



Forests to Grassland

... and everything in between

The Arapaho and Roosevelt NF's and Pawnee National Grassland

Highlights

Winter 2005

Website: www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf/

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A message from the Forest Supervisor

Greetings! I hope this finds you enjoying the season with your friends and family. 2005 has been a very productive year, with strong advances in hazardous fuels reduction, forest health treatments, and responses to unmanaged recreation. This issue contains news on these and many other program accomplishments.

We have been busy on the ARP. We are very excited that the Yankee Hill Project was selected as a national pilot project to help test new ways of thinking

about fuel hazard reduction. For details see page 3.

The National Travel Management Rule was released in November and we have been organizing to meet the rules' requirements (page 4).

A Mountain Pine Beetle Co-op was established to bring multiple agencies together as they continue to address the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic. We are an active participant in this effort. (page 4) .

We are very proud of Kathy Lindsay, the Clear Creek District Wildlife Biologist discovered a

new plant, while working on a road project on Guanella Pass. (page 5).

The last page of this issue features our Points of View Section, where we would like to start a dialog among our forest and grassland visitors about target shooting. Please read how you can contribute.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

*Jim Bedwell,
Forest Supervisor*

- * Editor, *Forests to Grassland*
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Hot Topics

Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership

The Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership (FRFTP) will soon reach a milestone with the publication of the FRFTP Roundtable vision document. The document culminates a year of collaborative, dedicated effort by members of the Roundtable. It is a summary of findings about the ecology of the Front Range and the relationship between maintaining ecological health and Front Range economics, the need for political and regulatory action, and community involvement throughout the Front Range of Colorado. The vision document also will make recommendations for taking action to achieve ecological health, to procure funding for actions and for taking political action. The vision document should be available early in 2006.

The annual FRFTP implementers meeting will take place on January 18-19 at the Sheraton Denver Tech Center Hotel. Early reminders of the event have been sent out to all previous participants. If you have not received a reminder and are interested in attending, please contact John Bustos (970) 295-6674 or Katherine Timm (970) 295-6892. This year's agenda includes

reports on accomplishments, updates on research and a recognition program to celebrate the tremendous job implementers have done for the FRFTP. Be sure to make your reservations early.

The frftp.org website is ever changing. To learn the latest about

what is happening with the Partnership, the Roundtable, grant and community wide protection plans or to print electronic copies of pertinent FRFTP information, visit the site. Also, be sure to pass on information or suggestions to the webmaster, Mitzy Forbes.

The Partnership will soon be compiling 2005 accomplishments and will be contacting implementers to provide information for the annual report. Thanks to input we received last year, the report was well received, informative and useful. We plan to publish the



The primary goal of the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership (FRFTP) is to enhance community sustainability and restore fire-adapted ecosystems through identification, prioritization and rapid implementation of hazardous fuels treatment along the Front Range of Colorado.

report early in 2006, so please submit information soon.

Copies of the video produced by the Colorado State Forest Service, *Only You Can Protect Forest Health*, are still available but they are going fast. A homeowners group near Trinidad just ordered 385 copies. The video includes information about and interviews with people who are working on forest health and wildfire mitigation issues in Colorado. For a copy of the video contact Katherine Timm at 970-295-6892.

Vision of Forests to Grassland Newsletter

"Our vision is to utilize this newsletter to create a channel for improving an ongoing dialog between the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest and Pawnee National Grassland and stakeholders.

We hope that it will provide new opportunities for the public to participate with processes, projects and partnerships throughout the Forests and Grassland."



Article Contributions

We would like article contributions for the various sections of this tri-annual newsletter. The next deadline is **February 29, 2006**. When submitting articles or photos, please provide your name, affiliation (if any), phone number and/or e-mail. Send the article, topic or photo via e-mail or hard copy. Articles should be no longer than 500 words and should identify the topic area the article is geared toward. Please note that there are additional guidelines for the Points Of View Section. You can find those on page 10.

