



# ANRA Newsletter

## Arapaho National Recreation Area



USDA Forest Service

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## Greetings from the ANRA Manager

Welcome to the 2009 edition of the Arapaho National Recreation Area's newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform the public of the Arapaho National recreation Area's (ANRA) activities. Articles include progress on treating mountain

pine beetle infested trees, the discovery of quagga and zebra mussels in the local lakes, wildlife updates, volunteer opportunities, and how we use your fees to maintain and improve our facilities.

*Dan Matthews, ANRA Manager*

### The Arapaho National Recreation Area (ANRA)

#### Quick Facts:

On October 11, 1978, Congress passed Public Law 95-450 creating the ANRA. The bill moved these lands from Rocky Mountain National Park (under the Interior Department) to the Arapaho National Forest (under the Agriculture Department).

The purpose of the Law was "... to preserve and protect the natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, and wildlife resources of the area and to enhance the recreational opportunities provided." The ANRA has approximately 36,000 acres inside its boundary of which 4,000 acres are privately owned. Over 9,000 acres are within the reservoirs' boundaries.

The AA Bar Barn is available for special occasions. The Barn is located on Green Ridge and borders the Colorado River. This beautiful location can be rented during the summer on a day-use only basis for a \$100 / day fee. For information and reservations call (970) 887-4100.

- The ability to charge fees in the ANRA changed from the Fee Demonstration Project to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act with passage of the 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act on December 8, 2004.

## Quagga and Zebra Mussels Found in Lakes

The Colorado Big Thompson (CBT) Lakes: Grand Lake, Lake Granby, Shadow Mountain and Willow Creek have all tested positive for zebra and quagga mussels, both highly invasive aquatic species that impact water quality, distribution, recreation and fisheries. These mussels were most likely introduced by a watercraft that had previously been in infested waters. The over land transport of invasive mussels on boats and trailers is the main mechanism for spreading these species. Once they are introduced, the priority is to contain the invasive species in the currently infested lakes.

In December, the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) completed the "State Zebra and Quagga Mussel Management Plan." This plan provides a collaborative approach to detect, contain, and substantially reduce the risk of the spread and further infestation of zebra and quagga mussels in Colorado. Lake users can help by making sure their boats are clean, drained and dry before moving to new water bodies. Specifically, boaters must remove all visible plants and mud from the boat and trailer, and drain all water from the boat. This prevents the microscopic juvenile stages of the mussels from being transported in water left on boats from one reservoir to another. It also prevents the mud and plants attached to the boats from carrying the small adult mussels to new waters.

The CDOW greatly appreciated how helpful and cooperative the boating public was with the response program in 2008 and are asking for their compliance again in 2009. The State of Colorado expects to

have boat inspection and cleaning stations set up at or near the main boat launches in Lake Granby, Shadow Mountain Reservoir and Grand Lake areas during the open water season of 2009. The State of Colorado may not be able to staff all of the boat launch areas. As a result the Willow Creek Reservoir and Hilltop boat launches may be closed to trailered and motor boats. All users and partners can protect our waters by cleaning, draining and drying vessels in between uses.

Statewide sampling will continue for zebra and quagga mussels. The CBT lakes will be sampled from May through October 2009. *Portions of this article were contributed by Elizabeth Brown, Invasive Species Coordinator, Colorado Division of Wildlife*

### How you can help stop the spread of Quagga and Zebra Mussels

Before moving to new waters:

- **Drain** every drop of water from every part of your boat or water craft.
- **Clean** everything that came in contact with the water. This includes removing plants and mud.
- **Dry** everything that came in contact with the water: motors, jet drives, live weeds, boat hulls, boots, bait buckets, swimming floats, etc. Let it dry at least five days if changing to new waters, two weeks if leaving infested waters.

For more information:  
<http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/Profiles/InvasiveSpecies/WatercraftCleaning.htm> or email: [ReportANS@state.co.us](mailto:ReportANS@state.co.us)

## Your Fees at Work

### 2008 Fishing Events

- Three Lakes Fishing Contest was held January 30 through February 1.
- The Lake Granby Anglers Classic is scheduled for May 31 and June 1.

You may enter the contest online at [www.granbychamber.com](http://www.granbychamber.com).

Call the Greater Granby Area Chamber of Commerce at 970-887-2311 for more information or email: [grcoc@rkymtnhi.com](mailto:grcoc@rkymtnhi.com).

We had a very productive year in 2008 putting the fees collected in 2007 to work. In 2007 we collected \$236,924 in fees and were able to reinvest 95 percent of those funds in the maintenance, staffing and improvements of the ANRA. The fees we collected helped us accomplish the following:

- Provided lake and land safety and security patrols.
- Cleaning and maintaining toilets, picnic tables, docks and information boards.
- Provide trash, water and sewer services where appropriate.
- Litter removal in picnic areas and trailheads.
- Provide educational and interpretive programs at campgrounds and Monarch Lake.

