

# 2011 BLM Colorado Annual Report

## CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT

CANM is hosting an Artist in Residence Program featuring four visual artists, one each month throughout the summer.

## GUNNISON FIELD OFFICE

Internal and external scoping began for the Slate River watershed improvement and recreation management plan. Currently, the Slate River/Oh Be Joyful emergency stabilization actions are completed.

Hired 11 youth from Western State College to assist the field office.

## TRES RIOS FIELD OFFICE

Released the San Juan Resource Management Plan/Forest Plan Supplement in August 2011. The BLM and U.S. Forest Service are continuing analysis for the shared Environmental Impact Statement.

The BLM is implementing the first phases of the PZP program on the Spring Creek HMA in conjunction with the Backcountry Horseman's Association.

## UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE

Developed alternatives for the Resource Management Plan with extensive help from the Southwest RAC and sub-group as well as cooperating agencies. The RAC sub-group helped facilitate 12 meetings to evaluate Wild and Scenic River suitability for the San Miguel/Dolores river system.

The visitor services team at Gunnison Gorge National Conservation area organized a four day outdoor education classroom for 650 local middle school students.

## SAN LUIS VALLEY FIELD OFFICE

The first Rio Grande Natural Area Commission (RGNAC) meeting was conducted in August. The RGNAC is a nine-member citizen advisory committee tasked with developing a management plan for the private lands within the boundaries of the Rio Grande Natural Area.

## ROYAL GORGE FIELD OFFICE

In November the BLM signed the Record of Decision for the proposed Over the River art project. The installation, exhibition and removal phases of "OTR" are projected to attract 416,000 visitors over a three year period. The final EIS for "Over the River" projected the display will generate \$121 million in local revenue.

An Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Project was implemented in March 2011, following the 2010 Fourmile Canyon Fire. The rehabilitation efforts focused on aerial mulching for slope stabilization, seeding for weed control, and flood mitigation.

## COLORADO RIVER VALLEY FIELD OFFICE

The Draft Colorado River Valley Resource Management Plan was released for public review and comment in September 2011.



### **KREMMLING FIELD OFFICE**

The Kremmling Draft RMP/EIS was released to the public in Sept. 2011.

### **GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE**

Two fee proposal increases were formally recommended by the NW RAC in Dec. The new fee and permit system for the Ruby-Horsethief stretch of the Colorado River was recommended to better manage the increasing use of this popular area. The NW RAC also recommended the Grand Junction Field Office's proposal to begin charging a \$10 per night camping fee at the popular 18-Road Campground in the North Fruita Desert.

Calamity Camp a 100-year old abandoned mining camp on the Uncompahgre Plateau was added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 1, 2011.

### **LITTLE SNAKE FIELD OFFICE**

In October the BLM issued the Record of Decision for the Little Snake Resource Management Plan Revision. The office is now working on implementing the ROD, including a route-by-route travel management designation process.

### **WHITE RIVE FIELD OFFICE**

The BLM completed the Piceance-East Douglas wild horse gather on Sept. 30, 2011. The gather brought the wild horse population down to the lower end of the appropriate management level of 135 to 235 wild horses. A total of 276 wild horses were gathered, 15 of which were released back into the Herd Management Area.

### **COLORADO STATE OFFICE**

In 2011, the historic ghost town of Animas Forks including Placer Gulch Boarding House, the Minnie Gulch Cabin and the Gold Prince Mine, Mill and Aerial Tramway along the Alpine Loop were listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

BLM Colorado is revising and amending all the RMPs within the range of the greater sage-grouse. The BLM has set up several management and technical teams across the range of greater sage-grouse to complete this task by the end of May 2014. Colorado managers and biologists are actively participating in these regional teams to develop these conservation measures that will be included in BLM Colorado planning efforts over the next three years.

In 2011, BLM Colorado received 6.8 million from recreation on public lands. BLM Colorado also ranked fourth highest for visitation on public lands nationally. Traditional energy production continues to be a cornerstone of public lands management, with 22,912 jobs associated with mineral and energy development on public lands, generating nearly \$4.9 billion in total economic impact.

BLM Colorado finalized and is currently employing its oil and gas Leasing Reform Implementation Strategy. The implementation strategy will ensure that oil and gas leasing on public lands conforms to the BLM leasing reform policy, which includes additional public involvement and environmental protection.

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Colorado State Office • 2850 Youngfield Street • Lakewood, Colorado 80215 • 303-239-3700 • [www.blm.gov/co](http://www.blm.gov/co)