

COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2002

Attendees:

Ken Currey	Harley Armstrong	David Ludlam
John Foster	Gene Arnesen	Connie Rosenthal
Doralyn Genova	Mike Berry	Jane Ross
Greg Gnesios	Nadja Brozina	Bob Sherrill
Dan Rosenthal	Steven Cohn	Julie Stotler
Bob Silbernagel	Charles Kerr	Palma Wilson
Russ Walker		

Warren Gore is on vacation and Dan Rosenthal opened the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Greetings and Introductions

The Advisory Council and visitors introduced themselves.

Dan asked for corrections to the last minutes. Bob Silbernagel asked for a correction on page 2, second paragraph, second sentence. The sentence states that motorized use would be stopped at the east end. This is incorrect and should be deleted.

Dan asked for any other corrections or deletions. Ken Currey motioned the minutes be accepted with the change; the motion passed unanimously.

Field Trip and Working Group Updates

River Corridor Working Group:

Russ Walker said the group would not meet again until fall.

Mack Ridge Working Group:

Gene Arnesen, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Recreation Planner, discussed the last Working Group meeting and rerouting equestrian use. There is some conflict with the equestrian users about changing some of the trails, and the group will work on this issue at the next meeting.

Bob read a letter from Lovell Sasser concerning equestrian use in this area. There is concern about letters sent to the BLM as part of the scoping process regarding restriction of horseback use on Mack Ridge Trail, and the Lions and Mary's Loops.

There is a lot of mountain bike exposure in these areas, and meeting on the trail could create a safety issue.

The next Mack Ridge Working Group meeting will be held on July 15 at the BLM office.

Wilderness Working Group:

Warren is not present at the meeting, and Bob Sherrill provided this Working Group's update. The group last met at the Glade Park Community Center and discussed issues relating to the Pollock Canyon Estates. The group also discussed the Bureau of Reclamation property, the Horsethief Canyon State Wildlife Area, and the parking area with regard to Wilderness access.

The group talked about the Mee Canyon parking lot, currently located within the Wilderness boundary. Options include changing the Wilderness boundary, either to the fence located just within the boundary, or by cherry-stemming the boundary around the parking lot. Greg Gnesios, Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (CCNCA) Manager, said changing the Wilderness boundaries would be difficult. Moving the parking lot may be easier.

Rabbit Valley Working Group:

Ken Currey was present at the last meeting and gave tonight's report. A council member commented about the information on Jim Cooper's map (BLM Transportation Planner). It appears BLM only wanted to close all existing trails. This is not the intent, and Greg's staff needs to come to consensus on this.

The group discussed resolutions and how they will be presented to the Resource Advisory Council (RAC).

A motion was made that BLM promptly obtain the private land in the Rabbit Valley Area. The motion was passed unanimously. Catherine Robertson, BLM Grand Junction Field Manager, said the BLM is working on this, so a follow-on motion was made to table this decision for one month until the next meeting. This was passed unanimously.

A council member asked if there was a possibility this land exchange would go through. Catherine asked the council to give the Glenwood Springs field office another month as its staff has been preoccupied with fires and cannot dedicate time to the proposed land exchange. The value of the land is going to be an issue, but the Grand Junction field office will be working closely with the Glenwood Springs field office on the land exchange.

Gene discussed the BS Road area, and the work the Wilderness Working Group has done. They will be writing recommendations, including camping and travel management, for use on the road.

A council member asked about a proposed site for a target shooting range on the north side of I-70. The group will work with BLM to define the best boundaries for a target shooting zone.

The Rabbit Valley Working Group also discussed opening the Gibson Road and gating it at the private-property line. The Working Group has asked Jim Cooper to look into this to see if it is possible. The council discussed the possible safety issue involved with the overhang.

BLM Update

Greg discussed a proposal from the Department of the Interior for an increase in recreation funding. This proposal has gone to the House. If approved, the increased funding requested by the CCNCA Advisory Council would be available for the National Conservation Area (NCA) in fiscal year 2003.

The status of the time extension requested for completing the Resource Management Plan (RMP) is not clear. We will continue working as we have, and for now, work toward our original deadline. We will hopefully have more information at the next meeting.

Dinosaur Days, and the dedication of the Fruita Paleontological Area site, will be July 20. The signs are being completed now, and Greg feels this area is a definite asset to the community.

Colorado Getaways is presenting a segment to be aired on Channel 3, on Saturday at 6:00 p.m., discussing Rattlesnake Canyon. Greg and Wade Johnson, BLM Interpretive Specialist, are providing information on the area.

There will be benefits-based management (BBM) training next Thursday evening, July 18, at the Grand Vista Hotel. Greg asked as many Advisory Council members as possible to attend.

BBM will be an important part of the recreation plan for the NCA. Gene discussed BBM and how it works.

Jane Ross, CCNCA Planning and Environmental Coordinator, discussed training opportunities and field trips coming up. The river trip will need firm commitments, and those members planning to float the river are to sign up by July 26. Jane went on to ask the group what they would like to see on the other field trips. A council member said Glade Park has rangeland issues that need to be seen, and another council member asked if all-terrain vehicle (ATV) maps would be available for these field trips.

The alternate dates have been published in the Federal Register. The group discussed the dates, and the best time to hold the field trips. The Rabbit Valley field trip will be changed to September 21.

Harley Armstrong, BLM Paleontologist, gave a presentation on the paleontological resources in the NCA. This was followed by Mike Berry's presentation (BLM Archaeologist) on cultural resources in the NCA (attached to these minutes).

Steve Cohn gave a presentation on economic profiles of Mesa County (attached to these minutes).

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Colorado State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is being drafted and will make DNR a cooperating agency in the planning process.

Public Comment

There were no public comments, and the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
FOSSIL LIST
by John Foster, Harley Armstrong, and others

PRECAMBRIAN GRANITES & GNEISSES - no fossils.

CHINLE FORMATION - no fossils known but are likely.