Submissions can be sent to:

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Yankee Hill Project Selected as a National Pilot Project

Can computer modeling take the guesswork out of fire mitigation planning? Can fire behavior modeling programs streamline NEPA? Can these modeling programs demonstrate levels of effectiveness among treatment alternatives based on on-the-ground realities? These and other riveting questions were posed to a group of community and government representatives from Gilpin and Clear Creek counties in early October during a workshop about the Yankee Hill Pilot Project. The workshop was hosted by the South Zone Planning (SZ) team and the Clear Creek Ranger District.

Helping the group answer these questions were members of the SZ Planning Team and District Ranger Daniel Lovato. The Yankee Hill Project is the only project from the Rocky Mountain Region to be chosen to participate in a national pilot project called "Integrated Landscape Design" to test the utility of two new cutting-edge modeling programs. Funds were awarded to a total of nine land management teams to test the new approach to fuels planning using fire behavior prediction modeling programs like Flam/Map and Farsite. While many fuels specialists already use these programs, the pilot trained the recipients in the use of two new program extensions. The SZ Team received \$25,000 from the Washington Office (WO) and technical assistance from the Missoula Fire Lab to undertake the project.

The Yankee Hill Geographic Area in the Clear Creek Ranger District was chosen for the pilot due to the challenges this area presents to the practical application of fire behavior modeling. The area features several vegetation types, goes from 8,200 to 12,200 feet in elevation, and has rugged topography with steep slopes and rocky terrain. This is complicated by a complex ownership pattern, and difficult access issues. In addition to these issues, this area is within the wildland-urban interface and is at risk of a severe wildfire event. Several residential areas, municipal water supplies, and critical wildlife habitat, as well as important tourist routes are also located in the area.

The new extensions, TOM (Treatment Optimization Models) and MTT (Minimum Travel Time) are sophisticated modeling schemes that help foresters in placing treatment units on the landscape that optimize effectiveness in changing fire behavior. These acronyms mean very little to most of us, but to the SZ team and the Missoula Fire Lab, they are very familiar. In preparation for the workshop multiple tests were run, and as soon as one bug was eliminated, another appeared. But the team's perseverance paid off with gorgeous screen shots and full-color maps that displayed different modeling results for workshop participants. The Missoula Fire Lab helped tremendously by running the TOM program with their superior computer power for the 30 hours necessary to obtain results.

The SZ team worked hard to prepare for the October 7 workshop held at the Idaho Springs Visitor Center. Five team

members attended a 3-day training class in Sacramento, Cal. in early May of this year, while Fuels Planner Lara Duran and Nancy Fricke, the team's Geographic Information Specialist (GIS) attended a training class on Farsite and Flam/Map in Boze-

man, Mont. that same month. Meanwhile, seasonal employees collected tree stand data all summer long in the Yankee Hill area for use in the modeling programs. In August, the team invited Paul Langowski, Branch Chief for Fuels and Fire Ecology for the Rocky Mountain Region to help the team identify the "Problem Fire" for use in team generated model runs. Also, throughout the summer, Diane Gercke from the Missoula Fire Lab traveled to Boulder for a series of Technical Consultative Meetings to help the team organize data and prepare to use the new fire modeling programs.

The public was needed to assist the team in identifying barriers and problems, and in determining if these new techniques can provide reality - based measures of effectiveness in treatment placement and design. The team was also eager to observe the dynamics of the collaborative process in the context of using modeling results. Environmental advocates, a community development planner, the Colorado State Forest Service, a home owner, and emergency management officials were represented. The group was introduced to the models and then a lively discussion about problem fire scenarios began. The group agreed in principal with the team's fire scenario, but workshop participants asked the team to run the models under different problem fires. They wanted to see fire behavior from various ignition points, slower winds and a variety of wind directions. Participants were also invited to identify protection targets based on fire history, weather patterns and their personal knowledge of the area. Predictably, watershed protection and structure protection figured prominently.

The day's activities culminated with participants creating their own treatment units based on prior discussions, maps, presentations and previous modeling results.

