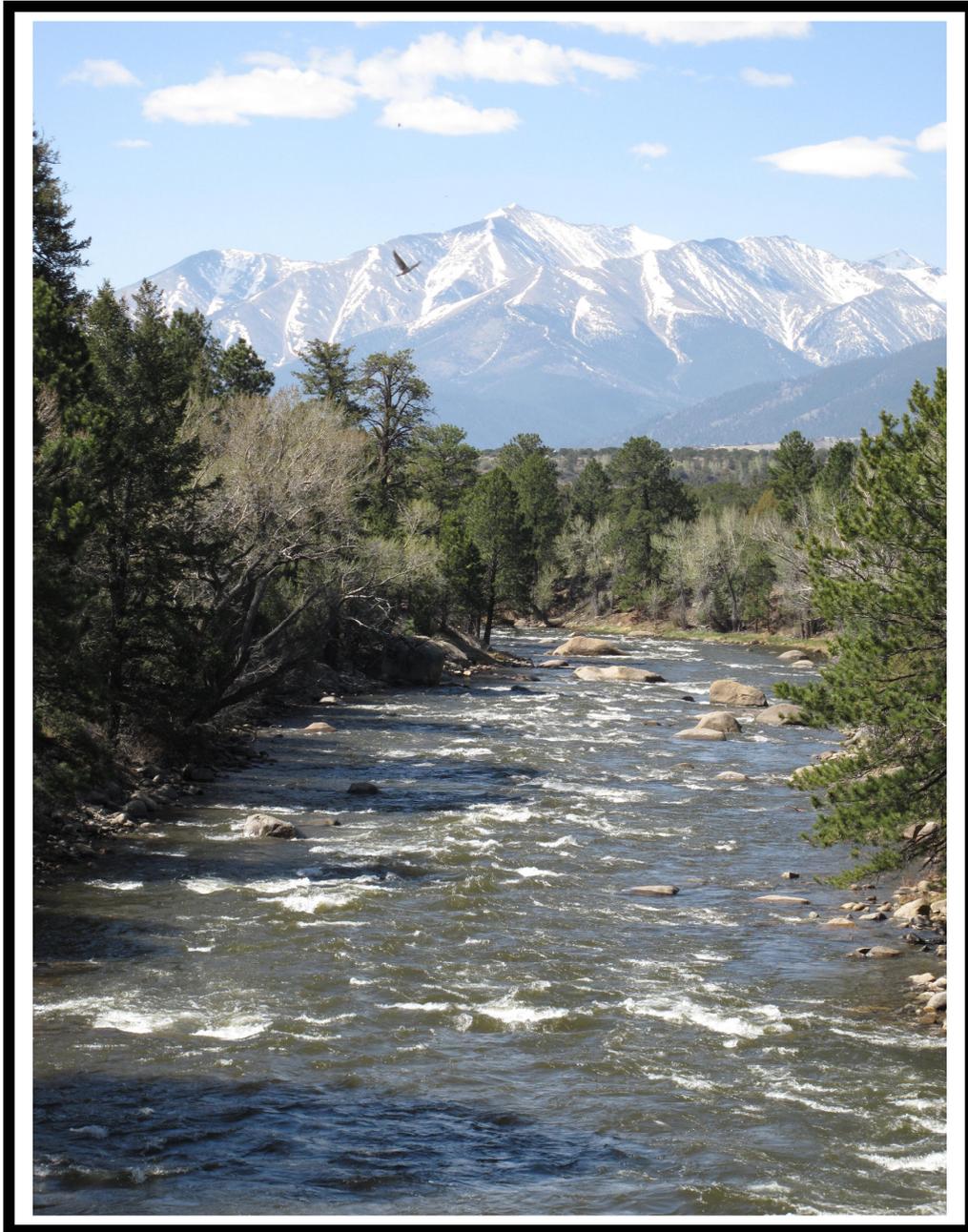


# *The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area 2009 End of Year Report*



**Welcome** to the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area’s Annual Report for 2009. This annual report covers the activities of the AHRA from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

Commercial visitation, revenue and private boat numbers were slightly down for AHRA in 2008 as compared to 2009. A national economy stuck in a recessionary mode was the major factor contributing to the downturn.

