues regarding public lands within the river corridor, implementation of Fourmile and Arkansas River Travel Management Plans. This includes project planning, grant acquisition, input into NEPA documents, volunteer program management, resource monitoring and providing resource protection to the two units of BLM Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) and to four Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

SCEP – Last year it was reported that Elliot Hinckley would be converted from the SCEP program to a full time BLM position responsible for the Upland Recreation program associated with the Arkansas River corridor. Elliot is still employed in the SCEP program and upon

completion of his Masters Program will be converted to a full time position in the Royal Gorge Field Office in Canon City as the Special Recreation Permit administrator.

Heather Wright (formerly Goodroe) continues to work as the seasonal BLM and State Park Visitor Contact Representative during 2007 season. She meets and greets visitors to the AHRA Visitor Center and provides a full range of information services on recreational activities including camping, boating, fishing, gold panning, hiking and biking, etc. She handles sales and bookkeeping, including revenues from concession agreements, retail GARNA items, park passes and recreational vehicle registrations. She acts as radio dispatcher to staff in the field and provides administrative support to all AHRA employees as needed. She also files, docket and maintains the law enforcement penalty assessments, trains seasonal employees and maintains park visitation and revenue information.

The duties associated with the Outdoor Recreation Planner position that has been vacant since early 2004 are now being carried out by staff located at the BLM field office in Canon City. The recreation staff located at the headquarters office consists of a lead Outdoor Recreation Planner (Leah Quesenberry) {responsible for overall program guidance and budget}, another Outdoor Recreation Planner (Cora Whisenhunt), a Recreation Park Ranger (Merle Blankenship) and a SCEP student (Elliot Hinkley). This centralized approach allows for assignments to be made depending on an employee’s particular skills and strengths.

In 2007, staff members worked closely with Congressman Allard to produce a Proposed Browns Canyon Wilderness Map to show what the Proposed Wilderness Area may look like. Local meetings were held by Senator Allard’s staff and with Senator Salazar. These meetings conveyed the overwhelming support at the local level for the Bill. No legislation was drawn in 2007 for a Browns Canyon Wilderness Bill as issues regarding motorized access continue to be discussed with proponents and opponents.

BLM received a 2000 page proposal that details the construction, display and de-construction of the Christo and Jeanne-Claude Over the River art project. The proposal calls for draping approximately 7 miles of the Arkansas River with translucent fabric. The proposal will be used to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. A consultant will be selected by the BLM to prepare the EIS in 2008. All costs to the BLM associated with the project are paid for by the proponent. The art display, if approved, would not occur until 2012 at the earliest.

**Administrative Services, Sales and Revenue Statistics
(January through December 2007):**

2007	Activity	Compared to 2006
390	Annual Passes Sold	-12%
\$17,290	Revenue from Annual Passes Sold (2007 \$5.00 Increase)	68.9%
296	Aspen Leaf Passes Sold	23.3%
\$5,794	Revenue from Aspen Leaf Passes Sold	19%
\$93,540.45	Revenue from Daily Individual and Vehicle Passes*	28.3%
\$71,262.39	Revenue from Camp Permits**	24.75%
2003	Boat, Snowmobile and OHV Registrations Sold	3.4%
\$36,044	Revenue from Registration Sales	8.5%
\$859,986.28	Revenue from Commercial Agreements***	15.1%

* This year Vehicle Passes were added to our pass system

** Reservation Revenue is included in this total

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

Administrative Section Visitor Contacts for 2007

# Of People	Type of Activity	Compared to 2006
26,093	Visitor Center	11.8%
2,308	Personal Interpretation	20.1%
6,414	Non-Personal Interpretation	1.5%
1,389	Environmental Education	-12.6%

Volunteer Hours for 2007

# of Hours	Type of Activity	Compared to 2006
3361 hrs	Volunteers (groups or individuals)	23.56%
498 hrs	AHRA Advisory Groups (CTF, RAAC)	-42.97%
3859 hrs	Total Volunteer Hours in 2007	14.98%

A variety of **Interpretive and Environmental Education** programs and services were presented to the public throughout 2007. Junior Ranger programs took the lead with GOCO Interpreter Phyllis Cron fascinating kids with programs such as: “Close Encounters of the Scaly Kind”; “Don’t Bug Me”; “Birds on the Brain”; and “Spider Sniffing”. Children ages 5-12 stormed the gates each Wednesday morning in Salida and Thursday afternoon in Buena Vista to watch Ranger Phyllis weave her web of magic and to investigate nature’s secrets. The grand finale was the Junior Ranger raft trip on August 8, with 21 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.

The “icing on the cake” for the Junior Ranger program was that AHRA participated in the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAAE) awards ceremony on March 2, 2007, where AHRA was awarded the 2006 Environmental Education Award for Excellence in the government category. .

AHRA continued to be very active in 2007 with Project Wild, area schools, local recreation programs and other youth groups to provide environmental education that is consistent with their own curriculum.

AHRA participated in many community events including Paddlefest in Buena Vista as well as Headwaters Institute guide training and FIBArk, both held in Salida. AHRA and GARNA (Greater Arkansas River Nature Association) partnered on many educational and interpretive programs, projects and events such as the 16th Annual National River CleanUp/GreenUp. GARNA also assists AHRA with grant writing and administration, interpretive signs and displays, and the GARNA sales outlet at the AHRA Visitor Center, which consistently grows in sales and popularity with the public.