In December the workshop group will re-convene to see how effective their treatment units are in slowing various problem fires. In the meantime, the SZ team is busy running the new modeling programs using the group's input. By that workshop there will be several treatment options and problem fire scenarios to compare and contrast, which should provide a basis for spirited debate. *(continued on page 5)*.



Above: Laura Pramuk, Public Affairs Specialist for the South Zone Planning Team interprets map information at the workshop.

National Travel Management Rule

The National Travel Management Rule was issued on November 2, 2005, by Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth. The goal of the National Travel Management Rule is to forge a sustainable system of roads, trails and some areas designated for motorized use in the future. The new travel management rule requires each national forest and grassland to identify and designate those roads, trails and areas that are open to motor vehicle use.

On the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP), motorized use has historically been restricted to designated roads and trails except the Main OHV area on the Pawnee National Grassland. Travel manage-

ment has been important to the ARP for years and we have been actively working to inventory roads, update maps, install signs, and help users to understand their responsibilities while traveling on Forest Service roads and trails.

All five ranger districts of the ARP have developed a schedule for implementing the travel management rule and producing a motor vehicle use map. Additionally, a team has been established to guide the effort for the ARP and provide for consistency across the forest. More information about the national travel management rule is located on the web at www.fs.fed.us. For information about the ARP effort contact Paul Cruz at 970-295-6614.

Mountain Pine Beetle Co-op

More than 425,000 acres of forests are estimated to be infected with bark beetles in northern Colorado. In an effort to address bark beetle epidemics and determine actions necessary to address the beetle infection across multiple jurisdictions in northern Colorado, the Northern Colorado Mountain Pine Beetle Cooperative has been formed.

Currently, the cooperative includes the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, the Colorado State Forest Service, counties (*initially, Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Routt and Summit*), municipalities and conservation districts. It is hoped that through this cooperative effort, implementation can occur at a large enough scale to reduce the loss of mature forests and

slow the effects of this loss. The cooperative, through the action team, is in the process of finalizing an assessment of the bark beetle situation. The assessment includes:

- a summary of recent beetle activity;
- locations of forested areas that may get attacked by beetles ;
- an estimate of areas where future beetle activity may occur;
- an estimate of resources at risk; and
- actions to respond to current beetle activity and that may be effective in dealing with the situation.

The cooperative is in the process of completing a short-term strategy to address beetle problems in the five counties mentioned and a long-term

strategy to address beetle problems in 15 counties total. No decisions have been made because information is still being gathered from counties and municipalities. The goals of the strategy are to:

- reduce loss of high-value tree stands;
- reduce the risk of wildfire to communities from fuel buildup;
- prevent damage to watersheds;
- prevent loss of wildlife habitat; and
- prevent adverse effects on local economies.

Numerous congressional efforts are underway focusing on beetle infestations. More information on the cooperative effort will be provided after the holidays.

Centennial Celebration Wraps-Up

The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) had a wonderful year-long celebration of the first 100 years of the U.S. Forest Service. As you may recall the celebration began in November 2004 with the Regional Centennial Forum in Fort Collins. Every ranger district hosted events in 2005.

The ARP hosted 15 showings of the Forest Service Centennial film *The Greatest Good*, and 13 other events including a birthday party on July 1, the date the Forest Service was created. Additionally, thanks to a partnership with the Arapaho and Roosevelt and Pawnee Foundation a Centennial Marker was placed near

the Mount Goliath Nature Center located off Mount Evans Road on the Clear Creek Ranger District which marks the centennial celebration on the ARP both in space and time.

Many partners and employees contributed to making the Centennial a success. We would like to especially thank Mary Ann Chambers for her energy and ideas that helped keep the celebration going for the entire year. Mary Ann received regional and forest awards for her efforts.

We hope you had an opportunity to celebrate with us. We also look forward to working closely with all of you as we begin our next 100 years as an agency.

