



White River National Forest

U.S. Forest Service • Rocky Mountain Region



The White River National Forest

The White River National Forest was established in 1891 as the White River Plateau Timber Reserve, the second such reserve to be named in the United States. It was one of the initial land reserves that started the public land system in America. But long before this designation, the Forest was home to the Ute Indians who followed herds of elk and bison on their seasonal migrations.

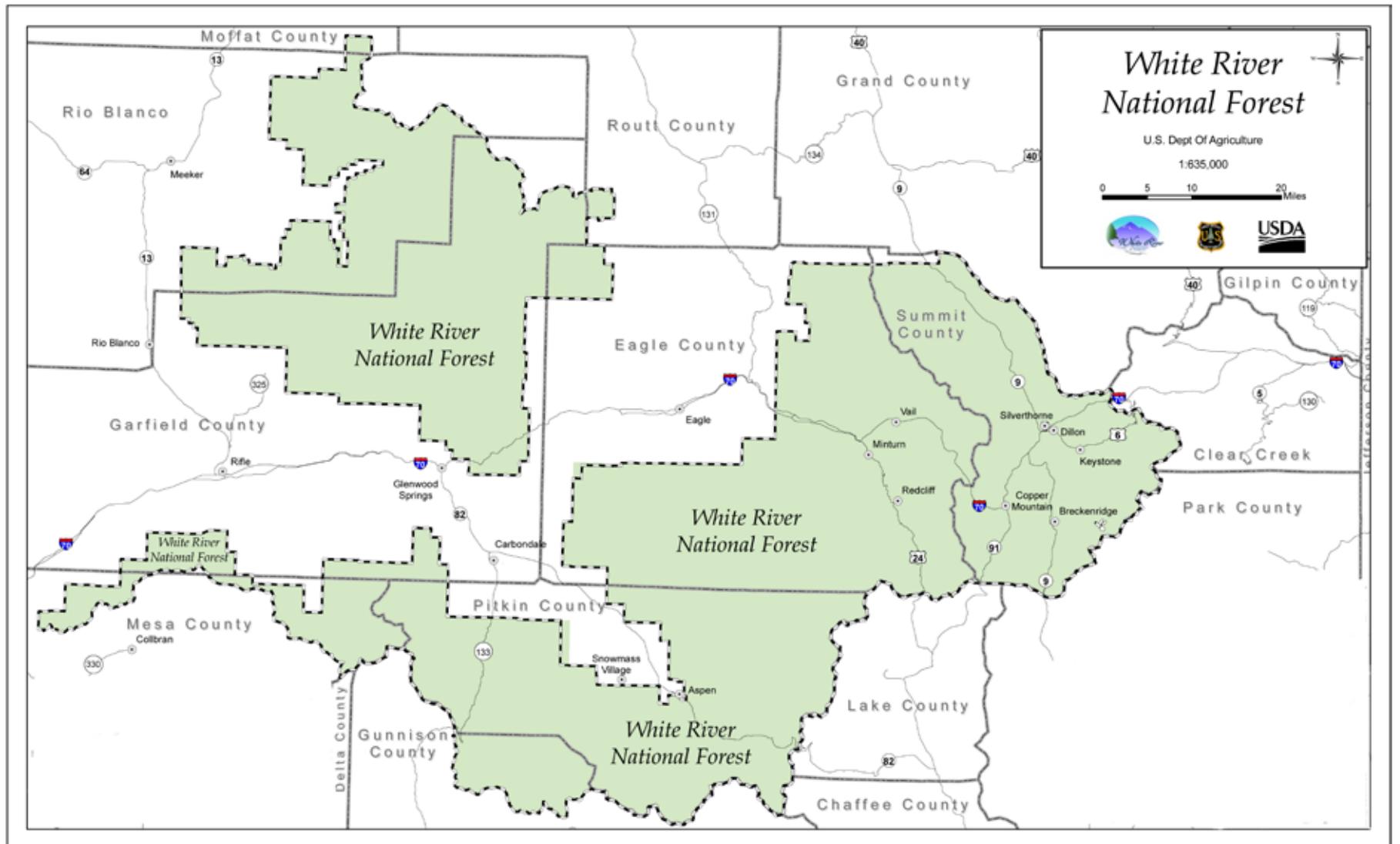
Today the Forest embodies the spirit of multiple-use management with more than 9 million visitors per year, making the White River the No. 1 forest for recreation in the country. In addition to world-class recreation and abundant wildlife populations, the White River hosts activities such as grazing, logging, mining, and oil and gas development that are crucial to the economies of western Colorado.

The White River National Forest spans 2.3 million acres and is located in Eagle, Garfield, Pitkin, Summit, Gunnison, Mesa, Moffat, Rio Blanco and Routt counties in Colorado. In addition, the Forest serves as a playground for Denver and the rest of the Front Range.



By the Numbers

Total Acres of Land	2,275, 956
Wilderness Acres	751,900
Roadless Acres	640,000
Miles of System Trails	2,500
Miles of System Road	1,900
Miles of Streams	4,000
Ski Resorts/Acres	12 Resorts 45,500 acres
Number of Campgrounds/ Picnic Areas	85
Visitors per year	9.2 million



White River National Forest

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 Deputy Forest Supervisor, Buck Sanchez
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 Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
 970-945-2521

Aspen and Sopris Ranger Districts

District Ranger, Scott Snelson
 Aspen Office 970-925-3445
 Carbondale Office 970-963-2266

Blanco Ranger District

District Ranger, Ken Coffin
 Meeker, CO
 970-878-4039

Dillon Ranger District

District Ranger, Jan Cutts
 Silverthorne, CO
 970-468-5400

Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District

District Ranger, David Neely
 Eagle Office 970-328-6388
 Minturn Office 970-827-5715

Rifle Ranger District

District Ranger, Glen Adams
 Rifle, CO
 970-625-2371



A Message from the Forest Supervisor....

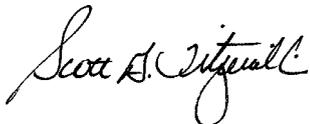
2010 marked my first full year as Supervisor of the White River National Forest. What a year it's been! I am continually humbled by the responsibility of managing 2.3 million acres of some of the finest, most spectacular wild lands in America. I have also been impressed by the passion and contributions of the communities, volunteers and partners who do so much to help us with our mission of "Caring for the Land, and Serving People."

This past year was marked by a number of significant achievements and a solid set of accomplishments. Thanks in part to our Congressional Delegation, Governor Ritter's Office and local communities, the White River received about \$10.4 million to deal with the impacts from the ongoing bark beetle epidemic on the Forest. With a few exceptions, we completed the work we set out to accomplish and have a great start to do more in 2011. I am excited about the future work we have planned, most notably our efforts to implement restoration strategies across the White River National Forest.

This document is a report to you, the owners of this magnificent piece of land. We have summarized our financial picture and provide an overview of some of our accomplishments for each program on the Forest. I hope you find it informative and useful. For more information on the White River National Forest, visit us at: www.fs.usda.gov/whiteriver.

On behalf of all the employees on the White River National Forest,

Scott Fitzwilliams



FOREST SUPERVISOR



Aquatic and Fisheries Program - FY 2010

The goals of the White River NF's Aquatic and Fisheries program are to provide healthy stream and lake habitats as well as viable populations of fish and other aquatic species. Our three primary emphasis areas are: 1) the conservation of native aquatic species; 2) habitat improvement (10+ miles of stream); and 3) partnerships.