AHRA Maintenance Section

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

The maintenance section is extensively involved in site improvements and modifications suggested by our visitors, outfitters, and staff. During 2007, these improvements included: the

completion of Vallie Bridge Campground by adding concrete pads, fire rings and replacing old tables; a shade shelter was erected at Parkdale's group picnic area; at Railroad Bridge group picnic area all metal picnic table legs were replaced with concrete legs; throughout the AHRA river corridor all BLM / AHRA "Entering & Leaving Public Lands" signs and posts were replaced; all metal pass boxes were replaced park-wide; boat ramps were rebuilt at Pinnacle Rock and Spikebuck; mitigated flood damage and started the planning process for future development and maintenance at Hecla Junction; performed road and parking lot maintenance involving increased snow removal; completed drainage improvements including a new culvert at Parkdale; removed trees affected by pine bark and other beetles and utilized the region's chipper to disperse material; completed fencing and landscaping projects; performed trail maintenance and development, including rerouting a section of the Seidel's Trail. Center panel and fee/information sign design, construction, and installation/replacement continued to be a large part of the maintenance objective this past year. This section also oversees the maintenance, repairs and reporting for all Fleet vehicles and AHRA heavy equipment.

Extensive utilization of Department of Corrections Sign Shop, volunteer groups, community service workers, and Youth Corps helped AHRA achieve many of its maintenance goals in 2007.

AHRA State Park Management

The State Park Manager and Assistant Park Manager 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 State Park offices in Denver and Littleton. They also work closely with the Bureau of Land Management, the Division of Wildlife and the US Forest Service to insure that management plan goals and directives are being met and to implement the Arkansas River Voluntary Flow Program each year. Most importantly, they work with the public to provide the many community and resource wide coordination activities and efforts needed throughout the 150-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.

2007 Annual Report Accomplishments

- ❖ Hosted the 16th Annual Arkansas River Clean-up/Green-up
- ❖ Hosted AHRA Volunteer Program Open House
- ❖ Hosted 3-Day Swiftwater Rescue training course for AHRA staff, Salida Fire Department and federal agencies from across the state
- ❖ Hosted 1-Day Swiftwater First Responder course for Colorado Division of Water Resources staff
- ❖ AHRA received an award from the Colorado Environmental Education Alliance for the best Government Environmental Education program
- ❖ Recruited a Park Management intern from Kansas State College for the winter
- ❖ Completed an Upper Arkansas Motorized Trail Crew grant application for the 08-09 season
- ❖ Hosted the 18th Annual Outfitters Workshop

- ❖ AHRA maintenance staff contributed over 1200 hours towards noxious vegetation control on lands under AHRA jurisdiction
- ❖ Removed drought and insect killed trees from Ruby Mountain, Hecla Junction, Rincon, Stone Bridge and Lone Pine
- ❖ Obtained 2-weeks of Youth Corps crews from the Los Valles Youth Corps to complete various maintenance projects in the recreation area
- ❖ Installed new center and fee panels at nearly all “fee” recreation sites throughout the river corridor
- ❖ Sean Shepherd completed EMT training
- ❖ Ken Lindbloom completed Qualified Supervisor Training for weed control
- ❖ Continued reconditioning of picnic tables within the recreation area
- ❖ Participated in the Colorado Conference for Volunteerism
- ❖ Responded to seven river related fatality investigations and a number of other search and rescue operations
- ❖ Stew Pappenfort completed media interviews concerning river safety with NPR, Denver Post, 9 News and Good Morning America
- ❖ The multi-agency OHV trail crew maintained and cleared 8797 feet of trail, made 437 contacts and worked on trail projects throughout the Upper Arkansas Valley
- ❖ Continued work with the Colorado Division of Risk Management to secure insurance claims for flood damage at Hecla Junction
- ❖ Completed Hecla Junction Flood Mitigation and Restoration concept plan with assistance from Lifezone Ecological and the Colorado Water Conservation Board
- ❖ Completed revisions to the Special Use Agreements, Riders and the Rationing Plan as discussed during 2007 RAAC meetings
- ❖ Completed a reroute of Seidel’s Suckhole trail on National Public Lands Day. Had assistance from Pikes Peak Whitewater Club, Pikes Peak River Runners, Colorado Whitewater Association and the Buffalo Peaks Chapter of the Backcountry Horseman’s Association
- ❖ Met with Homestake Water Project officials to discuss possible replacement of the Granite Dam/Diversion structure
- ❖ Completed maintenance and reroute work of the Big Bend OHV track
- ❖ Completed the first phase of the Parkdale group picnic area shade shelter
- ❖ Roads improved at Parkdale, Salida East, Railroad Bridge and Pinnacle Rock
- ❖ Boat Ramps improved at Pinnacle Rock and Canyon Trading Post
- ❖ Acquired just under 4 acres adjacent to the Fisherman’s Bridge Recreation Site
- ❖ Made minor adjustments to the Numbers Recreation Site to improve boat ramp access for private boaters and relieve congestion at the site
- ❖ Completed Railroad Bridge group picnic area improvements

This concludes the 2007 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 River Manager at (719)539-7289 or via e-mail at ahra@state.co.us. Additional copies of this report can be downloaded from www.parks.state.co.us/Arkansas/Publications.