Forest Service Discovers New Plant



Above: A photo of the new plant discovered by Clear Creek Ranger District Wildlife Biologist Kathy Lindsay

A new plant has been found on the Clear Creek Ranger District of the Arapaho National Forest in the mountains west of Denver, Colo. Kathy Lindsay, wildlife biologist, walked slowly along a road cutbank. She was conducting a last-minute field survey last July for the U.S. Forest Service near Guanella Pass to double-check for presence of rare plants before bulldozers would re-grade a scenic forest-to-alpine road popular with tourists and locals. The road, located mostly on National Forest System land, is undergoing an extensive rebuilding to accommodate greater numbers of users and to improve safety.

Although the road corridor had been surveyed the previous year, Lindsay knew that multiple site visits are sometimes needed to detect presence of rare plants. As she was about to stop looking, she saw some small, inconspicuous plants growing where little else could in a barren, exposed road bank. Lindsay snapped some photos of the plants and rushed them off to Steve Popovich, the forest's botanist. He was instantly excited when he viewed them.

"These were unlike any species of moonworts I'd ever seen before," Popovich said. "I knew we needed to call in the experts to see what we were dealing with."

Moonworts, known by the scientific name *Botrychium*, are primitive plants related to ferns. "The plants are rather odd -- they *look* ancient. It's like viewing a living piece of the past, like you can almost imagine them being around in the days of the dinosaurs," said Popovich.

Actually, he is not far off. Evidence of their lineage predates the age of well-known dinosaurs like T-Rex. "It's amazing that the plant's descendants are right here in Colorado, still surviving."

"The presence of moonworts can be difficult to detect," said Andy Kratz, Forest Service Regional Botanist located in Denver. "Most of our plants are only a few inches tall, and they don't emerge above ground every year. Finding one is a bit like finding a needle in a haystack."

Interestingly, they apparently acquire their energy needs from a complex relationship with below-ground fungi. The plants may never need to come above ground to complete their life cycle, which is estimated to be 20 years or more. Little else is known about how these plants survive.

Popovich invited noted moonwort authorities Drs. Donald Farrar and Cindy Johnson-Groh to visit the site last July to make plant collections for DNA analysis. The initial results are impressive.

"We do not know yet if these individuals represent new species or not," Popovich said. "But they are new genetic combinations -- we have never seen these entities before; they are totally new to science."

Warren Hauk, an authority on moonworts who has studied them in Colorado, said, "We have never observed this much new genetic variation at one site before."

Popovich added, "We've only seen these plants at one or two locations on Guanella Pass and one site west of Boulder, but its possible more may show up if we look. Often that is the case with rare plants."

The road, a Federal Highways project, was redesigned to avoid disturbing the site where this new plant was found.

"We are happy that Federal Highways is taking a proactive approach to protection of the new moonworts" said Jim Bedwell, Supervisor of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland. "We worked closely together to reach a solution. The road improvement project will continue, and the rare plants will be avoided. It's a win-win."

"We are seeing things in these moonwort specimens at Guanella Pass that just don't show up at other sites," Farrar said. "It's a bit complex, but the process of combining DNA from differing lineages of parents that may be occurring here is one way that organisms can become new species, and that may be what's happening."

"At this point we just don't know enough about these plants to fully explain what we're seeing, but it's all very exciting," Popovich added.

Farrar summarized "We are not only preserving the site, but we are preserving an important reproductive process that may be key to understanding how this primitive plant group evolves. That makes their protection a very worthwhile endeavor."

Yankee Hill Pilot Project (con't)

Mark Martin presented the challenges and discoveries in an After-Action Review in late October with the Integrated Landscape Design Project Steering Committee. The review took place in Denver and all nine grant recipients made presentations and recommendations to the Committee.

The next step will be to initiate the Yankee Hill Fuels Reduction Project. It is hoped that lessons learned from the pilot will assist the team in developing a community-based proposed action that is both effective and cost efficient.