Native aquatic species – Projects included protection of Colorado River cut-throat trout spawning areas, removing non-native or hybridized fish, genetic tissue collection, selective closures of roads/dispersed camping, replacing culverts to improve fish passage, and improving a barrier to prevent access by non-native fish. We continued monitoring of aquatic management indicator species and boreal toad breeding sites.

Partnerships in Habitat Improvement – Partnerships are key to our success. The FY10 Aquatic and Fisheries program was appropriated \$155,000 to fund our staff and projects. Partnerships provided an additional \$98,000 in funds and services including:

Project	Partnership
Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Program.	Boat inspections to prevent introduction of zebra or quagga mussels. Partners included Denver Water, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Heeney Marina - Green Mountain Reservoir, and the Ruedi Water and Power Authority, Aspen Ski Co, and Roaring Fork Conservancy.
Black Gore Creek monitoring.	Eagle River Watershed Council.
Coal Creek riparian restoration.	Crystal Valley Environmental Protection group.
Cunningham Creek Fish Passage Project.	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
Frey Gulch Restoration.	Friends of Dillon Ranger District and Keystone Horse Stables.
Meeker Fishing is Fun Day.	Colorado Division of Wildlife, Wyatt's Sports Center, White River Electric Association, High Country Portables, and Watt's Ranch Market.
Middle Thompson Fence project.	Western Native Trout Initiative, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Colorado Division of Wildlife.
Park Creek Brook Trout Removal.	Colorado Division of Wildlife.
Swan River - Respect the River program:	Conservation education associated with management of dispersed campsites that are within 100 feet of streams (prohibited by the Forest Plan) to improve stream habitat. Partners included Summit County, Town of Breckenridge, and Rocky Mountain Youth Corps.

Economic Impacts of hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing on the White River NF:

According to the most recent 2006 State and National Economic Impacts of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Related Recreation on U.S. Forest Service Managed Lands from 2000-2003, the White River NF annually provided:

Travel-related expenditures within a 50-mile radius for the following primary-purpose trips.

Hunting	\$1,812,600
Fishing	\$5,437,801
Wildlife Viewing	\$4,078,351

Citation - American Sportfishing Association for the: Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, January 23rd, 2006

Mountain Bark Beetle Report – FY 2010

A brief history of the Mountain Bark Beetle situation in the Rocky Mountains.

By now, it is well known that a mountain pine beetle epidemic is killing entire hillsides of lodgepole pine including the Arapaho-Roosevelt, White River, and Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and adjacent forested lands. While the mountain pine beetle also affects other pine species such as limber pine and ponderosa pine, to date, the majority of the trees affected are lodgepole pine trees. Based on aerial surveys conducted in 2010, the mountain pine beetle infestation includes some 4 million acres in Colorado and Wyoming.

Triggered by drought, the mountain pine beetle epidemic began in 1997. Bark beetle populations grew dramatically due to the predominance of mature, dense, lodgepole pine forests across northern Colorado. Drought conditions further enabled the bark beetle infestation by weakening tree resistance to attack. The vast tracts of large, mature lodgepole pine forests are particularly prone to beetle kill unlike younger forests composed of small diameter trees which cannot support bark beetle reproduction. Multiple warm winters have helped beetles survive and multiply.

Dead and dying trees that were isolated to five northern Colorado counties last year can now be seen in some Front Range areas, as well as southern Wyoming. These areas have not seen such a large epidemic in recorded history. Consequences of this situation include:

- Increased wildfire hazards to communities and key watersheds.
- Safety hazards from dead trees falling on people and property.
- Impaired wildlife habitat, aesthetics, and timber values.
- Interference to roads and power lines.

Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation Program, White River National Forest

In FY 2010, R-2 Regional Forester Rick Cables redirected \$10,000,000 of the Rocky Mountain Region's appropriated budget to prioritize bark beetle mitigation efforts. Concurrently, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Vilsack directed \$40 million to the Rocky Mountain Region. In total, approximately \$10.6 million additional funds were programmed to fund priority bark beetle projects on the White River NF.

With the additional funding, we focused our efforts on the hardest hit areas of the epidemic, those that posed the greatest risk to people and infrastructure from falling trees and increased wildfire danger. There are four activities the White River NF is focusing on:

- Removing hazardous trees from roads, trails, and campgrounds.
- Removing hazardous fuels from the wildland urban interface and recreational areas.
- Working with permittees to remove hazardous trees from infrastructure such as power lines, recreation residences, and ski area facilities.
- Informing the public about the hazards by creating a new web site; producing brochures and publications; and adding patrols.

Accomplishments of the Mountain Bark Beetle Program on the White River NF.

Between October 2009 and September 2010, the White River NF implemented the following strategies for mitigating the effects of the mountain pine beetle infestation.

Project	Description
Road-side treatments	Over 50 miles of roadside hazard tree implementation and completed 75 additional miles layout for 2011.
Trailside treatments	Completed 14 miles of trailside hazard tree implementation and another 25 miles of layout.
Stewardship contracting	Awarded \$1.7 million of WUI fuels treatments on approximately 1400 acres.

Project	Description
Salvage Timber Sales	Over 42,000 ccf timber salvage sales awarded of which about 88% were accomplished thru stewardship contracting to provide job opportunities in local communities.
Timber Stand Improvement.	103 acres treated to remove competing vegetation. 1239 acres of reforestation were completed.
Noxious weed treatments.	Over 4000 acres of noxious weed treatments to preserve soil productivity and native vegetation.
Facilities	100 acres of hazard tree removal around facilities
Trail inventory	Inventoried hazard trees along 94 miles of system trails.
Wildland Urban Interface.	Implemented over 4000 acres of fuels reduction within the Wildland-Urban Interface, alongside roads and trails, and around recreation facilities.
Project planning	Contracted and/or initiated project planning on over 15,000 additional acres of beetle-infested forest in or near Breckenridge, Ophir Mtn, Keystone, Vail, Beaver Creek, and Aspen Ski resort., Burnt Mtn Beetle Salvage, and Hardscrabble Forest Health environmental assessments. Laid out an additional 45,600 ccf* and 1900 acres of WUI fuels/timber salvage. *ccf=100 cubic feet

Continuing Concerns associated with the bark beetle epidemic:

Fire hazard – The fire hazard is high for one to two years after being attacked, when dead trees are red and before their needles fall. It is lower when standing dead trees lose their needles. Fire hazard rises again after the trees fall. Clearing and creating fuel breaks influence how quickly a fire can move, allowing time for people to move out of harm's way and providing a safer area for firefighters to work in to protect homes, power lines, or valuable watersheds.

Many miles of roads and trails, and a number of recreation areas are affected. The risk of falling trees is escalating at an increasing rate, representing a true threat to the safety of the recreating public as well as USFS employees on the White River National Forest. In all, over 50,000 acres of hazard tree mitigation work has been identified along roads and trails and within developed recreation site, including:

- 566 miles of trails; 1387 miles of road.
- 119 developed recreation sites.
- 11 ski areas.

Damaged power lines could cause wildfires and/or blackouts – Electricity generated in western Colorado must be transmitted across beetle-killed areas to serve Front Range demands. Wildfire and falling trees could damage power lines, disrupting service for thousands of people.

- In Colorado, beetle-killed trees threaten more than 550 miles of transmission lines and distribution lines, including 451 miles on the WRNF.
- Approximately 66 miles of power lines on the WRNF run through 32 different roadless areas.