WINGATE FORMATION - no fossils known, but there may be track and other trace fossils.

KAYENTA FORMATION - no fossils known, but there may be track and other trace fossils.

ENTRADA FORMATION - no fossils known, but there may be track and other trace fossils.

WANAKAH FORMATION - no fossils known.

MORRISON FORMATION INVERTEBRATES AND PLANTS

Plants:

About 20 kinds of plants are known, including pollen, wood fragments, horsetails, conifer trees, seed fern trees, and other fossil plants.

Invertebrates:

Fresh water clams, conchastrachans, snails, and other small invertebrates are found in the CCNCA.

MORRISON FORMATION VERTEBRATES

Fossil vertebrates known from the Morrison Formation at the Fruita Paleontological Area, Dinosaur Hill, Rabbit Valley, and other areas of the CCNCA.

* = taxa unique to or first described from CCNCA.

Fish

*Morrolepis schaefferi**

*Hulettia hawesi**

cf. *Leptolepis*

Ceratodus sp.

Indet. Fish

Amphibians

Indet. Frog

Turtles

Glyptops plicatulus
Dinochelys whitei

Sphenodontids (related to modern tuatara of New Zealand)

Opisthias rarus
*Eilenodon robustus**

Lizards

*Parviraptor gilmorei**
Dorsetisaurus sp.
Paramacellodus sp.
Saurillodon sp.

Snakes

Indet. Boiid?

Crocodylians

*"Fruitachampsia callisoni"**
Goniopholis sp.

Pterosaurs

Indet. pterosaur

Theropods

*Ceratosaurus magnicornis**
Allosaurus fragilis

Sauropods

Camarasaurus sp.
Diplodocus sp.

Stegosaurs

Stegosaurus stenops

Ankylosaurs

*Mymoorapelta maysi**

Ornithopods

Echinodon sp.*
Othnielia rex
Camptosaurus sp.

Mammals

Ctenacodon sp.

*Glirodon grandis**
*Priacodon frutaensis**
Paurodontidae indet.
Dryolestidae indet.

BURRO CANYON FORMATION

Has yielded plant fossil fragments, including varieties of wood, branch, leaves, and seed pods, as well as two varieties (large "*Lesqueria* sp. - like" and small "*Sequoia* sp.- like" species) of the world's oldest known (Cretaceous) flowers; no invertebrates or vertebrates are known from within the CCNCA.

DAKOTA SANDSTONE

Has yielded coalified (black) wood and leaf impressions, as well as a few rust-colored plant fossil fragments. Also, dinosaur tracks have been found here.

MANCOS SHALE

Invertebrates:

Include extensive clam beds, oysters, ammonites, scaphites, and other invertebrates.

Vertebrates:

Include at least two varieties of small salt-water sharks as represented through small teeth.

PLEISTOCENE DEPOSITS - no fossils are known but are likely based on some faunal remains (mammoth and bison) found east of the CCNCA.

**COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
CULTURAL RESOURCES
by Mike Berry**

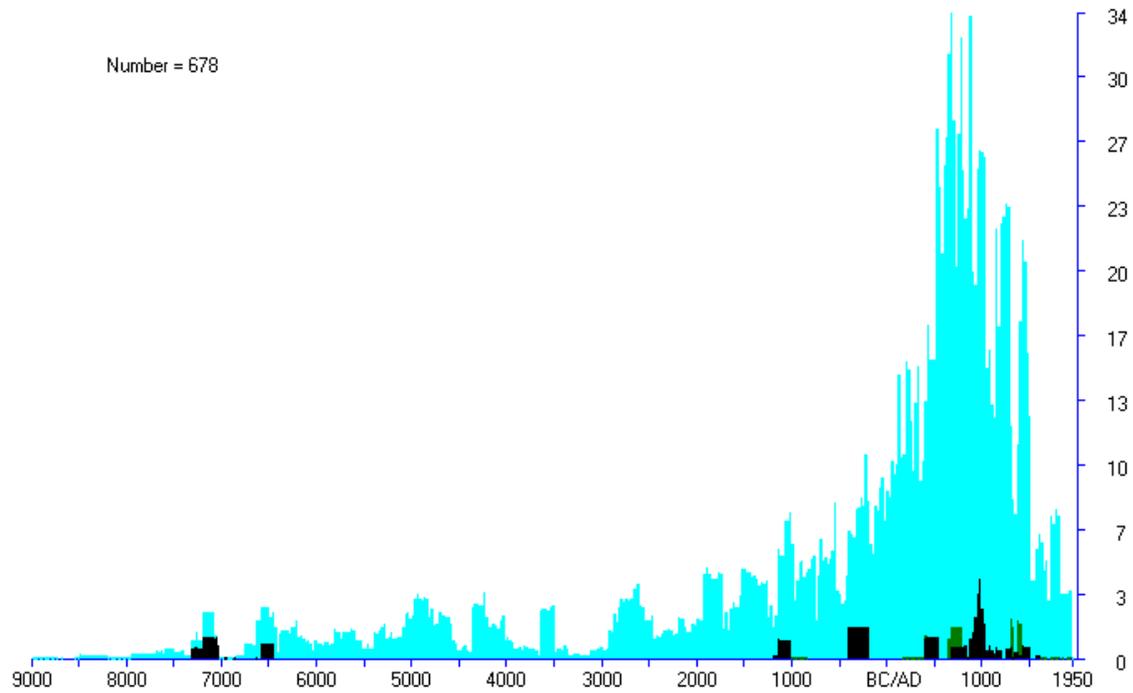
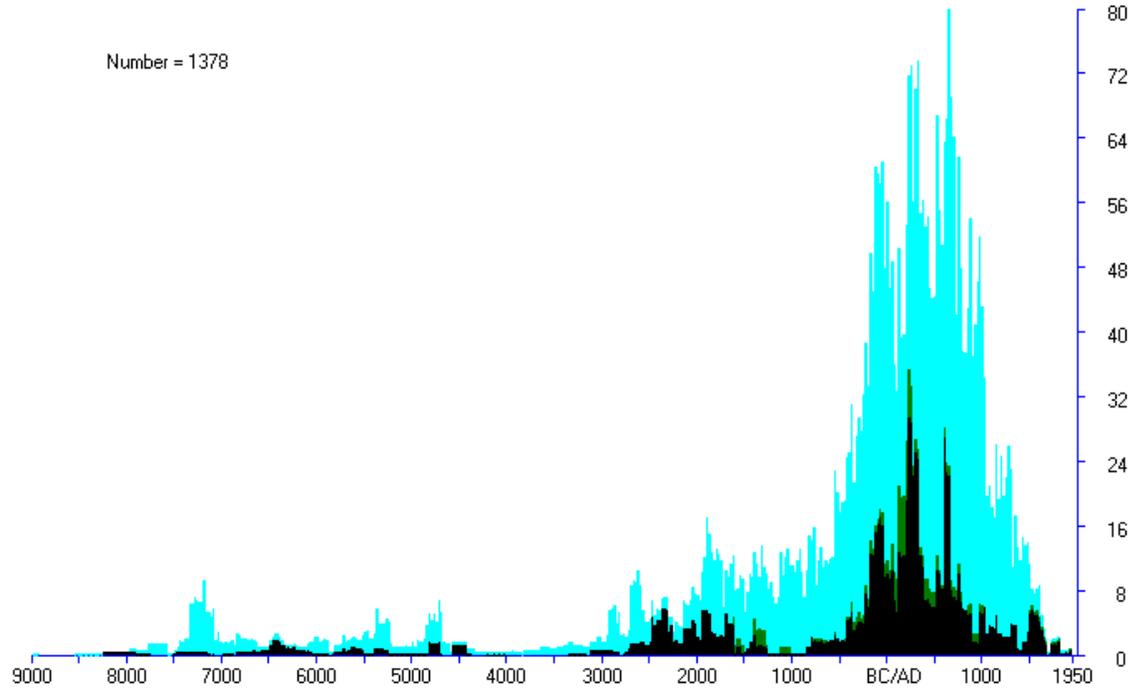
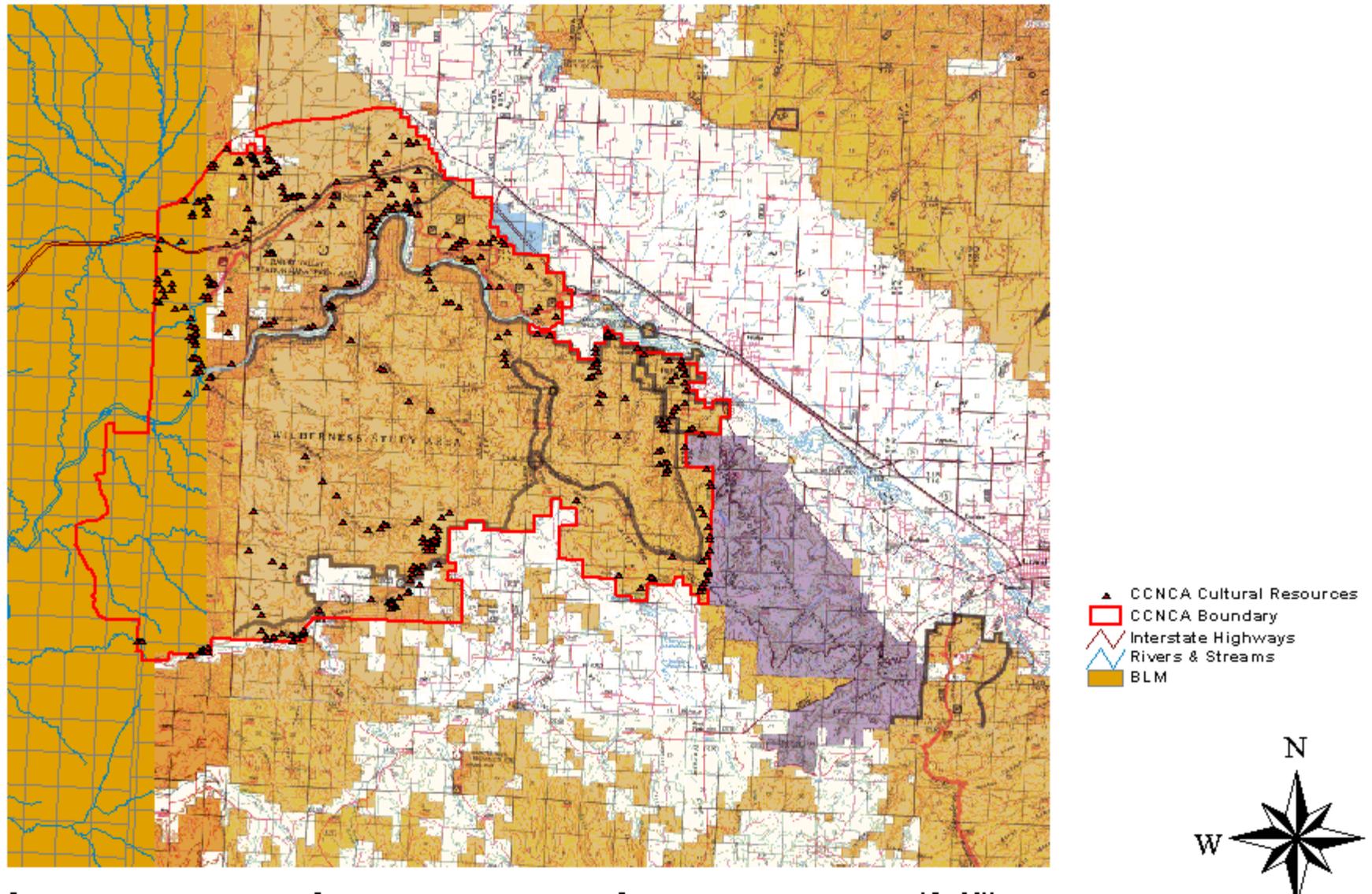


Figure 1. Area map showing the CCNCA boundary and the location of known cultural resources.



**COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
ECONOMIC PROFILES OF MESA COUNTY
by Steve Cohn**

**Colorado Canyons NCA
Economic Impact Analysis:
*Managing for Change***

Steve Cohn
Bureau of Land Management
National Landscape Conservation System
Grand Junction Field Office
July 2002

9/25/02

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What is an economic impact analysis?

- **Economic impacts**
 - ◆ “**Basic industries**” = ‘new money’ into the county
 - ★ Tourism is a direct ‘basic industry’
 - ★ Drives ‘**indirect basic industries**’ (e.g. landscaping for a hotel) & ‘non-basic industries’
 - ◆ “**Non-basic industries**” or “**local resident services**” = spending of residents locally
- **Framework for analysis**
 - ◆ Condition & trend
 - ◆ Future Projections

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Main topics

- Changing land use & economy in the rural intermountain west
- Mesa County economic profile
- Outdoor recreation in the CCNCA
- Expenditure profiles
- Management implications

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Changing land use & economy in the rural intermountain west

The Changing West

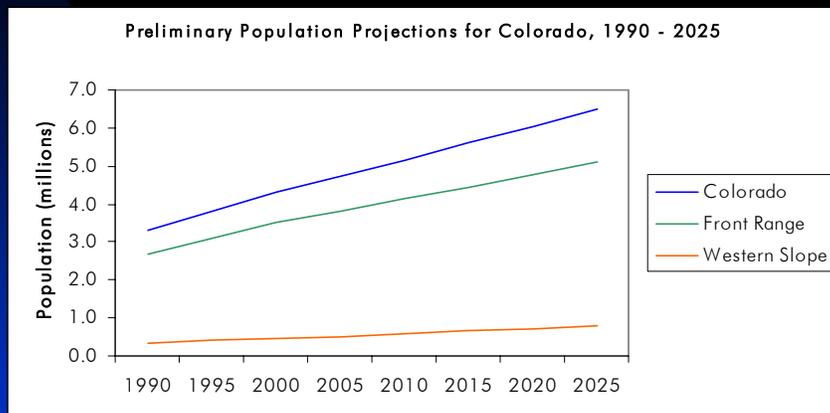
- ◆ Demographic changes
 - Population growth
 - Income sources
- ◆ Adding value: services and natural resources
 - Global production chain
 - Primary natural resource inputs
- ◆ Land use
 - Agricultural conversion
 - Public-private interface

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Projected Future Population



Source:

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Mesa County socio-economic profile

- CCNCA: Social, economic, & environmental context for decision-making
- Data sources:
 - ◆ Sonoran Institute & BLM
 - * Bureau of Economic Analysis
 - * Bureau of Labor Statistics
 - * Bureau of Census
 - ◆ Department of Local Affairs/State Demographer
 - * Local Economic Information and Forecasting Assistance (LEIFA) partnership (DOLA, USFS, & BLM).
 - ◆ BLM Recreation Program
 - * Visitor data

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Socio-economic profile elements

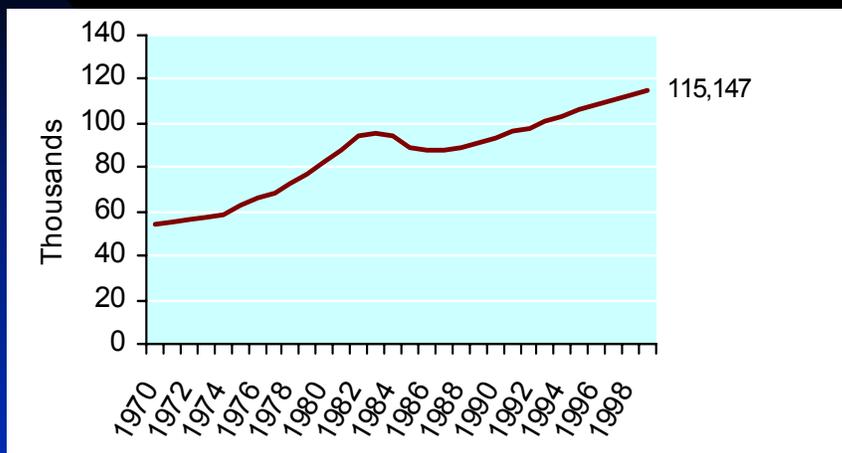
- Population trends & projection
- Personal income & earnings
- Employment
- Land use changes
- Outdoor recreation employment

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Population: Mesa County (1970-1999)