Changing Places... Changing Faces

Hellos and Goodbyes

We would like to welcome Carol Kruse to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) Engineering Lands and Mining Staff in the Supervisor's office. Kruse started in September as our Special Projects coordinator for the Forest and will be heading up such projects as the I-70 corridor, a gas pipeline on the Pawnee and many more projects as they evolve. Kruse brings a vast background of experience to the ARP. She most recently worked as planner for the Bureau of Land Management in Wyoming. Prior to that position she worked as the NEPA analyst and cooperating agency coordinator in the Wyoming Governor's Office of Federal Land Policy. We are excited to have Carol and her expertise on board to help move major projects along.

The ARP has several good-byes coming up as three employees retire and one moves on to another agency. Jeff Losche will be retiring on January 3, 2006, after 31 years of federal service. Losche began his Forest Service career in 1978, after three years of military service, as a timber management assistant in Georgia. Losche moved on to Texas where he held positions in recreation, lands and special uses. He started on the ARP in 1992 as District Ranger on the Pawnee National Grassland. In 1998 he became the ARP Administrative Officer. Losche was instrumental in negotiating and securing the ARP's new office building in

Fort Collins and for that we are extremely grateful.

Ray Kingston, the Capital City Coordinator, will be retiring after 35 years in the Forest Service. Kingston actually serves all the forest supervisors in Colorado but is supervised by the ARP. Kingston started as the Capital City Coordinator in 2004. He came to the ARP from the Apache – Sitgreaves where he was a staff officer for timber, lands, minerals, engineering, recreation and archeology. Kingston spent 20 years of his career on the Grand Mesa Uncompagre National Forests in various positions such as district ranger and special projects coordinator. In his current position, Kingston has worked hard to strengthen relationships with the State of Colorado a very important relationship in the management of national resources.

Shirley Fieler our Financial Officer will also be retiring after 16 years of federal service. Feiler joined the ARP in 2001 and has been known for her dedication and hard work not just on the ARP but throughout the region.

Last we say goodbye to Robin Berg on the Canyon Lakes Ranger District. Berg has been the administrative support assistant for the district since 2003. Berg has accepted a promotion with the National Park Service's Washington Office of Biological Resource Management Division.

We thank Jeff, Ray, Shirley and Robin for their dedicated service and wish them well in their new adventures.

Forest Service Highlights

Jordan Visit

ARP Forest Supervisor Jim Bedwell returned to Jordan last month to assist in organizational development for the country's seven nature preserves. The intent of the visit was to help the Jordan's Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) develop a common goal for the management of each preserve and the organization necessary to ensure their success.

This trip was a follow up to Jim's visit last January where he helped the RSCN prepare a forest management plan for the 15,000 acre Dibeen Forest Reserve. Unfortunately, Jim's

work was cut short because of the terrorist attacks on November 9, in which the Hyatt in Jordan was bombed. Fortunately for us, Jim, who was in the hotel at the time was unharmed in the attack and returned safely back to Fort Collins.

Jim plans to return to Jordan when the State Department allows him to continue his work with the RSCN. Jim is very dedicated to the mission of International Forestry and has assisted in establishing ecotourism and recreation planning in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

Dowdy Campsite closure

Dowdy Lake Campground near Red Feather Lakes will be new and improved for both campers and day-use recreators. The campground is closed through December 2006 for a massive reconstruction project. The day-use side of Dowdy will be open until May 1, 2006. After May 1, through December 2006, the day-use area will be closed or have limited access/parking.

The new area will have 60-65 sites, replacing the 62 previous sites. Many of these will be wheelchair accessible and some sites are also planned for electricity. Unlike the old sites, these will be larger and better suited for recreational vehicles.

The day-use area at Dowdy Lake will have additional parking and picnic areas, helping accommodate the ever-increasing use. The eight existing toilets are being replaced and will be handicap accessible. Other improvements include some paved areas.

The inconvenience of the closure is fully recognized by staff on the Canyon Lakes Ranger District; however, closing the entire area allows for time and cost efficiencies. Roughly 20 years have passed since any major improvements were made to the campground. When the project is complete, we believe everyone will be enthusiastic about the improvements and the opportunities they provide.

India Tour Field trip

The Canyon Lakes Ranger District (CLRD) hosted 14 visitors from India participating in a U.S. State Department professional exchange. The group toured the Poudre Canyon, northwest of Fort Collins, along with some guides from CLRD, the Supervisor's Office and the Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS).