Essential water supplies – Water quality for many millions of people could be affected by the increased fire hazard associated with the accumulation of thousands of acres of dead trees. The heart of the epidemic in Colorado and Wyoming contains the headwaters for rivers that supply water to 13 western states. Within the White River National Forest, municipal water is supplied to over 4 million users living within Colorado's Front Range urban corridor. Likewise, the Upper Colorado River basin lies almost entirely within beetle infested forests between Grand Lake and Rifle, Colorado. Severe fires could have a devastating and long-lasting effect on water quality and quantity for downstream users.



Terrestrial Wildlife Program

The White River NF is a land of diverse habitats that support hundreds of native wildlife species. Wildlife habitats range from low elevation shrubland habitats to the highest mountain peaks over 14,000 feet tall. Wildlife species are equally as diverse ranging from large mammals such as elk, black bear, Canada lynx, mountain goat, and bighorn sheep, to rare birds such as the black swift, peregrine falcon, bald eagle, and Barrow's golden-eye.

Our wildlife program consists of partnership projects to improve habitat, inventorying and monitoring of rare species, sharing knowledge through educational programs, contributing to regional and national research activities, and working with interdisciplinary teams to design projects to accommodate wildlife needs.

Partnerships in Habitat Improvement – The White River NF received a final allocation of \$542,600 for the terrestrial wildlife program that we leveraged with other federal funds. Partnerships provided an additional \$44,200 in FY10 for terrestrial wildlife projects. Our partners included Colorado Division of Wildlife, Vail Associates, Copper Mountain Resort, Climax Mine, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, The Wildlife Society, Gunnison Energy, Meeker Elementary School, Colorado Field Ornithologists, Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, Roaring Fork Audubon Society, National Audubon Society, Roaring Fork Valley School Districts, Gore Range Natural Science School, and individual volunteers.

FY2010 Accomplishments:

Project	Description
Habitat improvements.	We improved 15,270 acres of terrestrial wildlife habitat through prescribed burning (370 acres), road decommissioning (14,860 acres), and bird nest box installation (40 acres).
Wildlife monitoring.	We inventoried 114,880 acres for rare species including the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly, cave bats, Barrow's golden-eye, greater sage grouse, northern goshawk, Virginia's warbler, American pipit, Brewer's sparrow, black swift, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, river otter, snowshoe hare, songbirds, and owls.
Environmental education programs: "Kids Take Flight."	We received a 2010 National More Kids in the Woods grant and arranged for 46 field and classroom presentations that reached over 1,200 elementary, middle, and high school students.
Bat news.	We developed educational programs on white-nosed syndrome, a new catastrophic disease that has killed over one million bats in the U.S.
Canada lynx research.	We continued to investigate how winter recreation influences habitat use and movement patterns of the Canada lynx. GPS units were given to winter recreationists and put on captured lynx in the Vail Pass area in order to record use patterns of both. This study is continuing in 2011.
Avian research.	We continued with research on the black swift and rosy finch, rare birds the White River NF. Our research is providing information on movement patterns and breeding habitat.



Uri with Pine Grosbeak. 1st Place Winner of the National 2009 Kids in the Woods Photo Contest. Photo by Natasha Goedert



Several lynx were captured and fitted with GPS collars as part of a 2010 study of winter recreation effects on lynx in the Vail Pass area.

Botany Program – FY 2010

The primary purpose of the White River National Forest's Botany is to provide for diverse plant species and healthy plant communities, with special emphasis on native plant species. Important goals of this program include: 1) development of local genetic stocks of native plant species; 2) work with partners to complete surveys and monitoring; and 3) assist in the design of Forest Service projects.

We are developing a program to increase our "foundation seed" to the commercial quantities needed for anticipated landscape level restoration projects. This could enhance our local restoration economy.



Seed Collection

We are working to develop native plant material sources from local genetic stock for a broad spectrum upland seed mix that includes Sandberg's bluegrass, mountain brome, blue wild rye, and slender wheatgrass.

In FY2010 we collected Sandberg's bluegrass, blue wild rye and slender wheatgrass working with the Steamboat Springs Community Youth Corps, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and Forest Service personnel.



Seed propagation plots

We spent \$48,000 to prepare and plant 3 seed increase plots at the Forest Service's Lucky Peak Nursery in Idaho including: 1.3 acres of Sandberg's bluegrass, 1.3 acres of Slender wheatgrass and 0.3 acres of Blue wildrye. In FY09 we spent \$16,000 to prepare and plant 1 seed increase plot; Mountain Brome. These 4 plots will yield foundation seed in FY11, FY12 and FY13.



Plant Inventories

We worked with the University of Wyoming under a Cost Share Agreement to conduct a general floristic survey in order to obtain representative specimens of all vascular flora (including grasses, sedges, trees, forbs, shrubs, ferns, etc.) across the WRNF including federally threatened, endangered proposed, sensitive, and non-native and/or noxious weed species. FY2010 Budget - \$32,000.



Wetland mapping and fen inventory

We have a Challenge Cost Share Agreement with Colorado State University/Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) for wetland mapping and field surveys. CNHP has been working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetland Inventory (NWI) Program and numerous funding partners to create a comprehensive digital map/Geographic Information System (GIS) of wetlands for the state of Colorado by 2015. The digitizing and mapping of the wetlands within the WRNF is integral to our mutual goal to determine the extent and location of wetlands across the state. FY2011 Budget – \$61,500.

Engineering

Program Overview

The Engineering organization is made up of two primary program areas: Roads and Facilities. The roads program is charged with the maintenance of approximately 2,300 miles of passenger car (PC) and high-clearance (HC) roads on the Forest. The facilities program takes care of approximately 150 administrative buildings as well as the infrastructure in over 30 campgrounds throughout the Forest.

FY10 Accomplishments

Road Maintenance

During Fiscal Year 2010, approximately 670 miles of road maintenance was performed through a combination of the Forest's Construction & Maintenance (C&M) crew, Forest Service contractors, Timber Sale Purchasers, and county road crews under Forest Road Agreements.

C&M or FS Contractors:

- 193 mi of PC roads
- 98 mi of HC roads

Timber Sale Purchasers:

- 15 mi of PC roads
- 5 mi of HC roads

County Road Crews:

- 280 mi of PC roads
- 80 mi of HC roads

Road Decommissioning

Approximately 35 miles of unauthorized roads were closed, or decommissioned, across the Forest. These roads had been closed to the public previously, mostly to prevent resource damage. However, the closures had not performed effectively, leading to access into the closed areas and subsequent resource damage.

Facilities Projects

Seven large facilities projects were awarded and completed during FY10. These projects ranged from replacing administrative building roofs to repairing water systems and other infrastructure in campgrounds.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Two major ARRA projects were funded on the Forest. The first project was comprised of three sub-projects under the Rocky Mountain, Region-wide Historic Cabin Restoration effort were funded on the Forest. Restoration and maintenance contracts totaling approximately \$185,000 were completed on the Notch Mountain Shelter, Piney Guard Station, and Tigiwon Lodge buildings, located on the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. These projects focused on the reduction of critical deferred maintenance, extending each structure's useful life.

The second ARRA project focused work at the Dillon Ranger District's Cow Creek South Campground on Green Mountain Reservoir. Construction contracts were awarded for much-needed highway access safety improvements to the intersection off of Colorado State Highway 9, and improvements within the campground, providing a new camping loop, and associated host site amenities. The total value of the contracts awarded is approximately \$1.75 million dollars. Work on these improvements should commence during the 2011 field season.