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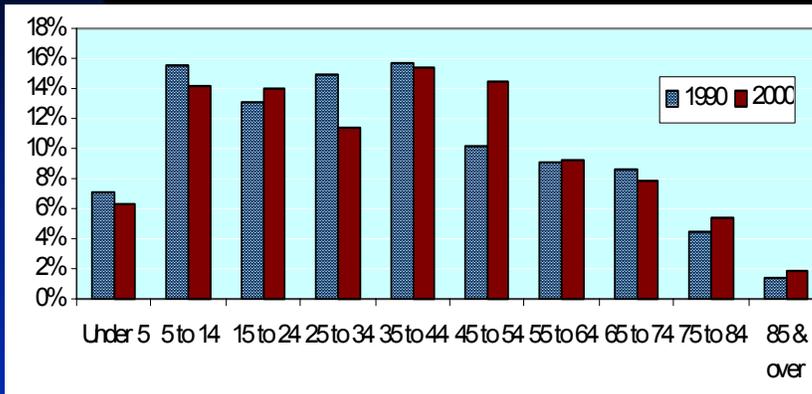
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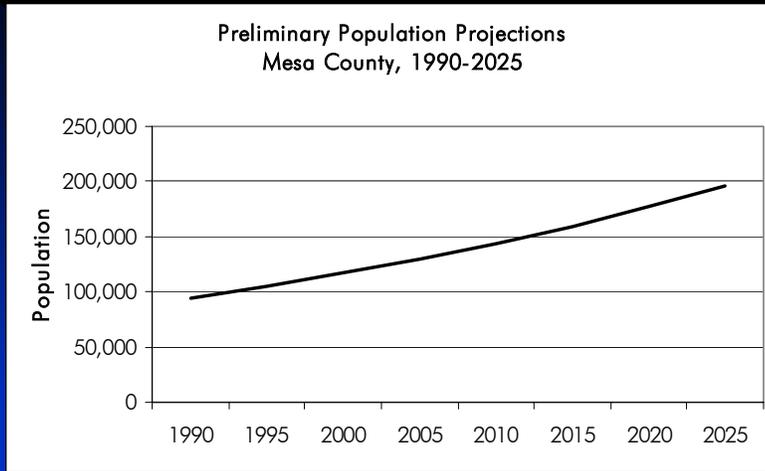
Population trends

- Mesa Co. grew by 111% from 1970 to 1999
- Median age in Mesa Co. is 38.1, compared to 34.3 in CO & 35.3 in the nation

Mesa County Age Breakout in 2000



Projected Future Population



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Mesa County Personal income & earnings (1970-99)

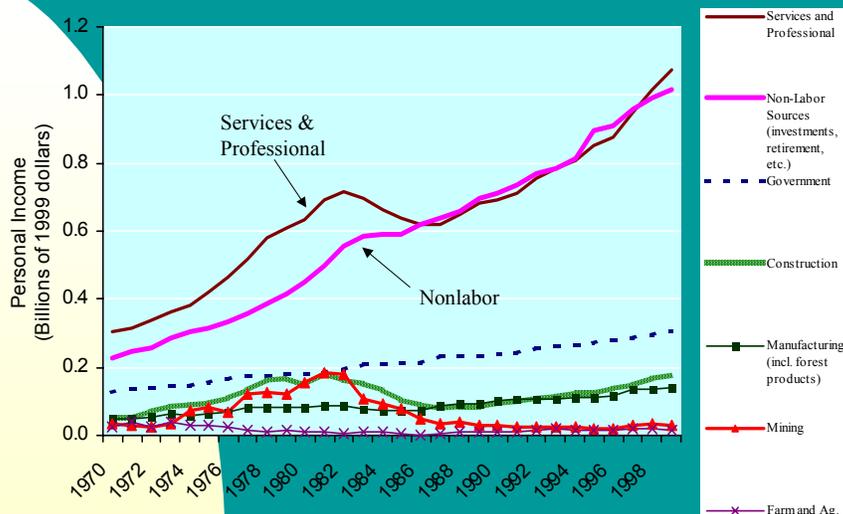
- Added \$1.9 billion in personal income
- Average earnings per job declined
 - ◆ 1970: \$25,355
 - ◆ 1999: \$25,208
- Average per capita income increased
 - ◆ 1970: \$14,590
 - ◆ 1999: \$23,557
- Nonlabor income and services largest sources

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Personal Income



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Nonlabor income in 1999

- Total Nonlabor income – over \$1 billion
 - ◆ Dividends, interest & rent = \$593 million
 - ◆ Age-related transfer payments = \$279 million
 - ◆ Welfare = \$29 million

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Services income in 1999

- **Government services: \$306 million**
- **Producer services: \$303 million**
- **Social services: \$229 million**
- **Consumer services: \$76 million**

Mesa County Employment in 1999

Total employment = 69,121 jobs

Nearly 25% were self-employed

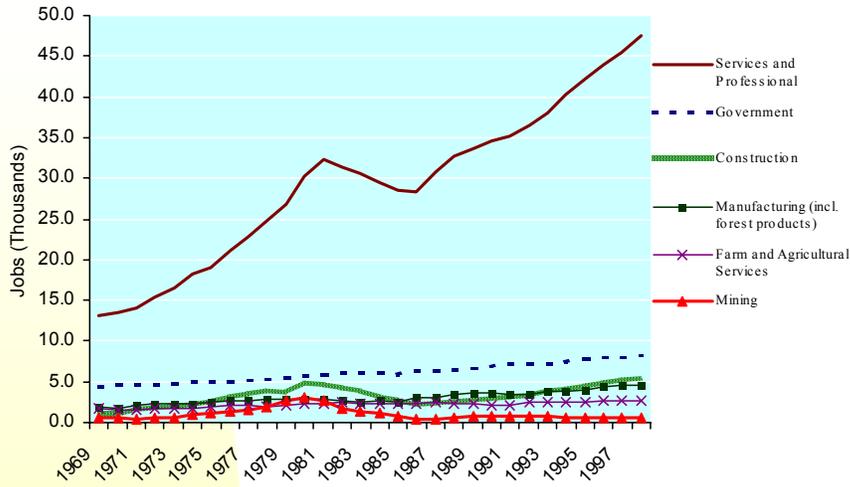
42,000 jobs in:

- ◆ *'Health, Legal & Business Services,'*
- ◆ *'Retail Trade,'*
- ◆ *'Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate'*

Tourism = 5,300 jobs

Services & Professional = 75% of new jobs since 1970

Mesa County Employment – Major Sectors (1970-1999)