Although typical problems for these land managers in India include tiger poaching and other regionalized issues, many of the issues they face are similar to those here on the Front Range of Colorado. Some of those include wildlife management, wildland-urban interface, grazing and overuse of natural resources.

These issues were addressed at the various tour stops. The tour started at Gateway Park, a City of Fort Collins facility. Here, water issues, wildlife management and activities with cooperators were discussed. From there, the group headed to Mountain Park Campgrounds for lunch and a presentation on non-market value research by Dr. Patricia Champ from RMRS and discussion of recreation management on the district. The last stop on the tour was off of Pingree Park Road to look at a previous prescribed fire and a range allotment. Range management on CLRD was discussed, along with a presentation on fuels management by Dr. Merrill Kauffman, RMRS.

The group engaged in lively conversation and provided a wonderful opportunity to see how many of the issues land managers face in Colorado are not just Colorado is-

sues, but issues that span the globe.

The group was here as part of a three-week professional exchange. They started their experience in Washington, D.C., and then went to a variety of places in the United States. The end of their trip was to Denver, Estes Park and Fort Collins. Here they not only toured the CLRD, but also went to Rocky Mountain National Park and met with other land management agencies and environmental groups.



Above District Ranger Ellen Hodges discusses prescribed fire and a range allotment off the Pingree Park Road with visitors from India

Stub Creek Cabin

The Canyon Lakes Ranger District of the Roosevelt National Forest has just opened a historic former ranger station for public use.

Seeking a cozy place to stay surrounded by gorgeous country and lots of recreation opportunities? Then the



Above: The Stub Creek Cabin is available for public use.

Stub Creek Cabin may be the place for you!

The Stub Creek Cabin is located approximately 85 miles northwest of Fort Collins in the Laramie River Valley. The cabin offers heat, lights and indoor plumbing. The fully furnished cabin will comfortably accommodate five people – just bring your food and linens.

The nearby Rawah Wilderness offers several miles of trails for hiking and horseback riding. After spending the day out in the forest you can look forward to a hot meal, a cold beverage and a crackling fire. The fee is \$75 to \$125 depending on the season.

The site was originally used in the early 1900s as a seasonal ranger station to administer what was then the Laramie River sub-district. The current log cabin was completed by the Civilian Conservation Corp around 1936, and is considered significant as a representative of the first use of hewn face logs in the Rocky Mountain Region. The porch was added in 1952.

For more information about this cabin, please contact Visitor Information at 970-295-6700 or our website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/amf/recreation/cabins.shtml>.