Bark Beetle Work

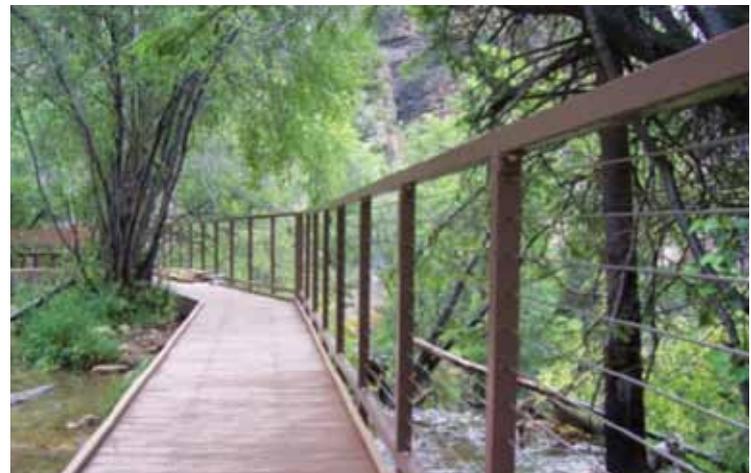
The Forest Engineering Team also contributed in the effort to combat the on-going Mountain Pine Bark Beetle Epidemic during fiscal year 2010. The Roads program and Construction and Maintenance crew provided support for the removal of both Roadside Hazard trees and Fuels Reduction timber. Approximately \$70,000 worth of contract maintenance was performed on Forest Service roads in support of Bark Beetle work. An additional \$1.3 million dollars in construction and maintenance contracts were awarded this last year. Those contacts will be completed during the 2011 field season. This upcoming field season will focus more effort on road maintenance as the majority of the Bark Beetle timber removal will get underway. The Construction

and Maintenance crew performed stump grinding and clean-up in campgrounds primarily on the Dillon Ranger District.

Project Highlights

Hanging Lake Boardwalk

During the 2010 field season, major infrastructure improvements were completed at Hanging Lake, which is a tourist destination for nearly 50,000 Forest visitors each year. The contract, originally awarded in Fiscal Year 2009, called for the replacement of the entire boardwalk, trail hand rail, and the design and construction of rock-fall and slide mitigation barriers. Nearly all of the materials for construction were airlifted to the site by helicopter, and construction took nearly 3 months to complete. The total project cost was approximately \$1.13 million dollars.



Crooked Creek Dam

Another major project completed, was the first of two phases to repair Crooked Creek Dam, which is 20 miles south of Eagle, Colorado. The dam, first built in 1946, has had significant structural issues since 2005, posing a safety hazard to downstream residents and the public. The project was funded as a part of the Forest Service's Capital Investment Program (CIP) in 2007. The work was completed in cooperation with the US Bureau of Reclamation.



Forest Financial Report

Expenditures

Each year, Congress appropriates funding for specific programs and within specific spending limits for the Forest Service. Over the past decade, the White River NF operating budget has remained relatively flat. Fortunately, the last three years we have received additional funding to address the bark beetle epidemic. In 2010, approximately \$10.4 million was spent on important bark beetle mitigation work. One of our financial goals over the next several years is to reduce our “fixed costs” for items such as personnel, vehicles and overhead for rent, utilities and supplies. This will result in more money available for contracts and seasonal field employees. In the pages to follow, a more detailed explanation is provided for how we spent the funds.

2010 Expenditures

Bark Beetle Mitigation	10,450,200
Recreation Management (includes recreation fees collected)	3,150,802
General Administration	2,564,780
Road & Trail Maintenance & Construction	2,554,469
Mineral & Mining Management	1,265,637
Fire Preparedness	1,252,830
Fire Suppression	1,218,717
Timber & Vegetation Management	1,115,893
Fleet/Vehicles/Fuel/Maintenance	1,102,761
Facilities Maintenance & Construction	1,057,259
Lands & Realty	781,556
Wildlife & Botany Management	624,877
Range Administration	552,972
Planning, Inventory & Monitoring	402,371
Fuels Reduction	336,485
Cost Recovery	135,840
TOTAL	28,567,419

Approximately \$8.3 million of the total White River expenditures were spent on contracts in 2010. Private entities are awarded these contracts via a competitive bidding process.

Of the \$10.4 million spent on bark beetle mitigation work in 2010, approximately \$6.44 million were spent on contracts.

The Department of Labor estimates that for every \$1 million spent on forest restoration, 23 private sector jobs are supported. Using these estimates, approximately 148 private sector jobs were supported by White River NF expenditures.

Secure Rural Schools Funding

On October 3, 2008 the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS Act) was amended and reauthorized. This law ensures that for the next four years (2008 –2011), counties which chose to participate in the SRS program can continue to count on stable and transition payments that provide funding for schools and roads make additional investments in projects that enhance forest ecosystems, and improve cooperative relationships. The following table shows how much money was provided Colorado counties in 2010 via the SRS Act from collections from the White River NF.

Secure Rural School Funding

Routt County	3,203
Garfield County	473,847
Rio Blanco County	98,907
Gunnison County	68,401
Mesa County	96,000

Revenues and Collections

The White River NF collects money for a variety of commercial activities that take place on the forest. These collections come from recreation special use permits, oil and gas revenues, timber sales, power line and land use permits, grazing permits, cooperative work agreements and miscellaneous special events. With a few exceptions, these funds are deposited directly to the U.S. Treasury and are not returned to the forest. Over the past decade, revenues on the White River NF have more than doubled, while expenditures have remained about the same.

2010 Revenues and Collections

Recreation Special Use Permits (includes fee site collections)	12,433,414
Oil & Gas Revenue	2,552,783
Utilities Special Use Permits	1,097,690
Timber Sales	593,942
Cooperative Work Agreements	418,744
Cost Recovery	393,231
Lands/Lands Special Use Permits	368,964
Quarters	203,255
Grazing Permits	103,917
Road Maintenance Agreements	61,012
Miscellaneous	6,808
Minerals - Rock Collecting	4,578
Donations	4,321
TOTAL	18,242,656

Twenty Five Percent Funding

Since 1908, when Congress enacted what is commonly known as the Twenty Five Percent Fund Act to compensate local governments for the tax-exempt status of the national forests, the Forest Service has shared 25 percent of gross receipts from national forests with states to help fund public schools and roads. The so-called “25 percent payments” were made to the states for the benefit of public schools and public roads in the counties in which national forests are located. The allocation of the funds between schools and roads varies according to state laws. The receipts, on which the 25 percent payments are based, are derived from timber sales, grazing, minerals, recreation and other land use fees, deposits and credits. The following displays the funding provided counties from collections from the White River NF.

25 % Fund Distributions

Eagle County	\$512,840
Pitkin County	\$425,773
Summit County	\$525,190

Fuels Program (Non-Mountain Pine Beetle)

The purpose of the White River NF's Fuels program is to reduce and manage hazardous fuels, primarily in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), where the National Forest is in close proximity to private lands, structures, and communities. The intent of our fuels program is to moderate the potential of a wildfire that could be a threat to public health and safety, communities and infrastructure, and fire-fighter safety. Fuels treatments also enhance habitat, watershed, and forest conditions. Below are 2010 fuels accomplishments:

FY2010 Regular Program of Work

Fuels treatment type	Acres	Remarks
Prescribed fire – Broadcast burning in mixed mountain shrub cover types to improve wildlife habitat in addition to reducing fuel loading.	380	West Divide and Alkali Creek areas, Rifle Ranger District. Due to weather conditions, we did not accomplish typical spring burning acreages (about 2,500 acres). About 1,260 acres still await burning treatments in these areas. The Alkali Creek project is a cooperative project between the BLM (completed 2010), the Forest and the Grand Valley District of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest. Preparatory treatments are planned for the spring of 2011.
Prescribed fire – pile burning	110	Over 100 acres of pile burning were accomplished on the Rifle and Blanco Ranger Districts.
Total	480	