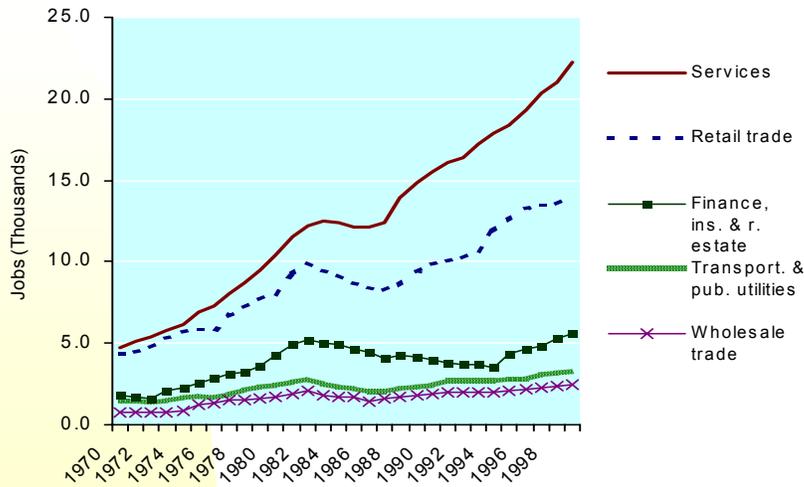


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Mesa County Employment – ‘Services & Professional’ (1970-1999)



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Mesa County Land Use Changes

- Total housing units in 1999 = 48,427
- Occupancy rate = 94.6%, compared to 91.7% in CO
- Construction sector employment:
 - ◆ 1990 = 2,823 jobs
 - ◆ 1999 = 5,569 jobs
 - ◆ 'Special trade contractors' fastest growing component
- Net farm income dropped to -\$3.8 million in 1999

Role of public lands

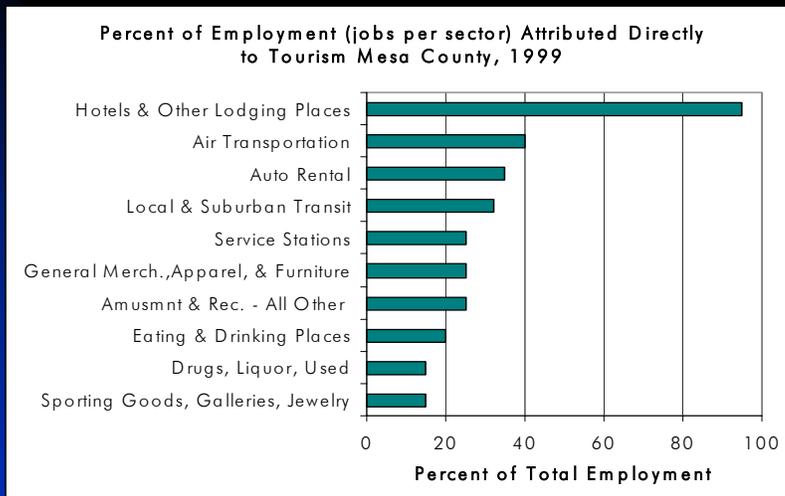
Conversion of farm land to housing and urban development at the public-private interface changes the role of public lands:

- ◆ Open space
- ◆ Habitat
- ◆ Private property values
- ◆ Wildlife
- ◆ Recreation

Mesa County Recreational Tourism Impacts in 1999

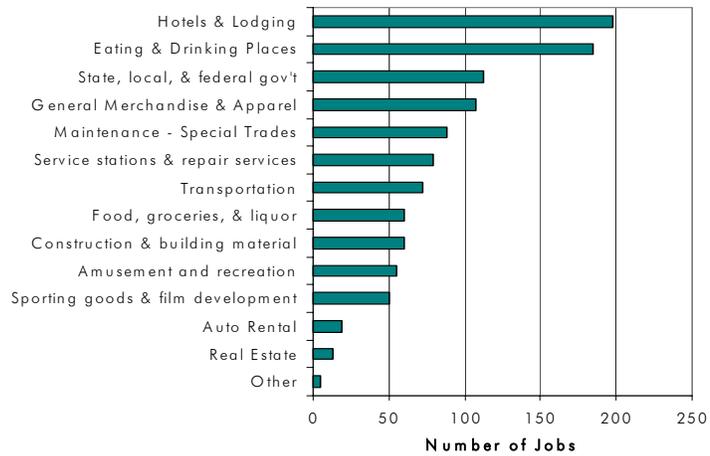
- Tourism employment = 5,303 jobs
- Consistent with statewide average of 8%
- 'Outdoor recreation,' and 'parks & monuments' = 20% of tourism jobs

Tourism Employment



Outdoor Recreation & Parks

Estimated employment attributed to Outdoor Recreation
(including Parks/Monuments), Mesa County, 1999



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Outdoor recreation in the CCNCA

- Visitor summary (1992/5-2001)
- **CO River - Ruby & Horsethief Canyons**
 - ◆ Loma Boat Launch
- **CCNCA land - six major trailheads:**
 - ◆ Kokopelli
 - ◆ Devil's Canyon
 - ◆ Pollock Bench
 - ◆ Rattlesnake Arches
 - ◆ McDonald's Creek
 - ◆ Rabbit's Ear Mesa
- **Rabbit Valley**

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Colorado River: Ruby & Horsethief Canyons

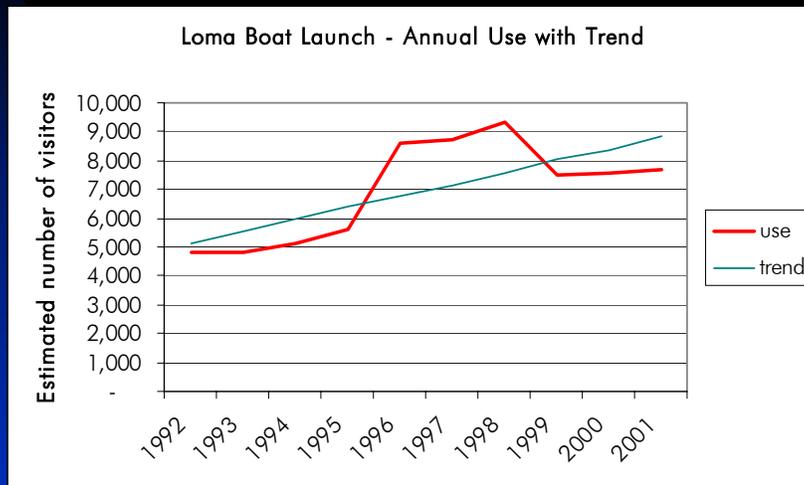
- 70,000 visitors from 1992 to 2001
- Average group size:
 - ◆ Private – 5.8 people
 - ◆ Commercial – 12.9 people
- Visitor place of residence:
 - ◆ Mesa County – 34%
 - ◆ Colorado – 44%
 - ◆ U.S. – 22%

