

Partnership Project Success Story

State:	Colorado	FS Funds Used:	\$ 7500
National Forest/Grassland:	GMUG NF	Other Funds Used:	\$ 8000 – Rec Enhance. Act
		Partners:	\$ 4000
Project Name:	Canyon Creek Stewardship Project – YBCA/Ouray County	Total Project Cost:	\$ 19,500

Project Purpose/Objectives: The Canyon Creek Stewardship Project is located on the Ouray Ranger District, GMUG NF. The Forest Service, Ouray County and a volunteer group (Yankee Boy Conservation Assn) are the 3 key partners involved. These 3 entities work collaboratively to manage a popular, heavily-used area in the spectacular jeep country in the San Juan Mountains.

The Canyon includes 3 fee camping areas, spectacular OHV/Jeep roads, access to the Mt. Sneffels Wilderness and a 14,000 foot peak (Mt. Sneffels). The Forest matches camping fees with appropriated funds to supervise camp hosts and a part-time jeep patrol seasonal employee.

Ouray County is an excellent partner, providing \$3500/year towards projects in the Canyon in addition to taking the lead on road maintenance activities. The County also places a priority on funding its volunteer search and rescue team (Ouray County Mountain Rescue) which routinely responds to emergencies in Canyon Creek during the summer months.

Yankee Boy Conservation Association is a non-profit group whose focus is to recruit and manage an “alpine ranger” volunteer program. The alpine rangers work in the Canyon to make visitor contacts, provide interpretation and education, and conduct a variety of service projects. In 2006, the group recorded over 600 volunteer hours within the Stewardship area.

Work Performed: Since the Canyon Creek Stewardship Program was created in 2001, the partnership has been successful in accomplishing many objectives. In FY 2006, the following projects were accomplished:

- Recruiting and hiring campground hosts to manage 3 primitive camping areas
- Recruiting, training and overseeing 8 volunteer groups and more than 30 individuals who served as Alpine Rangers within the Canyon.
- Restoring and reinstalling interpretive signing throughout the project area.
- OHV patrols that focused on visitor education as well as compliance with State OHV registration and County speed limit regulations.
- Installation of improved OHV signing on the Imogene Pass Road.
- Provided additional portajohns and dumpsters to address sanitation issues in the area.
- Ouray County road crews provided timely road repairs in response to several flash flood incidents.
- Ouray County Mountain Rescue responded to at least 6 life-threatening emergencies within the Stewardship Area in 2006.

Benefits: This partnership has resulted in collaborative management between the Forest Service, Ouray County and the Ouray community. The three entities have a greater understanding and

ownership in managing the Stewardship Area. The public benefits greatly because of the increased presence of Forest Service and YBCA volunteers.

Additional Information

Partners: This partnership has resulted in collaborative management between the Forest Service, Ouray County, and a volunteer group (Yankee Boy Regional Conservation Association).