FY2010 Annual Report for Fuels Program (Mountain Pine Beetle)

Mountain Pine Beetle Fuels Treatments	Acres	Remarks
Mechanical	430	Partnership agreement (Wyden amendment), Stewardship, or Forest Service crew projects with the Red Tail Ranch, Keystone area, Gold Hill, and Maryland on the Dillon and Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger Districts to remove or shred woody material. The Wyden Amendment authority allows for Forest Service funds to be spent on private lands if it is in the public interest. Stewardship agreements allow the Forest Service to exchange goods (woody products) for services (thinning, removal, shredding).
Prescribed fire – Pile burning	240	Located on the Dillon and Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger Districts during the fall/winter. Some of the areas burned were initially thinned in the Vail Valley area as part of a 2008 under a partnership agreement among the Town of Vail, Eagle County and the White River NF. This was the first large scale project completed under the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) process championed by the Colorado State Forest Service and adopted by other communities throughout Colorado.
Total	670	



Heritage Resources

The White River NF Heritage Program strives to meet our preservation responsibilities by supporting other Forest resource needs and building knowledge and understanding of heritage resources on the forest. The Heritage Program has three important elements; protect historic properties, share their values with the public, and contribute information and perspectives to land management. The following are some of the accomplishment highlights in 2010:

Inventory

Over 5000 acres of Heritage Resource inventory was conducted in support of projects such as fuel reduction, recreation improvements, habitat restoration, abandoned mine closures, special uses, and range allotments. Approximately 11% of WRNF has been inventoried to date.

Public Education and Outreach

Interpretive tours are provided every summer at Independence Townsite and Ashcroft Ghost Town in partnership with Aspen Historical Society and Aspen Center for Environmental Studies. Educational and public events were also held at Cayton Guard Station along with establishment of a website in partnership with the Cayton Ranger Station Foundation.

National Register Listing (Highlight)

Historic Soda Creek Ranch was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places bringing the total to six National Register-listed properties on the WRNF. Soda Creek Ranch is one of the earliest dairy ranches in Summit County, Colorado, established in the late 1880s. It continued as a working cattle ranch until acquired by the Forest Service in 1987. The ranch is currently under permit with Keystone Resorts which provides sleigh rides, wagon rides, and dinners for resort guests.

Protection and Stewardship

Restored and maintained historic properties:



Cayton Guard Station

One of the oldest FS administrative buildings in the nation still in existence. Project was accomplished through a partnership with the Cayton Ranger Station Foundation, private donations, FS funding, and volunteer help.



Piney Guard Station

This historic administrative building was built in 1935. Through ARRA funding, critical repairs were made to this cabin including a new shingle roof, floor refinishing, removal of non-historic elements, repairs to the foundation.



Tigiwon Community House

Built in 1931 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to serve the thousands of religious pilgrims on their way to view the Mount of the Holy Cross. This massive log building was repaired with ARRA funds.



Soda Creek Ranch Reynolds' Cabin

Reynolds' Cabin and dairy barn repairs were funded by Keystone Resort permit fees. It is planned to continue restoration on the other historic ranch structures in FY11 and upcoming years.



Notch Mountain Shelter

Built in 1931-32, it stands on the summit of Notch Mountain. Religious pilgrims took shelter here and contemplated the beauty of the Mount of the Holy Cross.

Lands

The Lands Program on the White River NF accomplishes the issuance and administration of Special Use Authorizations, land adjustments through exchanges, sales, purchases and donations, right-of-way acquisitions, resolution of title questions and unauthorized uses and surveying of Forest boundaries. Realty Specialists also provide support for Forest activities and the public through determination of land ownership, boundary locations and management responsibilities for facilities such as roads and trails.

Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2010

Case Type	Accomplished
Special Use Authorizations Issued (No. of Cases)	Issued 66 Reissued 63 Total 119
Special Use Authorizations Administered (No. of Cases)	Field Inspected 41 Assured Compliant at Issuance 119 Total 160
Title Resolved (Trespasses Resolved) (No. of Cases)	15
Boundaries Surveyed (Miles)	77
Small Tracts Act Easement Interchanges	1

Special Use Authorization cases approved a variety of facilities and activities including roads, erosion control structures, reservoir enlargements, commercial filming, communications facilities, electric power lines, a natural gas pipeline, telephone lines, vegetation clearing on utility lines in pine bark beetle killed timbered areas, irrigation and municipal water facilities (including six Ditch Bill easements) and scientific and engineering investigations.

Among the trespass resolution cases were those involving a water well, cabins, fences and recreational equipment located on National Forest System lands without authorization.

Much of the 77 miles of boundary surveyed were done to facilitate the clearing of dead and dying timber attacked by pine bark beetles. Most of the work was performed in Summit and Eagle Counties.

The Small Tract Act easement interchange involved acquiring public access on portions of the Sunnyside Trail in Pitkin County, Colorado.

Projects for Fiscal Year 2011

Several major projects are contemplated for FY 2011. Three land exchanges are planned which would include a total of approximately 1,130 acres of Federal land and 1,480 acres of non-Federal land. In addition, ten planned major Special Use Authorization cases would approve roads, reservoir enlargements, communications facilities, electric power lines, a material fill site and irrigation and municipal water facilities.

Minerals Program

Program Overview

The minerals program on the White River NF aims to make mineral resources available for development in a manner that protects the environment and ecological resources. Minerals such as gold, silver and other locatable resources are managed under the 1872 Mining Law which allows mining on federal land. Oil and gas leasing is managed in the 1986 Onshore Leasing Act which allows development under certain conditions established to protect resources and ecological function. The minerals program includes seven active program components.

- Leasable Minerals
- Locatable Minerals
- Mineral Materials
- Abandoned Mine Lands (AML)
- Environmental Compliance and Protection (ECAP)
- Paleontology
- Groundwater

The program funding for the White River NF minerals program was spent on accomplishing work within each of the seven program components identified above. The following is a brief summary, by program component, of the budget, projects, accomplishments, and notable statistics for FY 2010.

Leasable Minerals

The White River NF Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Revision Notice of Intent was published, public scoping was completed, and environmental analysis was started. A draft EIS is expected to be available for public comment in the spring of 2011.

Additional projects included processing 2 lease nominations and review and release of Coal Basin mine reclamation bonds.



Rifle Ranger District – Divide Creek Unit 30 well pad final reclamation in progress.

2010 Accomplishments –

- 81 oil and gas sites administered to standard
- 2 lease operations administered
- 2 lease nominations processed
- Miles of Oil and Gas Roads Reclaimed = 1
- Number of Oil and Gas Pads Reclaimed = 3
- Acres of Oil and Gas Disturbance Reclaimed = 12
- Number of Final Abandonment Notices Issued = 1
- Miles of Oil and Gas Roads Maintained to Standard = 30
- Number of Active Oil and Gas Operations = 10
- Number of Proposed Oil and Gas Operations = 3
- Miles of Oil and Gas Pipeline Under Special Use = 65
- Miles of Oil and Gas Pipeline Under Special Use Permit = 31
- Miles Produced Water Pipeline Under Special Use = 5
- Miles Produced Water Pipeline Under SUPO = 10
- Number of Sundry Notices Processed = 26
- Number of APDs Expired without Drilling = 11
- Amount of Natural Gas Produced = 4,562,031 Mcf
- Total Value of Gas Produced = \$19,308,796
- Total Value of Federal Gas Royalties = \$2,413,600
- Amount of Oil Produced = 11,352 bbls
- Total Value of Oil Produced = \$871,688
- Total Value of Federal Oil Royalties = \$108,961
- Volume Gas Injected Wolf Creek Storage=1,037,259Mcf
- Volume Gas Withdrawn Wolf Creek Storage = 949,166Mcf
- Total Federal Revenue from Wolf Creek Storage = \$27,472



Rifle Ranger District – Divide Creek Unit 30 well pad final reclamation complete.