**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 a revision of the AHRA management plan on the horizon, 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 2009 AHRA employed 22 seasonal staff members, one less than 2008 due to declining budgets. For 2009, 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, Glenn Cottone & Danielle Hill (Parks)
Administration:	Rose Bayless (Parks)
Commercial Agreements:	John Kreski (Parks)
SCEP Ranger:	Starr Jamison (BLM)
Management:	Rob White (Parks) and John Nahomenuk (BLM)

In 2009 one Colorado State Parks full-time staff change occurred. The River Ranger Supervisor position was filled by Danielle Hill in October. The Assistant Park Manager Position vacated in October 2008 remained unfilled the remainder of the year and will be filled April 15<sup>th</sup> of 2010.

The following special activities took place within the recreation area in 2009.

<u>Special Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
• Wedding	Stone Bridge
• Kayak Instruction	Lower Arkansas River
• Fremont Co. Search and Rescue Training	Loma Linda
• Memorial Service	Collegiate Peaks Overlook
• Transrockies Run	Numbers & Railroad Bridge
• FIBArk	Park-wide
• Clean Up/Green Up	Arkansas River
• Build Your Own Boat & Royal Gorge Raft Race	Canon City
• Paddlefest	Buena Vista Whitewater Park
• CSC Fire Dept. Swift Water Training	Browns Canyon
• Gold Prospectors of Colorado Picnic	Point Barr
• Adventure Race	Buena Vista to Fisherman's Bridge
• 3 P Race	Big Bend
• Geology Field Camp (2)	Ruby Mountain
• Swiftwater Rescue Training	Salida Whitewater Park
• Ride the Rockies	Hayden Meadows and Tiger Lily
• Family Reunion	Collegiate Peaks Overlook
• OHV Agency Training	Big Bend Track
• Mentor Series	Park-wide
• Monarch Center Filming	Browns Canyon and Royal Gorge

Overall AHRA visitation numbers in 2009 increased from 2008 with total activities up 2.9%.

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

ACTIVITY*	2009 PEOPLE	2008 PEOPLE	'08 TO '09 % CHANGE
SIGHTSEEING	259,169	235,221	10%
FISHING Shore Boat	68,191	67,053	1.7%
	11,661	10,211	14.2%
PICNICKING	42,520	41,909	1.5%
BOATING ** Commercial Private	254,431	265,422	-4.1%
	25,433	27,488	-7.5%
OTHER (Minerals, Visitor Center, Hunting and Swimming)	31,880	29,008	2.8%
TRAIL	23,424	22,640	3.5%
INTERPRETIVE	7,868	7,803	.8%
CAMPING	33,682	30,058	12%
<b>ACTIVITIES TOTAL</b>	<b>758,259</b>	<b>736,813</b>	<b>2.9%</b>

\*May include participants in multiple activities

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

## AHRA Administrative Section

The Administrative section is staffed by one full-time State Parks Program Assistant, Rose Bayless, two seasonal administrative assistants - Heather Wright who works for State Parks 6 months from April through September and the Bureau of Land Management for 6 months from October through March, and Bob Dickey who works from May through September- and one summer GOCO Naturalist/Volunteer Coordinator, Leda Baca. The Administrative Section staff meet and greet visitors to the AHRA Visitor Center, deal with thousands of phone calls and provide a full range of information services on recreational activities including camping, boating, fishing, gold panning, hiking, biking, etc. They handle sales and recordkeeping for all AHRA revenues from commercial agreements, penalty assessments, special activity agreements, State Park passes, camping permits and off-highway vehicle, snowmobile and boat registrations, as well as retail sales of items provided by the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA). Administrative personnel function as the base radio dispatchers to AHRA field staff and provide administrative support to AHRA State Park and BLM employees. The Administrative section also coordinates AHRA special events, such as the Annual Arkansas River Cleanup/Greenup, environmental education programs, and a variety of meetings. Other duties include docketing and maintaining law enforcement penalty assessment records, training seasonal employees, volunteer recruitment and maintaining AHRA budget, visitation and revenue information.