We had originally planned to install new toilets at Willow Creek Canal Picnic Area, Quinette Picnic Area, Monarch Lake Trailhead and Greenridge Campground in 2008. Unfortunately, these projects were delayed and will be completed in 2009.

To help generate the new forest and protect public safety, Mountain Pine Beetle infested trees were removed. ANRA field crews have been working through the warmer weather to remove these hazardous trees from campgrounds, picnic areas, and parking lots. The Forest Service has received funding from various sources to contract the cutting and removal of trees in some of our campgrounds and picnic areas.

This year we plan on installing kiosks at the Sunset, Stillwater and Green Ridge boat launch areas to display our new navigation

### Remember Seasonal Closures for Wildlife Protection

**November 15 to March 15:** No human entry from Green Ridge fence down to Columbine Creek to protect wintering Bald Eagles. Fishing is allowed from the Shadow Mountain Reservoir spillway down stream about 400 yards to the eagle closure.

**December 1 to May 15:** No human entry in the ANRA in the Table Mountain/Coffey Divide/Bussey Hill area located east and west of U.S. 34; north and south of Willow Creek Road and south of Arapaho Bay Road to help deer and elk travel to low-lying meadows in the winter to forage for food.

map. This map shows the key locations on Lake Granby and Shadow Mountain Reservoir including boat launches, marinas, picnic areas, campgrounds, roads, islands and shoreline camping areas. These kiosks will also have free maps suitable for use while on the lakes. Crews will also conduct land and water safety and compliance patrols throughout the year.

In last years newsletter we mentioned that we were proposing a change to the ANRA fee structure. That proposal is still being reviewed by the Forest Service and we do not anticipate any price changes in 2009.

**Please Note:** The ANRA onsite fee machines only accept credit cards. Cash purchases are still available from the Sulphur Ranger District Office located at 9 Ten Mile Drive in Granby.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers help the ANRA and can also help you. On Saturday, May 16, you can participate in "Work Your Pass Off Day." The day begins at 8 a.m. and finishes at noon. If you donate four hours collecting trash along the shorelines, boat launches and picnic areas you will receive

Left: A volunteer plants a tree in Green Ridge Campground at NPLD.



an annual ANRA pass (one pass for each adult volunteer). If your interested in volunteering meet at the Green Ridge or Sunset boat ramps on the day of the event to pick up your trash bags and to complete volunteer forms.

Another great opportunity to help is National Public Lands Day (NPLD) which will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26. The U.S. Forest Service, along with other land management agencies, will be conducting its 15th NPLD volunteer event. Typically there are about seven different projects to choose from including tree planting, trail construction and maintenance, and wetland repair. Last year, at NPLD 3,000 young trees were planted by volunteers in the Green Ridge (continued on page 4)

## Osprey in the ANRA

Six new osprey nests were found in the ANRA and in adjacent Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) during the summer and fall of 2008. All of the nests are natural nests built in dead lodgepole pine trees. One is at Meadow Creek Reservoir where the breeding pair continues to move nest sites from the north to south shore. Another new nest is on an island on Shadow Mountain Lake. The four new nests in RMNP all occur along the northeast corner of Shadow Mountain Lake where there are already four other nests. Some combination of shallow water, good fishing, and steep topography contributes to the highest osprey nest density in the ANRA. Because so many nests occur in such a small area, we are running out of nest names; thus far we have Boundary, Boundary Uphill, Boundary South, Hilltop, Uphilltop, Shadow Mountain, Shadow Mountain Outcrop and Shadow Mountain Power Line.

We are indebted to the many neighbors and visitors who call to report osprey activities, new nests, and to report injured birds. We also greatly appreciate our partners the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Mountain Parks Electric, Inc. and Western Area Power Administration.



Above: Wildlife Technician Steve King and Lake Management Specialist Gary Keeling post osprey nesting restrictions.