Abandoned Mine Lands (AML)

The AML program on the Forest deals with the demolition of former mine structures and safety closures of open adits and shafts that have been left by historical mining operations.

Notable 2010 Accomplishments - The demolition and safety closures pave the way for future Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) removal projects at the Hope Mine and Butterfly/Burrell sites.



Aspen / Sopris Ranger District - Interdisciplinary team site visit to the proposed Basalt Mountain rock collection site.

Locatable Minerals

Projects in the locatable minerals program included processing notice of intents and plan of operations for unpatented mining claims in Summit and Pitkin counties.

The Dillon Ranger District processed 17 notices of intent and administered to standard 5 unpatented mining claims.

Mineral Materials

The mineral materials program is focused primarily on processes and administering rock and gravel operations on the Forest. Accomplishments for 2010 include:

- NEPA for proposed rock collection site on the Aspen/Sopris and Eagle/Holy Ranger Districts.
- 2 mineral material disposal permits issued .
- Mineral material disposal permits generated \$2,750 for the Federal Government.

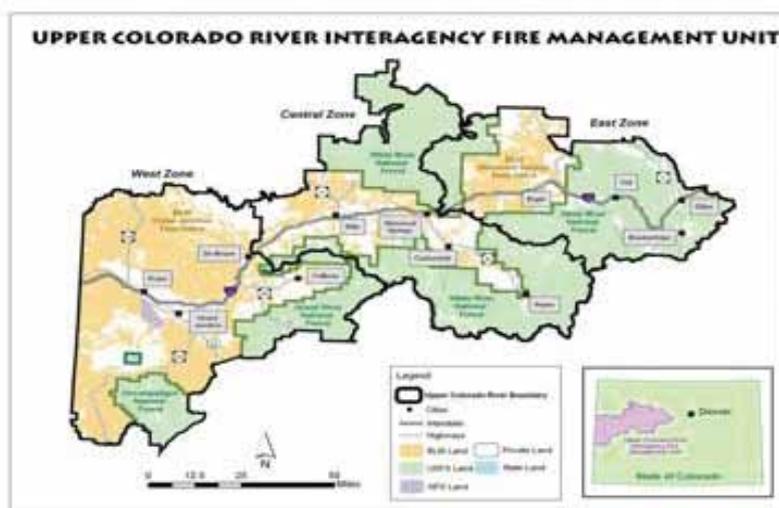


Blanco Ranger District – Butterfly/Burrell adit with bat friendly gate installed.

Upper Colorado River Fire Management Program

The Forest's fire management program is led by the Upper Colorado River (UCR) interagency fire management organization. The interagency program is responsible for 4,340,500 acres of Bureau of Land Management and National Forest lands ranging from high alpine to desert with urban interface and intense public recreation.

The entire UCR averages 250 fires annually with acreage burned ranging from 4000-12,000 acres per year. Although the White River has a relatively low number of fires annually, during dry years the Forest can experience large, difficult to manage fires. With the advent of the mountain pine beetle affected lodge pole pine, the White River is working hard to mitigate the threat to the communities.



FY10 Accomplishments – In 2010 the White River NF had a total of 83 fires which burned 1495 acres. Most of these acres burned as part of the Meadow Creek fire which lasted 122 days and was managed to accomplish resource benefits. The goal for management of this fire is supported by the White River Fire Management Plan.

Future goals – In February of 2009 fire management direction changed with new policy implementation guidance encouraging that the full range of response be considered for every unplanned ignition. This provides for: 1) full consideration of risk management in deploying fire fighters, and 2) the consideration of every natural ignition as a means to accomplish resource management objectives. In the future we plan to manage unplanned natural ignitions as a means to enhance ecosystem conditions

Examples of varying fuel conditions in the UCR – From left to right: 1) Steep terrain with dense vegetation; 2) heavy fuels in wildland urban interface; and 3) fuels conditions in and around gas/oil development areas.



Partnerships

A great deal of valuable work on the forest is accomplished through the efforts of our partners. In many cases, both the Forest Service and our partners make contributions toward completion of a project or mutual interest in some goal or value. These partnerships can provide funding, salary/labor, supplies and materials or in some cases a combination of these. Without these dedicated people and organizations, we could not carry out our mission of "Caring for the Land and Serving People".

Examples of new and on-going partnership work include but are not limited to:

- Reclamation and mitigation of safety hazards related to abandoned mines
- Mutual interest and mutual benefit in various projects that enhance Forest Service activities including:
- Range, trails, fuels reduction, education, wildlife habitat restoration, watershed improvement and many more.

- Cooperative pollution abatement, manpower, job training and development programs
- Improving, maintaining, or protecting ecosystem conditions through collaborative administration and/or implementation of projects.

Volunteer Program Accomplishment Report 2010

Ranger District	Accumulated Volunteer Hours	Appraised Dollar Value
Aspen/Sopris Districts	16,580	\$345,527
Eagle/Holy Cross Districts	11,218	\$168,948
Dillon District	20,062	\$418,290
Blanco District	3,964	\$82,649
Rifle District	2,931	\$61,111
Totals	38,675	\$1,076,525

Total White River NF Agreements and Funding:

41 new partnership agreements were issued in 2010, bringing the total White River NF agreements to 105. The following table shows the breakdown:

Forest Service – Cash	\$1,071,373
Forest Service – Non-Cash	\$537,162
Cooperator – Cash	\$1,022,852
Cooperator – Non-Cash	\$1,250,783

Non-Cash contributions are expenses incurred that are contributed to the project in lieu of cash, but for which costs have been incurred. Non-Cash contributions shown above include in-kind contributions, for use in the project for which either party has incurred no expense.



The Friends of the Dillon Ranger District

Named 2010 Forest Service Volunteer Group of the Year

On January 6, 2011, James Bidwell, Director of Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer resources, announced the selection of the Friends of the Dillon Ranger District (FDRD) as the Volunteer Group of the Year, a national award given to a group that provides outstanding volunteer service to the Forest Service. FDRD volunteers served more than 4,000 hours on National Forest projects that included trail maintenance and construction, planting tree seedlings, litter pick up, and pulling invasive weeds.

The FDRD has two primary programs. The Service Project Program allows community members and visitors to participate in one-day volunteer opportunities that focus on community-based forestry efforts relating to invasive weed management, fuels reduction, fire mitigation, habitat restoration, and recreation management. The Forest Stewards Program allows community members to participate in an ongoing volunteer program which offers leadership training and educational opportunities. The Forest Stewards Program includes the following initiatives: Trail Crew Leaders, Ranger Patrols and Outreach Educators, Adopt-A-Trail Groups, and Youth and Family Stewards.

In 2010, FDRD projects included a total of 4,371 hours of volunteer labor. Over 500 youth participated in 19 projects. The following was accomplished:

- 17 miles of trail was maintained.
- 352 drainage structures (e.g., water bars and check dams) were constructed.
- 295 feet of new trail was constructed.
- 349 feet of trail turnpike was constructed.
- 182 tree seedlings were transplanted within two campgrounds.
- 59 bags of litter were collected from roadsides through an adopt-a-road litter pick up program.
- 10 bags of invasive weeds were pulled.
- Ranger Patrollers went out on over 160 hikes and patrolled over 649 miles of trail.

