



# arkansas headwaters recreation area FY09-10



## who we are

Running from the alpine highlands below Leadville to the open prairies above Pueblo, the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) encompasses Colorado's widely diverse geology, topography and history. The breadth of these resources provides vast opportunities for the enjoyment of nature and outdoor recreation in the heart of Colorado, set against a spectacular vista of mountains and open country. One visit will convince any visitor why this is one of America's premier recreation rivers. The AHRA offers unlimited outdoor treks with convenient gateway communities available to ensure the creation of quality life-long memories for families and adventurers.

Visitors to the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area spend over \$44 million annually in local communities.

*Source: Corona Research, Colorado State Parks Marketing Assessment, "Visitor Spending Analysis 2008-2009."*

## top attractions

- Browns Canyon and McIntyre Hills Wilderness Study Areas.
- Bighorn Sheep Canyon – abundant wildlife, including mountain lions and bighorn sheep.
- Royal Gorge, a spectacular sheer-walled rock canyon filled with incredible whitewater rapids.
- Pine Creek and the Numbers – some of the most challenging Class IV and V whitewater found in the West.
- Features the Salida, Buena Vista, and Canon City Whitewater Parks.

## our partners

- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Greater Arkansas River Nature Association
- AHRA Citizen Task Force
- Lake County Open Space Initiative
- Salida, Buena Vista and Leadville School Districts
- Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District
- Leadville, Salida, Buena Vista and Canon City Chambers of Commerce
- Fremont, Chaffee and Lake County Commissioners and Law Enforcement Agencies
- Trout Unlimited
- Upper Arkansas Area Weed Management Association
- Arkansas River Outfitters Association
- Colorado River Outfitters Association
- Colorado Youth Corps
- Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments
- FIBArk (First In Boating the Arkansas)
- Colorado Mountain College
- Canon City & Royal Gorge Railroad/Rock and Rail Railroad
- Chaffee County Visitors Bureau
- Colorado Whitewater Association
- Backcountry Horseman's Association
- Pikes Peak Whitewater Club
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Colorado State Trails Committee
- Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition
- Colorado Foundation for Water Education

## challenges we face

- Strengthen the partnership with federal, state and local agencies, water conservation districts, Trout Unlimited and the Arkansas River Outfitters Association to maintain the year-round Voluntary Flow Management Program which enhances both angling and whitewater boating opportunities, while providing an important economic benefit for local communities.
- Providing quality recreational experiences to an increasing number of visitors each year while at the same time minimizing conflicts that can occur between a variety of different constituents that use the recreation area.
- Seek public and private partnerships to identify and potentially acquire fee title or easements on critical parcels of land along the river corridor, to improve access to public lands and waters thereby enhancing recreation opportunities for all park users.

## our enduring vision

*Colorado State Parks offer exceptional settings for renewal of the human spirit. Residents and visitors enjoy healthy, fun-filled interaction with the natural world, creating rich traditions with family and friends that promote stewardship of our natural resources. Park employees and their partners work together to provide ongoing and outstanding customer service through recreational programs, amenities and services.*

## statistics and ratios

Visitation FY 09-10: **742,439**

Estimated expenditures within 50 miles of the park: **\$44,606,505 (2008-2009)** (\$183 per vehicle)

Full-time staff: **9**

Visitor to staff ratio: **82,493:1**

Temporary employees: **24**

Volunteers: **342**

Volunteer hours contributed: **3,307**

County: **Chaffee, Fremont, Lake and Pueblo**

Congressional District: **5th**

State Legislative Districts  
Senate: **2, 4 and 5** House: **21, 56 and 60**

## expenses/revenues

Total operating expenses: **\$1,291,956**

Total construction expenses: **\$0**

Total revenue generated: **\$1,023,066**

Self-sufficiency ratio: **79%**  
(FY 09-10 revenues/operating expenses)

## land acquisitions FY 09-10

There were no new land acquisitions in FY 09-10.

## volunteer activities

- Volunteers assisted with AHRA environmental education and youth recreation programs.
- Worked with volunteers on National Public Lands Day to cleanup disbursed camping areas along the river such as Point Barr, Salida East, Riverside, CR 371.
- Sponsored Cleanup/Greenup, a community based river-wide volunteer effort.
- Recruited campground hosts for the Ruby Mountain and Railroad Bridge campgrounds.
- Continued work with AHRA's volunteer Citizen Task Force, Rationing and Agreement Committee and the Private Boater Committee on a variety of management issues.
- Volunteers assisted AHRA in obtaining Section 3 private boat counts.
- Volunteers provided assistance in a variety of maintenance tasks such as installing signs, painting picnic tables, cleaning campsites and overall park cleanup.
- In cooperation with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, volunteers monitored Bluebird Houses at AHRA sites.

## park inventory

Year became a state park: **1989**

Land acres: **6,193**

Water acres:  
**29 acres of lakes**  
**150 miles of river**

Elevation:  
**4,000'-9,400' above sea level**

### Ownership

State parks: **3%**  
Other: **97%**

### Miles of Roads

Paved: **0.5**  
Unpaved: **8.7**

### Miles of Trails

Hiking: **17.0**  
Biking: **5.0**  
Horse: **8.0**  
OHV: **1.0**

### Boat ramps:

**18**

**Campsites: 102**

**Picnic sites: 118**

### Concessions at the park:

95 separate concessionaires operate at the AHRA in four main categories: boating, walk and wade fishing, imaging photography services and shuttle services

### Major buildings/structures:

Park office and visitor center  
Collegiate Peaks Overlook and  
Picnic Area

## to contact us:

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area • (719) 539-7289 • Park Manager: Rob White  
307 W. Sackett Ave. • Salida, CO • 81201 • ahra@state.co.us • www.parks.state.co.us

**42 great**  
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Colorado State Parks