### Administrative Services, Sales and Revenue Statistics (January through December 2009):

2009	Activity	Compared to 2008
454	Annual Passes Sold	1.10%
\$23,085.00	Revenue from Annual Passes Sold	6.3%
315	Aspen Leaf Passes Sold	16.8%
\$7,840.00	Revenue from Aspen Leaf Passes Sold	44.1%
\$99,670.74	Revenue from Daily Individual and Vehicle Passes	4.9%
\$79,447.17	Revenue from Camp Permits**	13.8%
1839	Boat, Snowmobile and OHV Registrations Sold	2.7%
\$48,456.00	Revenue from Registration Sales	4.3%
\$756,666.77	Revenue from Commercial Agreements***	.28%

\*\* 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 2009

# Of People	Type of Activity	Compared to 2008
26,299	Visitor Center	6.9%
796	Personal Interpretation	-2.8%
5975	Non-Personal Interpretation	1.5%
1097	Environmental Education	.5%

### Volunteer Hours for 2009

# of Hours	Type of Activity	Compared to 2008
2974 hrs	Volunteers (groups or individuals)	36.4%%
333 hrs	AHRA Advisory Groups (CTF, RAAC)	4.3%
<b>307 hrs</b>	<b>Total Volunteer Hours in 2009</b>	<b>32.3%</b>

A variety of **Interpretive and Environmental Education** programs and services were presented to the public throughout 2009. Junior Ranger programs took the lead with GOCO Interpreter Leda Baca fascinating kids with programs such as: “Don’t Take the Arkansas River Rocks for Granite”; “Scats and Tracks”; “Birds on the Brain”; “Water’s the Matter”; and “Scavenger Hunt”. Children ages 5-10 stormed the gates each Wednesday morning in Salida and Thursday afternoon in Buena Vista to watch Ranger Leda weave her web of magic and to investigate nature’s secrets. The grand finale was the Junior Ranger raft trip on August 5, with 34 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 2009 with Project Wild, area schools, local recreation programs and other youth groups to provide environmental education that is consistent with their own curriculum. AHRA also teamed up with the Division of Wildlife to recruit volunteers to monitor bluebird houses at AHRA recreation sites for the National Bluebird Project.

AHRA participated in many community events including Paddlefest in Buena Vista as well as the Headwaters Institute Guide Training and FIBArk, both held in Salida. AHRA, GARNA, FIBArk “Cruiser Crit” and the Salida Police Dept. Bike Rodeo partnered together for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual National River CleanUp/GreenUp on May 16<sup>th</sup>. GARNA also assists AHRA with the GARNA sales outlet at the AHRA Visitor Center, which is popular with visitors in the summer. Finally, it should be noted that AHRA assisted the Chaffee County Visitors Bureau during the summer of 2009 with volunteers who provide the workforce at the Heart of the Rockies Visitor Center in Poncha Springs.

AHRA revenues saw a 2.7% increase in 2009 as compared to 2008.

### **AHRA YEAR 2009 REVENUES**

Year 2009 By Month	Park Passes	Camping Permits/ Reservations	Registrations	Special Use Agreements	Penalties, DOW Sales, Special Activities, etc.	<b>TOTALS</b>
January	\$4,910.59	\$161.60	\$1,931.75	\$825.00	\$481.00	<b>\$8,309.94</b>
February	\$2,764.96	\$144.00	\$867.75	\$6,030.32	\$147.50	<b>\$9,954.53</b>
March	\$4,884.77	\$678.00	\$3,262.00	\$12,610.56	\$64.25	<b>\$21,499.58</b>
April	\$7,173.11	\$1,783.00	\$4,746.75	\$23,614.62	\$737.00	<b>\$38,054.48</b>
May	\$21,965.34	\$12,312.00	\$6,079.50	\$124,864.77	\$1,336.50	<b>\$166,558.11</b>
June	\$29,940.48	\$16,357.00	\$7,180.50	\$195,298.01	\$1,385.50	<b>\$250,161.49</b>
July	\$28,028.01	\$22,204.97	\$7,509.25	\$1,045.99	\$2,404.65	<b>\$61,192.87</b>
August	\$19,040.66	\$14,773.47	\$5,555.00	\$721.79	\$3,111.75	<b>\$43,202.67</b>
September	\$9,433.02	\$9,028.60	\$4,418.50	\$2,116.29	\$2,708.50	<b>\$27,704.91</b>
October	\$2,896.79	\$1,505.00	\$2,150.25	\$150,401.18	\$2,636.00	<b>\$159,589.22</b>
November	\$1,645.72	\$409.00	\$1,735.00	\$209,883.98	\$46.00	<b>\$213,719.70</b>
December	\$647.66	\$56.00	\$3,019.75	\$29,254.26	\$100.00	<b>\$33,077.67</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$133,331.11</b>	<b>\$79,412.64</b>	<b>\$48,456.00</b>	<b>\$756,666.77</b>	<b>\$15,158.90</b>	<b>\$1,033,025.17</b>
2008 Revenue	\$122,945.09	\$69,828.18	\$46,462.25	\$754,549.34	\$12,141.35	\$1,005,926.21