2006 Prescribed Fire Schedule

Project Name	Location	Burn Type	Acres or piles	Expected Burn
Boulder Ranger District (all located in Boulder County)				
Winiger	6 miles east of Nederland (Magnolia Road)	Broadcast	350 acres	March –April
Sugarloaf	2 miles north of Nederland	Piles	250 acres	Jan-March
Porter Ranch	Magnolia Road 1 mile east of Nederland	Piles	40 acres	Jan-March
Lake Shore	5 miles east of Nederland	Piles	27 acres	Jan-March
Winiger	6 miles east of Nederland	Piles	10 acres	Jan-March
Canyon Lakes Ranger District (all located in Larimer County)				
Cache La Poudre	Within Cache la Poudre Wilderness	Broadcast	800 acres	Fall
Crystal Lakes	South of Crystal Lakes Subdivision	Piles	248 acres	Winter/Fall
Dowdy Lake	1 mile east of Red Feather Lakes	Broadcast	500 acres	Spring
Seven Mile	5 miles south/ southwest of Red Feather Lakes	Piles	13 acres	Winter/Fall
Sheep Creek 1	West of Aspen Springs Subdivision	Broadcast	206 acres	May/June
Sheep Creek 2	5 miles north of Red Feather Lakes	Broadcast	1638 acres	April-June
South Elkhorn (2)	3 miles south/southwest of Red Feather Lakes	Piles/	500 piles, 69	Winter/Fall
Stringtown (east)	2 miles west of Buckhorn Road	Piles	20 pile/10 acres	Winter/Spring
Clear Creek Ranger District				
Columbine	2 miles west of Central City	Piles	142 acres	Jan-March
Santa Fe	2 miles south of Idaho Springs	Piles	10 acres	Jan-March
Pawnee National Grassland (all located in Weld County)				
Pawnee 2005	East and west portions for the grassland	Broadcast	5500 acres	February-March
Sulphur Ranger District (all located in Grand County)				
Crimson	12 miles south of Hot Sulphur Springs	Piles	500 acres/ 100 piles	Winter, Spring
Afterburner	4 miles NE of Grand Lake on the Kawuneeche Road	Piles	20 acres/120 piles	Winter
St. Louis Creek	In campground, 4 miles SW of Fraser	Piles	5 acres/75 piles	Spring
Shadow Mountain Village	At Shadow Mountain Village Administrative Site, 3 miles South of Grand Lake	Piles	10 acres/100 piles	Winter/Spring
Willow Creek Reservoir	5 miles north of Granby	Piles	5 acres/4 piles	Spring
Kyser Creek	12 miles south of Hot Sulphur Springs near intersection of County Rd 3 and FDR 139	Broadcast	100 acres	Spring
Mule Creek	10 miles south of Hot Sulphur Springs	Broadcast	30 acres USFS/ 300 acres BLM	Spring

Volunteers Spotlights



Above: Volunteers working on the trail

Arapaho Pass Trail work

The Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) improved 1.5 miles of trail, rehabilitated one-half mile of social trail and improved one acre of watershed in the Arapaho Pass Trail area as part of a Centennial of Service Challenge this past August.

VOC contributed 1,400 hours of volunteer service to complete the Arapaho Pass Trail Restoration Project. In completing the trail work volunteers moved 49 logs, renovated 14 rock step sections, constructed 29 water bars, 12 major water crossings, and five retaining walls. Their work resulted in the closure of nine social trails and the replacement of two wood boardwalks. The ARP appreciates the continued support of VOC in completing these types of projects.

Stakeholder/partners Highlights

ARP Foundation Update

The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) foundation continues to move forward in carrying out its goals to encourage support for the forests and grasslands through projects that benefit the public. Activities to date include the following:

- Securing financial contributions from partners for the completion of an interpretation "Go Connect" vehicle that will be used to reach out to public at various locations;
- Co-sponsoring a public showing of the Forest Service Centennial Film *The Greatest Good*. Over four hundred people attended with a significant number participating in panel discussions;
- Purchased the buff flagstone and descriptive plaque at Mt. Goliath to help the forest commemorate the Forest

Service Centennial;

- Succeeded in fund raising from partners to work on projects on the Pawnee Ranger District;
- Facilitating a prototype for a District Volunteer Coordinator (volunteer person) where federal appropriations are insufficient to fund a regular staff person.

Now that the Foundation has several projects near completion or completed, the Foundation is moving toward two key tasks to insure its long-term viability. These tasks are a marketing and fundraising strategy and formalizing a "Friends of the Forest" group to provide additional forest-wide support from citizens. More on the progress of these tasks in the future.

(submitted by Howard Alden, President of the ARP Foundation)

Meet ARP Foundation Board Member Shirley Johnson

Shirley Johnson brings a wide range of experience and excellent talents to the ARP Foundation. She graduated from the University of Colorado with a double major in English literature and Physical Geography with Environmental Studies. After graduation her experience included reporter and editor of a number of Colorado newspapers, writing for regional and national magazines, authoring several books, editor of Superfund Clean Up reports (the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, the Presidio in San Francisco) and the President of Colorado Press Women.

Johnson's interest in the outdoors and forest stewardship is exemplified by serving on the Routt County Forest Advisory Council, the Co-Director of the National Hiking and Ski Touring Association, and the co-founder of

Friends of Mt. Goliath and core member for the recently completed nature center. Johnson's efforts and connections contributed to the completion of the Mt. Goliath Nature Center.