Nominees for the Volunteer Awards exemplify the commitment and dedication of many citizen stewards that support the work of the Forest Service and assure the continuity of the public lands legacy. The contribution of Forest Service volunteers are extensive and are essential to our ability to fulfill our mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity.

Range Program

The White River NF permits sustainable grazing to local ranches in a manner compatible with other uses. In 2010 we permitted seasonal summer grazing for 16,270 cattle and 43,290 domestic sheep on 92 grazing allotments under permits issued predominately to family owned and operated ranches.

The settlement of many of the areas adjacent to the White River NF was based on agriculture. Summer grazing on the White River NF provides for economic viability of the local ranching industry. This in turn provides for open space, wildlife habitat, and limits urban sprawl.

Managed grazing provides benefits to other resources such as water developments available for wildlife that also help to protect stream-side riparian areas. Proper utilization of plants by domestic livestock helps the plants maintain plan vigor and species diversity, providing forage and habitat for a wider array of wildlife.

Range Partnerships:

Projects	Remarks
Cooperative range monitoring program	The Blanco Ranger District partnered with the White River Conservation District and 3 Ranger Districts to develop a monitoring program. Training was provided by the Conservation District and the Forest Service, creating a common understanding of range management standards.
Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP)	The White River NF partnered with the Colorado Division of Wildlife to update the Oak Ridge/Lost Park CRMP, continuing a 21 year cooperative project that won a national award for its benefits to natural resources and sustained partnerships.

Range Accomplishments:

Projects	Remarks
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) projects	The White River NF completed NEPA process and decision for the Milk Creek Allotment. Public scoping and interdisciplinary field analysis was completed on 9 other allotments (Decision Notices expected in 2011).
Water developments	The White River maintained 20+ water developments that benefit both livestock and wildlife.

Range Program Goals for FY2011:

Projects	Remarks
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) projects	Completion NEPA process and decision for 9 grazing allotments. Field analysis on 6 allotments to support NEPA processes for 2012 and 2013.
Monitoring	Continue with allotment monitoring to ensure compliance with allotment management plans. The White River NF will continue monitor domestic and bighorn sheep use patterns in the Flat Tops allotments.
Cooperative range monitoring program	Expand the program on the Blanco Ranger District to other units on the White River NF.

Recreation

The White River continues to be the most heavily visited National Forest in the nation with estimated use at around 9.2 million annual visits. Comparatively, this is about around 1 million more annual visits than Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Parks combined or having more visits than the entire populations of New York City and Denver combined.

Downhill Skiing and Other Special Use Permits:

Downhill skiing continues to be the most popular activity with several nationally and internationally recognized ski areas among the 11 ski areas permits on the Forest. The White River NF made decisions on a total of 9 ski area project proposals of varying sizes and reviewed and accepted two updated ski area master plans. Five additional environmental analyses continue to move forward, including four to deal with the bark beetle epidemic and other forest health issues at seven of the resorts. This year, Beaver Creek was chosen as the site for the 2015 World Alpine Championships. The Forest will be working with Beaver Creek and other resorts on additional project proposals in 2011.

In 2010, the forest administered an additional 249 recreation special use permits including 158 outfitter/guide permits. Receipts paid by permittees totaled \$11,767,080. \$11,343,458 was deposited in the Federal treasury with the remaining \$423,622 retained for use on the Forest under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act authority.

Trails:

The replacement of the Hanging Lake Boardwalk and trail improvements highlights the list of trails work for the past year. This trail, located in the very popular Glenwood Canyon, is used by nearly 80,000 visitors a year. The facilities had last been upgraded nearly 20 years ago and had been used by well over 1,000,000 hikers since the last major work. A new 285 foot boardwalk with viewing platform and seating areas and a new safety handrail on the approach to the lake replace the older worn out structures. Additionally, a new debris fence was constructed on the east side of the lake to prevent rock fall from filling the lake with debris. Volunteers from Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado donated over 1650 hours to help reconstruct nearly 2400 feet of the one mile trail leading to the lake. The volunteer work will continue with these two groups into 2011. Additional trail highlights included trail safety clearing in response to the Bark Beetle and the installation of the Capitol Creek Trail Bridge needed to move the heavily used trail out of a wetland area.

Non-Native Species Response:

The Forest Recreation program continues to be challenged in dealing with the prevention of non-native threats due to recreational use. In 2009, the Forest responded to the threat from Aquatic Nuisance Species by changing the boat launching programs at Green Mountain and Ruedi Reservoirs and committing resources toward boat inspections at these locations to ensure continued public access. These programs were adjusted and improved, with the assistance of partners and contractors in 2010. Additionally, in 2010 the Forest began its response to a potential threat of White Nose Syndrome (WNS) in bats as a Regional closure order for caves and mines was put into place. This closure is intended to reduce the threat that this disease, which has killed millions of bats in the Eastern and Southern US, would be brought into the Forest accidentally by humans. The White River contains the highest number and concentration of caves in the State. Educational materials, road signs, cave closure signs and limited physical closures were developed and put into place to address this concern.

Travel Management:

The Forest has been working on updating the 1985 travel management direction for the Forest for several years. This past year the team working on this project reviewed the comments in 700 letters and emails received on the most recent draft for the Travel Plan, completed the analysis for the Environmental Impact Statement, received the final biological opinion needed from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and has prepared a recommendation to the Forest Supervisor. The long-awaited final decision is expected early in 2011. In anticipation of the decision, over 70 new kiosks to display travel information

have been constructed on major road accesses and at trailheads. Most all of the kiosks were constructed through agreements with the Rifle Correctional Facility and the Colbran Job Corps over the past 3 years, saving the Forest \$100,000 in construction costs.

General Program Accomplishments:

Much of the activity within the program is keeping the varied recreation programs operating. The following table lists program accomplishments numerically:

Measure	Accomplishment	Percent of Total
Recreation Sites Maintained to Standard	186	73.0%
Special Use Permits Administered to Standard	168	65.0%
Trails Miles Maintained/Improved to Standard	485.1	N/A
Total Trail System Miles to Standard	1290.5	53.0%
Wilderness Areas Managed to Standard	6	75%



Fee Program

Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) Information

In December 2004, Congress enacted the Recreation Enhancement Act, which gave federal agencies a long-term, recreation fee program. Recreation fees provide crucial resources that allow the federal agencies to respond to increased demand on federal lands. The goal is to provide visitors with a quality recreation experience through enhanced facilities and services.

In 2010, the White River NF collected \$980,451 from recreational fees. This funding is crucial for managing the programs and keeping facilities and trails maintained to provide over 9 million people with some of the highest quality recreation opportunities in the nation.

Without recreation fees, the Forest Service would lose a vital avenue to work with many partners to provide the best possible services to the public. The following paragraphs describe how these fees were spent and what was accomplished in 2010.