## AHRA YEAR 2009 EXPENDITURES -COLORADO STATE PARKS ONLY-

Year 2009 By Month	Full Time and Seasonal Personnel	Operating	Utilities	Capital Equipment	Controlled Maintenance	GOCO, Grants & Misc. Accounts	TOTALS
January	\$52,155.45	\$4,793.84	\$779.69	\$0	\$644.38	\$3,732.24	<b>\$62,105.60</b>
February	\$53,903.72	\$9,069.85	\$687.41	\$0	\$1094.95	\$15.53	<b>\$64,771.46</b>
March	\$54,180.36	\$5,485.03	\$540.99	\$0	\$785.21	\$626.54	<b>\$61,618.13</b>
April	\$61,433.37	\$7,236.67	\$598.10	\$0	\$2,005.88	\$391.99	<b>\$71,666.01</b>
May	\$79,370.53	\$7,770.77	\$1008.79	\$0	\$2,196.84	\$6,215.64	<b>\$96,562.57</b>
June	\$101,586.46	\$35,193.79	\$5,681.62	\$0	\$9,571.68	\$19,666.18	<b>\$171,699.73</b>
July	\$84,044.54	\$12,017.23	\$1,044.99	\$0	\$2,548.39	\$13,083.48	<b>\$112,738.63</b>
August	\$84,692.27	\$15,005.04	\$1,981.72	\$0	\$4,432.02	\$3,389.94	<b>\$109,500.99</b>
September	\$76,108.06	\$10,729.34	\$1,331.51	\$0	\$3,017.10	\$721.15	<b>\$91,907.16</b>
October	\$55,691.86	\$4,359.53	\$669.44	\$0	\$213.78	\$2,732.21	<b>\$63,666.82</b>
November	\$52,676.45	\$4,168.11	\$5,713.17	\$0	\$717.44	\$171.59	<b>\$63,446.76</b>
December	\$52,883.55	\$4,413.29	\$1,658.03	\$0	\$0	\$543.16	<b>\$59,498.03</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$808,726.62</b>	<b>\$120,242.49</b>	<b>\$21,695.46</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$27,227.67</b>	<b>\$51,289.65</b>	<b>\$1,029,181.89</b>
Total Expenditures for Water Purchases in 2009				Water Purchase/Lease – 600 acre feet from Bureau of Water Works Pueblo @ \$50/acre ft			\$30,000.00
				Temporary Storage Contract 11,000 acre-feet from Bureau of Reclamation @ \$20.53/acre ft			\$20,530.00
				USGS Water Gages			\$14,430.00
<b>Grand Total</b>							<b>\$1,094,141.89*</b>

\*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 Temporary Work Program (TWP) or seasonal budget for FY 08/09 allowed eight, 40 hour per week seasonal rangers for the 2009 summer season. The river section had four, 40 hour per week seasonal river rangers assigned to it. The land section had four, 40 hour per week seasonal rangers. In addition to these eight TWP rangers there was one TWP Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Ranger that was funded by an OHV grant. This position was supervised by the Land Ranger Supervisor. Because of reduced budgets, AHRA continues to struggle to regain its former TWP 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 TWP budget and associated seasonal staff cuts, the seasonal staff was 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 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.

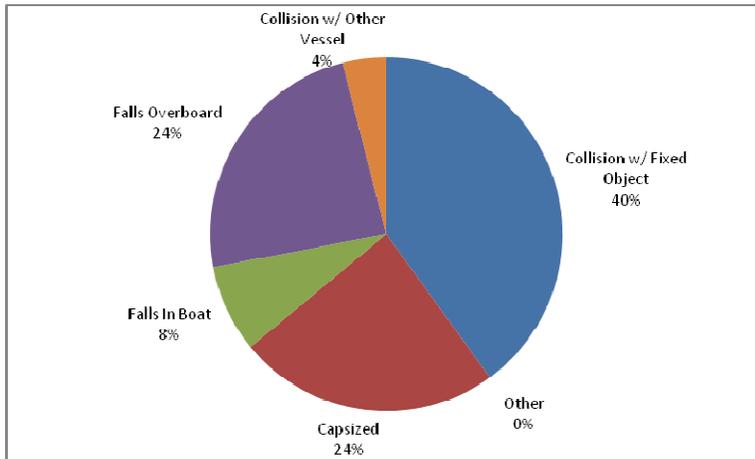
The OHV ranger is part of a three-person multi-agency trail crew working in the Upper Arkansas River Valley. The trail crew members represent Colorado State Parks and the U.S. Forest Service. Funding for this collaborative effort comes from an OHV grant funded by OHV registrations. The trail crew maintains trails and OHV routes, provides input on new OHV routes, and enforces OHV registration 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 limited commission, Title 33 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	65
River Outfitter Office Records Inspections	22
River Assists	115
Search, Rescue and Recovery Operations	9
River Hazard Removal Operations	17