On behalf of the Foundation, Johnson is working with the Clear Creek Ranger District to establish a volunteer person to function as a volunteer coordinator. Johnson's experience and energy represent a tremendous value to the ARP. Johnson is key to the accomplishments of the ARP Foundation.



Above: Shirley Johnson

Please Share Your Points of View

Recreational shooting has long been recognized as a legitimate use of Forest Service lands, but not without controversy. Public land managers along the Colorado Front Range have seen a dramatic increase of impacts associated with this use, particularly in the last five years. In response, the Pawnee National Grassland and Colorado State University have embarked on a study to better understand this use. The study began in early 2004 and is expected to be completed by summer 2006. Initial results of the study have found that there are two issues common to all stakeholder groups: the presence of litter and safety concerns. More information about the study can be obtained from Annie McFarland at 970-346-5016.

In the next issue of the *Forest To Grassland* newsletter we would like to hear from our readers on this topic, specifically: What are your thoughts about recreational shooting on public lands? Please read the guideline listed in the box to the right and help us start a dialog on this topic.

Points of View Guidelines:

Submissions must be factual and geared towards starting a dialog rather than stating a position or criticizing another individual or organization. We would like to hear what you are interested in, your likes, dislikes, major concerns and hopes for the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland. Contributions will only be accepted if the contributors provide their name, affiliation (if any), phone number and/or e-mail address so the board may contact them about their submission.

Submissions must be no longer than 300 words and can only be submitted electronically or in hard copy form (no disks) to:

Points of View Board:

Arapaho & Roosevelt NF & Pawnee NG
2150 Centre Avenue, Building E
Fort Collins, CO 80526
or e-mail: tjwilliams@fs.fed.us

The non-U.S. Forest Service, POV board will ensure items submitted meet guidelines for the section, will edit for grammar and spelling, and work with the person(s) submitting articles if the articles need to be shortened.

District Spotlights

Boulder Ranger District participated in the Lights of December Parade. Their lights display included a banner that said "Thanks volunteers - You donated over 53,000 hours in 2005 - We couldn't have done it without you!" and Smokey Bear. BRD has also been busy completing the decision for the Brainard Lake Recreation Area Development. The Boulder Ranger District signed the Decision Notice for the Brainard Lake Recreation Area Development/Management Projects Environmental Assessment. Contact the Boulder Ranger District for a copy.

Canyon Lakes Ranger District has accomplished over 1200 acres of thinning around the Crystal Lakes Subdivision northwest of Fort Collins, Colo., as part of the Crystal Lakes Fuels Reduction Project. This was accomplished through contractors and the CLRD fuels crew. Much of the thinning has been piled, more than 350 acres, and these piles could be burned as soon as this winter. A contract for 477 acres has been awarded and will most likely begin late spring/early summer, and an additional 379 acres of thinning, contract will be awarded soon. If anyone in that area has smoke allergies and would like to be made aware of burning activities, please contact Reghan Cloudman at 970-295-6770. **Sulphur Ranger District** has had a busy year. National Public Lands day hosted 231 participants who worked on five projects, two of which were on the Arapaho National Forest. The Rocky Mountain Nature Association (RMNA) facilitated the purchase of the 40 acre "Miller Property" located within the Arapaho National Recreation Area, and visible from both Rocky Mountain National Park and the Never Summer Wilderness. **Pawnee National Grassland** co-hosted another successful Stargazing event at the Crow Valley Recreation Area in partnership with the Greeley Convention and Visitors Bureau. Participants viewed the stars through telescopes with the help and interpretation of University of Northern Colorado Astronomy Professor Dick Dietz.



Above: Miller Property in the back ground



Above: Photo: Bridget Brown (left), Heather McIntyre (right), and Sulphur Ranger District llamas Lucero (left) and Jimmy (right) along with Vicky Burton (not pictured) formed the seeding team for 17.3 miles of decommissioned roads never intended for long-term use in the Crimson project area in the Williams Fork Valley

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