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Loma Boat Launch – Annual Use



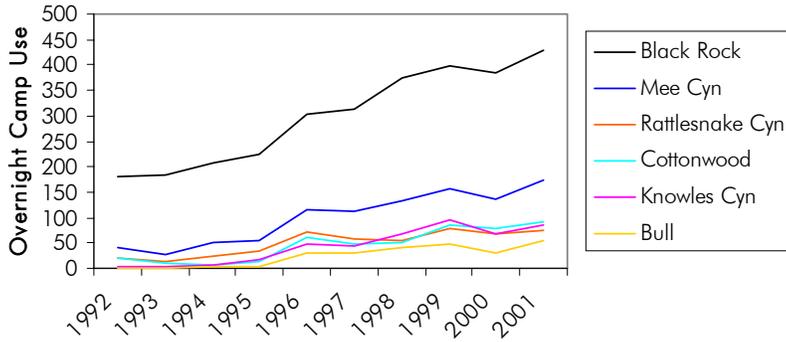
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Camping along the Colorado

Colorado River: Ruby & Horsethief Canyons
Campsite Distribution (1992-2001)



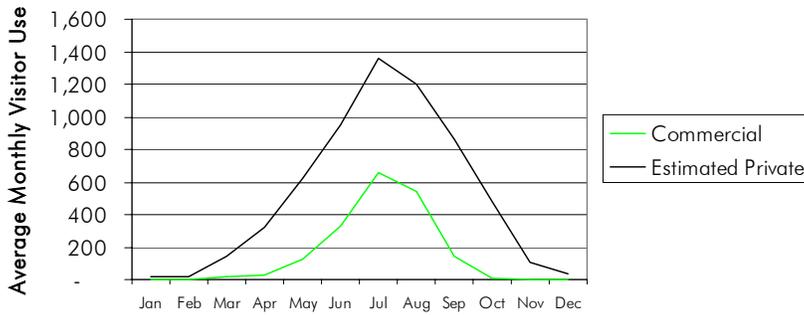
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Peak Use on the Colorado

Colorado River - Ruby & Horsethief Canyons
Commercial & Private Monthly Use (average, 1996-2001)

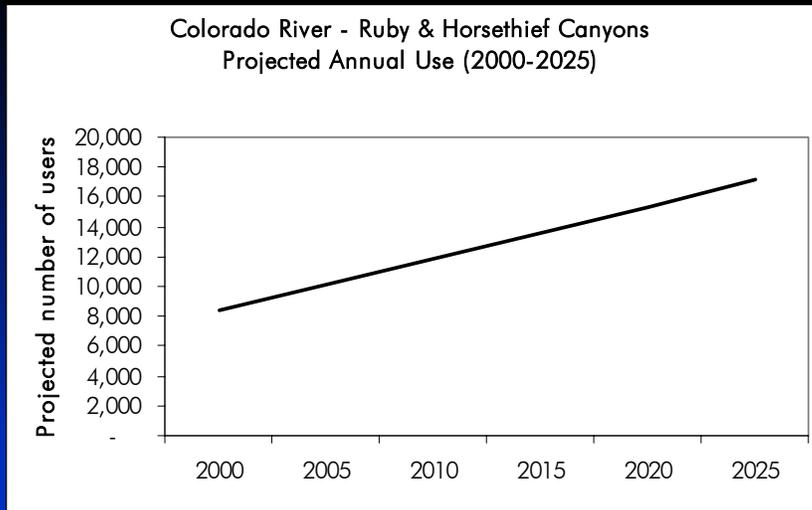


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Colorado River – Projected Future Use

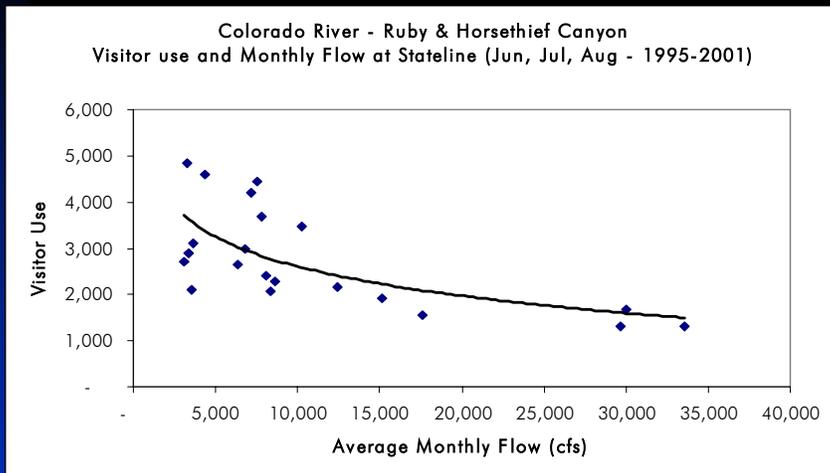


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Colorado River – monthly use



