



USDA
Forest
Service

White River National Forest Rifle Ranger District

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Volunteers with WCCC



TIPS FOR HUNTING:

- ◆ Make sure all firearms are in a closed case and fully unloaded when riding an ATV.
- ◆ Protect yourself from other hunters and wear as much orange clothing as possible (500 inches minimum.)
- ◆ Be aware of dead trees, and their falling potential.
- ◆ No camping or campfires within 100 feet of a water source.

The Rifle Ranger District newsletter is about letting the public know what's happening at their local ranger district. What are our local Forest Service specialists up to and how does it affect you and our community? Please take time to look over this information and contact us with any questions you may have. We hope you will enjoy this biannual newsletter and welcome any suggestions or requests from you. Have a fantastic Fall and Winter!

BE PREPARED FOR HUNTING SEASON

Hunting season is here! Please be sure to wear hunter orange to ensure your SAFETY. When leaving your camp please make sure your fires are completely put out in order to prevent forest fires. Carry a shovel and use it to put out your fires. The winter/spring of 2010-2011 was an unusual one from what we have had in recent years. The consequences, as many know, was a prolonged run off season which resulted in plenty

of washed out roads and damage to some trails. The previous factors combined with budget cuts in all levels of government have resulted in some trails and roads not being maintained. Please be sure to travel safely and prepare for a variety of trail and road conditions. Also, be sure to travel on designated routes when ever possible. Other hunters are out there, so please respect your fellow hunters and their hunting locations.

East Elk Creek Trail. The trail is impassible due to damage from high runoff. Proceed with caution.



THE NEW FACE AT THE RIFLE RANGER DISTRICT

It's been a busy summer here at the Rifle Ranger District! First off, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Jason Pooler, one of the new faces at the Rifle Ranger District. I grew up in upstate New York and was introduced to Colorado during my service in the US Air Force. I fell in love with Colorado the minute I stepped off the plane at DIA. After a brief tour in Alaska, I was Honorably Discharged in 2007 and have lived in Colorado ever since. After leaving the military, I worked several jobs while finishing an undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences.

My career interests right now are bound to change due to my rookie status but my passion is recreation - creating

and managing sustainable trails and partnerships with the local community. I honestly feel that building long lasting relationships is critical. As the new Visitor Information Specialist in the office I strive to provide the most accurate information to the public as possible. I have spent the summer training and learning the basic aspects of the position, as well as where the rest of my colleagues fit into the big picture. Understanding the jobs of the other staff is one of the best ways to find answers to questions quickly.

I come from a camping, canoeing, kayaking, hiking and mountain biking background and have participated in nearly all outdoor sports since I was a kid growing up in the Adirondack Mountains. Over

the past two years I have worked as a volunteer with Colorado Fourteeners Initiative in their Peak Steward program, and with Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers doing trail work. Serving the public is an important aspect of my social life and engaging with the community more in both roles, as Forest Service employee and volunteer, are aspects I look forward to in the future.





Red-winged Blackbird,
Long-eared Owl-below

COLORADO BREEDING BIRD ATLAS II PROJECT

The Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas II project is a state-wide effort with strong partner support. The project has yielded huge benefits for the White River National Forest resulting in thousands of survey hours by volunteers who documented wildlife information in a format that is available and ready to use. They also analyzed information on changes in distribution and population status of breeding birds.

Kim Potter, Wildlife Technician on the Rifle

Ranger District is one of 26 Regional Coordinators for this state-wide effort. Not all of this season's data is in yet, but the effort to date is 144,000 acres surveyed, 75 of 83 priority blocks completed, and 1,662 volunteer hours logged.

The results of Atlas II will be compared to the results of the first Atlas which will provide analyzed information on changes in distribution and population status of Colorado's breeding birds. This information will be important for wildlife managers

and biologists that are making decisions on land management practices throughout Colorado. The more detailed the information coming in, the more accurate the decisions by the land managers and biologists will be.

If you would like to learn more or volunteer for the project please visit <http://www.cobreedingbirdatlasii.org/>



WCCC crew's last day after weeks of hard work.

RESTORATION WITH WESTERN COLORADO CONSERVATION CORPS

Thanks to coordination and support of Garfield County, the Forest Service was able to work side by side with the Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC). The Western Colorado Conservation Corps is a non-profit organization that offers a unique opportunity for young adults ages 16-25 to work and learn in an outdoor setting. Garfield County partnered with WCCC to recruit young adults throughout the county to assist with stewardship projects. This summer they assisted the Forest Service with invasive weed spraying, trail maintenance and developed recreation site improvements.



WCCC crew helps repair and restore a pole fence at the Spruce Picnic Area by installing new posts and rails.



In partnership with the Coulter Lake Guest Ranch and the Rifle Ranger District the WCCC crew works on the Three Forks trail to repair a boggy section impassable by horse and mountain bikes with a 2 part causeway to maintain trail stability.

FEATURED TRAIL: MANSFIELD DITCH TRAIL #2201

This summer the Western Colorado Conservation Corps teamed up with the Rifle Ranger District to do some major work on the Mansfield Ditch Trail. There are still some portions of the trail that need improvement but about 95% of the trail is in great shape now. The Mansfield Ditch Trail is a popular trail for mountain bikers, hikers, and those on horseback. Please yield and respect the right of way to those on horseback. Trail use is moderate, but dur-

ing hunting season the trail gets heavy use from hunters. So be on the lookout for hunters when using the trail during hunting season. The predominant vegetation type on the trail's lower elevation is Gamble Oak. At higher elevation the vegetation is mainly spruce-fir. There are great vistas looking into Deep Creek Canyon. The trail is approximately 9.5 miles long and can be turned into a loop by following the Cherry Creek trail located near the

top of Calhoun Basin. Directions from Rifle: Head east on I-70 and get off at the New Castle exit. Turn left and cross the overpass. Take a left at the stop sign and follow the road through New Castle. Take a right on 7th street (County Road 245) at the end of town. Follow the road to the trail which will be just before the forest boundary on the right. Parking is available just past the cattle guard.