Outfitter and Guide Fees and Recreation Special Events: \$372,840 Collected in 2010

These are fees charged to the over 150 outfitters and educational institutions that use the White River NF for commercial purposes. It also includes fees charged for recreation special events like mountain bike races, weddings and other organized public gatherings. The following is a list of accomplishments in 2010 from these fees:

- Maintained over 130 miles of trails - Specific tasks included: fallen tree removal, installing and maintaining water bars, repair of poor drainage and soil erosion issues, removing rocks from the tread, rebuilding tread & building/repairing rock retaining walls, turnpikes, puncheon, rock cairns & foot bridges, routing and installation of new signs.
- 119 Outfitter/Guide Special Use permits were administered - Accomplishments included: working with permit holders in providing numerous types of high quality recreational opportunities across the forest, camp inspections, joint training sessions, operating plan & Title VI compliance reviews, hazard tree evaluation/removal and client contacts.
- Inventorying, cleaning, and rehabilitating backcountry campsites
- Utilized horse patrols to pack out and disposed of several hundred pounds of trash and debris from numerous illegal caches and messy camps in the Flattops Wilderness and other backcountry areas of the Blanco Ranger District
- Presented hazard tree awareness slideshows and training session to several groups of outfitters throughout the year
- Conducted 2 joint meetings with BLM & DOW for permitted outfitters from across the western slope to address current issues and concerns
- Inspected numerous outfitter operations and assign site camp locations

High Impact Recreation Areas and Non-Concession Campgrounds: \$607,611 Collected in 2010

These fees are collected at Vail Pass Winter Recreation Area, Maroon Bells, Green Mountain Reservoir and at non-concession campgrounds. The following is a list of accomplishments from 2010:

- Groomed 55 miles of snowmobile trails all winter & marked over 100 miles multi-use winter trails at the Vail Pass Winter Recreation Area
- Provided field reports to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center and posted CAIC's avalanche forecasts at Vail Pass.
- Funded three permanent backcountry rangers and six volunteers who contributed 2108 hours to the program
- Made an estimated 1,000 direct visitor contacts on the trails system and assisted with three search and rescue missions

- Hired a total of 15 seasonal employees to operate, maintain and provide high quality customer service at REA campgrounds and recreation areas on 3 Districts
- Refinished toilet interior walls, ceiling, floors and doors at numerous campgrounds.
- Repaired & replaced numerous picnic tables, firerings, parking barriers, benches, site markers, tent pads and other campground features
- Constructed concrete accessible ramps to six toilets and added aggregate to trails
- Replaced 1200 feet of wood boarder and 5,280 sq ft of crushed aggregate on an accessible pathway on the Yeoman Discovery Trail
- Cleaned and maintained to standard the Maroon Bells, which includes Day Use Area, Major Interpretive Site, multiple trailheads, 3 campgrounds, Welcome Station, potable water systems, and 27 individual toilets.
- Maintained staffing for customer service and collections at the Welcome Station and administered Maroon Bells road restriction seven days per week from 7:00AM to 7:00PM, June 19, 2010 to October 1, 2010.
- Administered the Forest Conservancy Wilderness Volunteer program.
- Partnered with the City of Aspen for electronic information signage on Maroon Creek Road.
- Initiated process for installing an AT&T micro-cell at the Maroon Bells for emergency cell phone access.
- Permitted and administered over 40 recreation events



A new accessible crushed aggregate & timber boarder trail at Yeoman Park Campground



Volunteer Andy Arnos installs sign made from materials purchased with fee money



REA Trail crew builds a bridge on the Middle Fork Swan Trail



Back County rangers patrol at Vail Pass



Blanco Trail Crew leads their pack mule across a reconstructed rock retaining wall on the Trappers Lake Trail



Vail Pass REA funds trail grooming

Campground Concession Program

53 campgrounds and day-use sites on the White River NF are operated by a concessionaire under a special-use permit. The concessionaire is responsible for all operations at the sites. The permit holder pays a fee for the service and in return is allowed to keep the collections from the campgrounds. A portion of these collections can be used as “fee offset”, where instead of paying the government a fee, the concessionaire completes important work at the site.

Adjusted Gross revenues collected at Campgrounds	\$723,884
Fee offset total	\$108,582

Fee Offset Accomplishments in 2010

Forest-wide

- Completed \$15,000 worth of road maintenance in campgrounds

Dillon Ranger District

- Refurbished all campground entrance signs
- Removed and reconditioned four sewage lift station pumps

Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District

- Purchased 10 new picnic tables & 10 new firerings for installation in 2011

Aspen/Sopris Ranger District

- Purchased and installed a Shed City Tool shed at Difficult campground
- Installed 17 bear proof food storage lockers
- Purchased and installed 20 new picnic tables, 24 new firerings & 1 standup grill
- Purchased and installed 2 new water tower/cleanout stations @ Ruedi Dump Station
- Installed concrete ADA aprons on 9 toilets
- Delivered and spread approximately 85 tons of road base in living spaces and around toilets
- Purchased 10 bear proof storage boxes

Blanco Ranger District

- Purchased 13 new picnic tables for installation in 2011
- Purchased 5 new bear proof, 3-yard dumpsters for installation in 2011

Rifle Ranger District

- Purchased & installed 4 double bear proof trash receptacles @ Meadow Lake Complex

New water tower/cleanout station at Ruedi Dump Station (Sopris RD)



Some of 85 tons of fresh road base spread at Difficult Group living space (Aspen RD)

17 new bear proof food storage lockers were installed across Aspen/Sopris RDs



All CG entrance signs on Dillon RD were refurbished and new credit lines & shields installed

Contractors pull sewage lift station pumps for rebuilding at Peak One CG (Dillon RD)



Bear proof trash receptacles were purchased and installed at the Meadow Lake Complex (Rifle RD)

Weed Program

The goal of the White River NF Weed Program is to prevent new weed infestations as well as reduce and eventually control or eradicate existing noxious weed populations across the White River NF. Forest Service crews, contractors, and partners accomplish our weeds treatments. We practice integrated weed management plan which employs biological, cultural, mechanical, and chemical control techniques.

Noxious weeds can alter the structure or function of ecological systems. Noxious weeds are non-native plant species that many times can out-compete native plants and unproductive become mono-cultures. This greatly reduces natural plant diversity, can increase soil erosion, reduce forage for wildlife and livestock, and reduce the scenic and recreational values of an area. Treating noxious weeds is expensive, exceeding \$100/acre.

Project	Acres treated Actual* (Affected)**	Funding	Description
Bark-beetle funded projects (Forest Service crews and contracts)	635 (3,430)	\$200,000	Dillon and Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger Districts including road side treatments and limited biological control.***
Forest Service crew work and volunteers	330 (1,225)	\$140,300	Aspen/Sopris, Blanco, Eagle/Holy Cross, Rifle Ranger Districts.
Fuels (contract)	60 (300)	\$15,000	Old controlled burn project on Blanco that became infested with downy brome (cheatgrass)
Total	1,025 (4,995)	\$355,300	

* Actual acres treated equals the actual calibrated square footage wetted by herbicide

** Affected acreage equals the area in and around the weed infestation directly affected by each specific weed population.

*** Biological control is reported at 5 acres per release site (220 insects and 5 acres apart minimum)

Highlights of the 2010 White River NF Weed Program:

- Establishment of an effective weed program on the Dillon Ranger District, a goal of ours for the past several years.
- A strong working relationship with Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). Cooperatively we treated the Glenwood Canyon bike path the past two years, including 13 State listed noxious weed species.
- Treatment of the Camp Hale area of the Holy Cross Ranger District.
- Continued weed management research efforts with Colorado State University, Colorado State Insectory, DuPont, and Dow Agro Sciences.

Partnership Organization	Acres treated Actual* (Affected)**	Value	Description
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	55 (280)	\$15,000	Remote backcountry areas of portions of the Blanco Ranger District.
Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness	30 (140)	\$7,730	Remote backcountry areas of the Dillon and Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger Districts.
Private land owner	5(15)	\$500	Land owner funded this project on the Blanco Ranger District.
Colorado State Insectory	25	\$5,000	Yellow toadflax research (Mecinus janthinus) insect (biological control).
Total	115 (435)	\$28,230	



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