

Partnership Project Success Story

State:	Colorado	FS Funds Used:	\$ 4950
National Forest/Grassland:	White River National Forest Aspen/Sopris Ranger District	Other Funds Used:	\$
		Partners:	\$ 2500
Project Name:	Glenwood Canyon Bighorn Sheep Viewing	Total Project Cost:	\$ 7450

Project Purpose/Objectives: Starting in 2004, White River National Forest (WRNF) entered into cooperative management with Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) and USDI Bureau of Land Management to benefit an isolated population of bighorn sheep found in Glenwood Canyon and the southeast White River Plateau (Figure 1). The management includes 1) monitoring the population to identify threats to their persistence, 2) identifying areas for potential habitat enhancement projects and the possible treatments that may help draw bighorn sheep away from domestic sheep grazing allotments, thus reducing potential for contact between wild and domestic sheep, and 3) developing interpretive opportunities for the public to champion this management. CDOW is the lead agency for monitoring investigations, with WRNF providing monitoring assistance leading to the identification of potential bighorn sheep and domestic sheep interactions, identification of possible vegetation treatments. WRNF is co-leading the development of interpretation opportunities on NFS lands, which include trailhead interpretive signs and a bighorn sheep viewing site. BLM has provided in-kind and financial support for other aspects of this management. This accomplishment report focuses on the on-going development of the interpretive viewing site.

Work Performed: Two high-powered viewing scopes were purchased with \$3,500 in NFWF funds and \$500 in additional funds provided by CDOW (Figure 3). One scope is wheelchair accessible (ADA compliant). The scopes will be placed at the No Name Interstate-70 Rest Area, which is an idea site for viewing bighorn sheep that inhabit the rocky slopes of Glenwood Canyon. In 2004 in Glenwood Canyon, we counted up to nine adult rams, seven adult ewes, and three yearlings of unknown gender for a total of 19 sheep. We observed more than five 1/2-curl rams, two 5/8-curl rams, and one 7/8-curl ram during winter surveys. Habitat is comprised of oak-brush, juniper, and conifer slopes, cliffs with grassy ledges, rock fields, and rock outcrops. During winter and spring, bighorn sheep use slopes at No Name that are often snow-free and received more sunlight; ideal for viewing bighorn sheep from the Rest Area. In-kind work to install the scopes will be done by Colorado Department of Transportation employees. Adjacent to the scopes will be interpretive signs provided by CDOW. The site will be available to the public and can be used by cooperators for presentations and interpretive programs.

Benefits: Viewing Scopes and the associated interpretation site will benefit NatureWatch. The scopes will provide visitors the opportunity to observe bighorn sheep in their native habitat on White River National Forest.

Additional Information

Partners: CDOW, CDOT, BLM, City of Glenwood Springs



Figure 1. Bighorn Sheep in Glenwood Canyon.



Figure 2. Wildlife viewing opportunities exist along Interstate 70.