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CCNCA: Six Major Trailheads

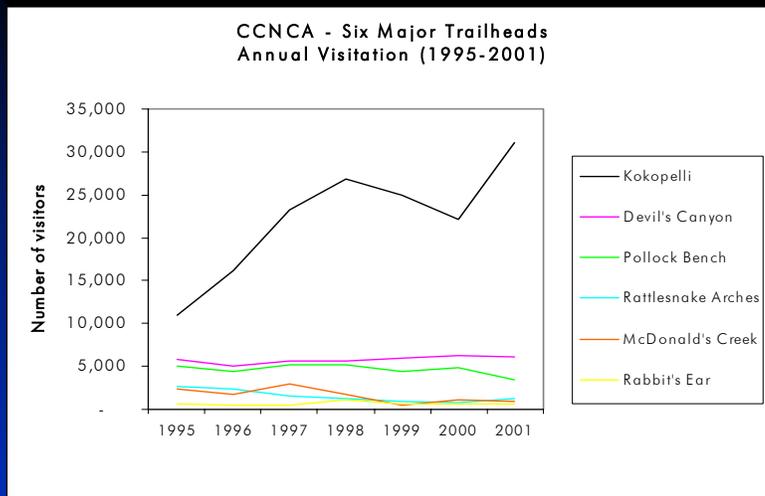
- 1995-2001: average 40,000 visitors per year
 - ◆ Increasing trend
 - ◆ Kokopelli trailhead #1
 - ◆ Visitor place of residence:
 - Mesa County – 48%
 - Colorado – 34%
 - U.S. – 18%

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Major Trailheads – Annual Trend



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Kokopelli Trailhead and Mack Ridge

- Visitation at Kokopelli trailhead
 - ◆ 1995 = 11,000
 - ◆ 2001 = 31,000
- Visitor place of residence:
 - ◆ Mesa County: 38%
 - ◆ Colorado: 41%
 - ◆ U.S.: 21%
- Mary's Loop & Horsethief Bench most used trails
- Mack Ridge and Moore Fun least used trails
- Peak seasonal use in spring and fall

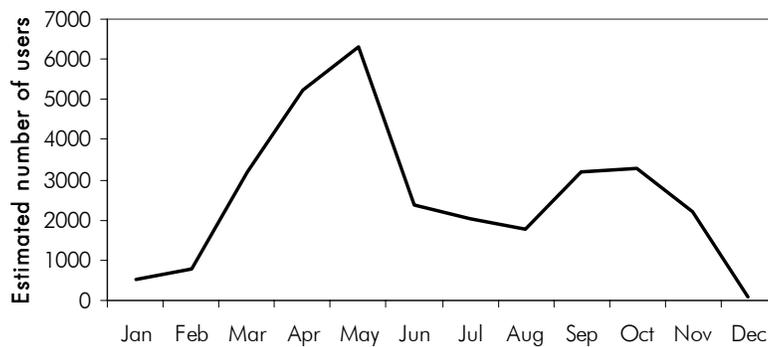
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Mack Ridge Peak Use

Kokopelli Trailhead - Mack Ridge
Monthly Use of Designated Trails (2001)

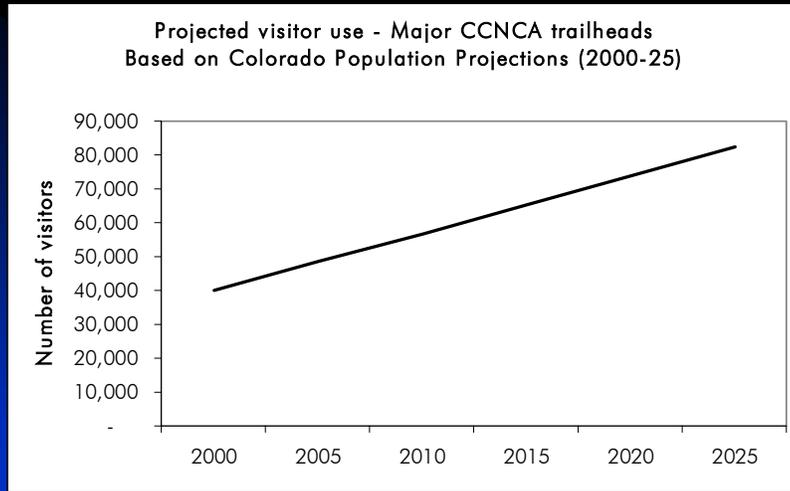


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Major Trailheads - Projected Visitor Use



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Rabbit Valley

- 1994 observed 7,800 vehicles
- Estimate 27,500 day visitors in 2001
- New road counters in place for 2002, expect full year count by spring 2003

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Economic impact to Mesa County from outdoor recreation in the CCNCA

- User economic profiles – how visitors spend their money
- Major uses:
 - ◆ Motorized, off-road
 - ◆ Mountain bike
 - ◆ River travel
 - ◆ Equestrian
 - ◆ Hiking and camping
 - ◆ Wildlife – hunting, fishing, watching

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Expenditure profiles

Economic impact = sum of expenditures for each profile

Example: Motorized recreation in Rabbit Valley

- ◆ Profile: Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition, 2001. Economic Contribution of Off-Highway Vehicle Use in Colorado, prepared by Hazen & Sawyer, Denver, CO.

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Management implications

- Good visitor data for Ruby & Horsethief Canyon and six major trailheads
- Collecting visitor data for Rabbit Valley (2002-03)
- Good user profile for OHV
- Need additional profiles for river use, mountain biking, equestrian, hiking & camping, and wildlife-based activities
- USGS/BLM survey will provide expenditure profiles for each major recreational opportunity.

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Management implications

Additional impacts: Indirect Basic Industries & Local Resident Services

- ◆ circulation of new \$ through Mesa County economy
- ◆ Tourism services → local resident services

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Management implications

- Future projections of economic impact from CCNCA recreation provide baseline:
 - ◆ based on existing visitor trends, population growth, and expenditures.
- Management alternatives can reflect changes in economic & social setting of CCNCA
- Balance projected future use with social values and ecological condition.

Next Steps

- Refine economic analysis as new information becomes available
- Link Economic Analysis (visitation trends and projections, economic impacts) with Social Analysis (BBM study) & Ecological Analysis (land health) to prepare baseline and identify limits of acceptable change
- Model impacts of alternatives relative to baseline