## Osprey and Eagle Report

### Ospreys

- 6 new nests (4 in Rocky Mountain Park along Shadow Mountain Lake)
- 43 active nests
- 24 successful (produced young) nests
- 41 chicks fledged \*

*(One chick died in September. It was found hanging upside down and entangled in fishing line/ nylon stringer in the nest.)*

### Golden Eagles

- 1 active nest
- 2 chicks fledged

### Bald Eagles

- 1 active nest site
- 1 chick fledged

## Improvements to East Shore Trailhead

The Sulphur District received a \$237,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to improve the East Shore Trailhead. This trail starts on National Forest and then enters Rocky Mountain National Park as it follows the eastern shore of Shadow Mountain Reservoir. The parking lot, located on the northeast corner of Shadow Mountain Reservoir, was formerly a gravel pit that we are in the process of rehabilitating. The CDOT

grant will provide the funding for the installation of water, sewer, electric lines, grading and paving the parking lot, and a bike rack. Eventually, as funding allows, a toilet, water fountain, information kiosk and landscaping will be installed. Thanks to heavy equipment work donated by Grand County, Rocky Mountain National Park and the Town of Grand Lake there has already been progress in filling the gravel pit and improving the drainage of the parking lot.

### Bird Watchers Corner

#### ANRA 2008 Notable Sightings

- Two White-faced Ibis at Pine Beach during spring migration
- Two Common loons on the south end of Shadow Mountain Lake during spring and fall migration
- Nine Green-winged Teals on Lake Granby near Piedra Island
- Eighty-two Western Grebes (82) on the south end of Shadow Mountain Lake during spring migration
- Great Blue herons: Twenty-six active nests on Lake Granby rookery

## Wildfire Assistance

The 2008 Sulphur Ranger District fire season started a bit later than the last two years because late winter snow and slow snow melt kept the fire danger low. High elevation timber held snow well into June, and cool temperatures led to no early season ignitions. As the summer warmed grasses stayed green keeping fire danger in the "Moderate" range.

Fire crews responded to five fires on the Sulphur Ranger District, three in July and two in August. Four of these were human caused and one lightning caused. Only one of these fires occurred in the Arapaho National Recreation Area (ANRA). It was caused by fireworks being used on the Meadow Creek Road. Please remember that the possession or use of fireworks on national forest lands is illegal.

We were fortunate that all fires were suppressed at under one-half acre. Cooperation with local fire protection districts and the county sheriff continues to lead to successful fire man-



Above: Roosevelt Hotshots get set up to remove Mountain Pine Beetle infested trees in the ANRA

agement actions in Grand County.

The fire season did heat up from August on with very dry conditions into the late fall. The fire danger was high with a few very high days.

The district-wide mortality caused by the Mountain Pine Beetle will continue to be a concern, so remember: "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!"

## Motor Vehicle Maps

Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) displays National Forest System (NFS) roads and trails or areas designated as open to motorized travel. Routes not shown on the MVUM are not open to public motor vehicle travel. Routes designated for motorized use may not always be signed on the ground, but will be identified on the MVUM. It is the public's responsibility to reference the MVUM to stay on designated routes for motor vehicle use.

The Sulphur Ranger District's MVUM was

last updated in May 2008. The MVUM is a black and white map with no topographic features. It is a map that legally designates where you can travel with various motorized vehicles. It is best used in conjunction with a Forest Visitor Map or other detailed map. The MVUM is free to the public. You may obtain a copy from our district office or on the web at:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf/recreation/travel\\_mgmt/mvum/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf/recreation/travel_mgmt/mvum/index.shtml).



Above: Sulphur Ranger District works with kids in the woods at the 2nd grade Pine Beech and the 5th grade Monarch Lake Environmental Education days. This event has been occurring in the ANRA for over 25 years.

## Volunteer Opportunities Continued From Page 2

campground. These trees should grow to provide shade and beauty to this area where we have removed numerous mature trees killed by the beetle. How many tree we can plant each year will depend on funding but the Forest Service hopes to make planting young trees in its campground and picnic areas a fall tradition.

The Sulphur Ranger District also organizes volunteers throughout the summer to help with various trail work or monitoring osprey nests. If you are interested in 'adopting' an osprey nest from April through September to help us keep track of the health of the adult and young ospreys, please call Doreen Sumerlin, Wildlife Biologist at (970)887-4129.

We greatly appreciate all those who volunteer each year in the ANRA and all over the Forest.

### Contact Us

USDA Forest Service  
Arapaho and Roosevelt  
National Forests and  
Pawnee National Grass-  
land

Sulphur Ranger District  
9 Ten Mile Drive  
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Granby, CO 80446

Phone:870-887-4100

Fax: 970-887- 4102

[www.fs.fed.us/arnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/arnf)

#### Office Hours:

Monday thru Friday

8 a.m.—5 p.m.

### Mark your Calendars!!!

"Work Your Pass Off" day is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2009. Join the ANRA crew and other forest volunteers collecting trash along the shorelines, boat launches and picnic areas. Receive a free annual pass for your efforts. Meet at the Green Ridge or Sunset boat ramps for trash bags and to complete volunteer forms. For more information call the Sulphur Ranger District or visit our website:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf/recreation/anra/index.shtml>

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