2009 BOAT ACCIDENTS BY CAUSE	
CAUSE	TOTAL
Collision w/ Fixed Object	10
Capsized	6
Falls In Boat	2
Falls Overboard	6
Other	0
Collision w/ Other Vessel	1
<b>TOTAL ACCIDENTS</b>	<b>25</b>

- \*There were two private river fatalities that occurred in the same accident within the AHRA in 2009.
- \*There was one commercial river fatality within the AHRA in 2009.

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

### Investigated and Reported Incidents for the Year 2009

	Number
Reportable Commercial Boat Accidents	18
Private Boat Accidents	5
Other Commercial Accidents	4
Other Non-Commercial Accidents	0
OHV Accidents	0
Interagency Assists / SAR	6
Vandalism / Theft	9
Hazard Removal / HAZMAT	0
Other	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>45</b>

### Citations Issued for the Year 2009

Year	2009
Pass/Permit Violations	468
Resource Protection Violations	10
Public Safety Violations	3
Records/Reporting Violations	3
OHV Violations	10
Snowmobile Violations	3
Other Violations (Illegal rafting outfitting)	5
<b>*Total</b>	<b>502</b>
*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 95 commercial contractors in 2009. 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 207,216 clients in 2009. In 2009 commercial use at AHRA decreased by 3.96% from 2008. Gross revenue received from commercial operations within the AHRA in 2009 was 1.06% below revenue received in 2008. 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 2009, 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 the winter months to assist with annual boat allocations and oversee the Special Use Agreement Application program.

### AHRA Commercial Special Use Agreements By Type

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Boating.....	55	55
Imaging .....	22	9
Walk and Wade Fishing.....	15	15
Shuttle Services.....	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>82</b>

### Rationed Days By Section

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Section 1c – The Numbers .....	13	19
Section 2b – Browns Canyon.....	12	12
Section 2d – Big Bend to Salida .....	4	8
Section 3 – Salida to Vallie Bridge.....	49	34
Section 4b – Texas Creek to Parkdale .....	3	4
Section 5 – The Royal Gorge.....	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>89</b>

## **AHRA Bureau of Land Management**

**The Bureau of Land Management** recreation staff continues to see some changes over what was reported in the 2008 report. BLM recreation staff members in 2009 were the River Manager, a Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) individual, a seasonal recreation technician and a winter seasonal administrative position (October 2009 – March 2010).

The BLM River Manager (John P. 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, retired June and Leah Quesenberry, current) located at the BLM headquarters in Canon City, CO.

Starr Jamison continued in 2009 to be part of the Student Career Employment Program (SCEP) as a Recreation Technician. 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 graduated in August of 2009 and was placed in a career seasonal position. 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 with various user groups. This includes project planning, grant acquisition, preparation and input into NEPA documents, volunteer program management, resource monitoring, implementation of the Fourmile and Arkansas River Travel Management Plan and providing resource protection and monitoring of two BLM Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) and to four Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

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. It also provides support for OHV partnership projects, coordinates volunteer resource improvement projects and works to support AHRA in the Geographical Information System 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.

Heather Wright continued to work as the seasonal BLM Recreation Technician and State Parks Administrative Program Technician during the 2009 season. Her year-round support to the Administrative section and AHRA provides much needed consistency to our very busy office.

Janine Prout (Recreation Technician) is our main public contact representative and spends a great deal of her time patrolling the uplands making contacts with the recreating public. She is also responsible for maintaining facilities. Janine spends a great deal of her time leading volunteers in trail building, clean-up and construction and maintenance projects.

BLM hired a third party contractor (EDAW / AECOM) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Christo and Jeanne-Claude Over the River (OTR) art project. Though Jeanne-Claude passed away this year, Christo continues to move forward with the project. The proposal calls for draping approximately 6 miles of the Arkansas River with

translucent fabric. The OTR proposal prepared in 2008 by JF SATO will be used to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. All costs to the BLM associated with the project are paid for by the proponent. The art display, if approved, would not be viewed until 2013 at the earliest.

### **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 Parkdale Recreation Site near Canon City.

The maintenance section is extensively involved in site maintenance, improvements and modifications suggested by our visitors, outfitters and staff. During 2009, these improvements included the construction of wildlife friendly fences on the Parkdale property line, Arkansas River Ranch/ Mt. Massive Subdivision property line and the newly acquired property adjacent to Fisherman's Bridge, replacing the roof on the Railroad Bridge vault toilet building, installing newly designed "Information" signs in our three panel sign frames, treating all park wood structures with preservative treatment, refinishing picnic tables, installing fire rings at select undeveloped sites, servicing all doors and locks on AHRA facilities, re-keying all vault toilets to a single key and remodeling the Visitor Center basement to create a new office space.

Extensive utilization of Department of Corrections Sign Shop and Labor Crews, volunteer groups, community service workers, and Youth Corps helped AHRA achieve many of its maintenance goals in 2009.

### **AHRA State Park Management**

**The State Park Manager & Assistant Park Manager (Position Vacant in 2009)** 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 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 150-mile river corridor and continue to develop and enhance communication and cooperation among visitors as well as current and potential partners.

As mentioned earlier in the report, in October 2008 the Assistant Park Manager was temporarily assigned to the Southeast Region Office to assist them with their operations. This temporary assignment carried through October 2009 when the assignment became permanent with the appointment of John Geerdes as the Southeast Region Manager. The vacant AHRA Assistant Park Manager position was recently filled with the appointment of Tom Waters, from the Colorado State Parks Public Safety and Training Unit. Tom begins his assignment at AHRA on a part-time basis (three days a week) starting April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and then will be assigned to AHRA on a full-time basis May 1<sup>st</sup>.

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.

## 2009 Annual Report Accomplishments

- ❖ Hosted the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Arkansas River Clean-up/Green-up
- ❖ Hosted the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Contractors Workshop
- ❖ Celebrated AHRA's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Salida Steamplant on October 27<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ Participated in Colorado State Parks 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities
- ❖ Cleaned up disbursed camping areas along the river and performed maintenance on trail #T6034 in the Fourmile Travel Management Area on National Public Lands Day
- ❖ AHRA staff participated in several environmental education and water safety presentations for local elementary schools
- ❖ Coordinated a Junior Ranger Raft Trip in cooperation with Noah's Ark
- ❖ Prepared special program for Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien's visit to Salida in conjunction with the "Colorado Kids Outdoor Forum"
- ❖ The Southwest Conservation Corps worked on projects during the month of July
- ❖ Instructed CPR / AED class for staff
- ❖ Assisted BLM with motorcycle recovery
- ❖ Assisted Salida Fire and State Patrol with overturned tanker truck at the Rincon curves
- ❖ Responded to and investigated double fatality in Pine Creek (private)
- ❖ Assisted with evacuation of flash flood victims at Texas Creek
- ❖ Testified at Fremont Co. Tanner murder trial
- ❖ Complied with the required furlough days mandated by Governor Ritter
- ❖ Represented State Parks at the Fall Color Tour OHV ride in Buena Vista
- ❖ Took pictures of all campsites for Reserve America reservation project
- ❖ Testified in Denver Federal Court, civil lawsuit
- ❖ Completed OHV State Trail Grant Applications requesting \$107,150
- ❖ Completed OHV Sound Test enforcement level training
- ❖ Hosted 3-Day Swiftwater Rescue training course for AHRA staff, Salida Fire Department and other federal and state agencies
- ❖ Worked closely with FIBArk race coordinators to increase and assist with safety during river race events
- ❖ The multi-agency OHV trail crew patrolled, maintained, rerouted and cleared over 2,680 miles of trail, made 1259 contacts and worked on trail projects throughout the Upper Arkansas River Valley
- ❖ AHRA maintenance staff contributed over 500 hours towards noxious vegetation control on lands under AHRA jurisdiction
- ❖ Performed track maintenance in the Big Bend riding area and placed road base in the OHV parking area
- ❖ Rob White, John Nahomenuk and John Kreski attended the 2009 Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA) Conference
- ❖ Attended meetings regarding the proposed Over The River project by Christo
- ❖ Conducted a Browns Canyon monitoring trip with BLM

This concludes the 2009 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](mailto:ahra@state.co.us). Additional copies of this report can be downloaded from: [www.parks.state.co.us/Arkansas/](http://www.parks.state.co.us/Arkansas/).