

# Southeast Colorado Regional Tourism & Outdoor Recreation Partnership Forums

## *Strategic Outdoor Recreation Plan*



January 2008





# Acknowledgments

The Southeast Colorado Regional Tourism & Outdoor Recreation Partnership Forums Strategic Outdoor Recreation Plan is the product of a collaborative process between Colorado State Parks, the 30+ members of the Southeast Colorado Regional Heritage Task Force (SECORHT), and numerous other stakeholders having a vested interest in recreation development in the region. In particular, Kathryn Finau, Project manager for the SECORHT, offered her valuable assistance and insight throughout the project. This plan was made possible through a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant awarded to Colorado State Parks from the National Park Service.

This plan was also developed in collaboration with the consultants working to develop a Southeast Heritage Tourism Strategy including: Judy Walden, Walden Mills Group, John Whiteman, Whiteman Consulting LTD, and Richard Carillo, Cuartelejo Historic Preservation Associates.

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# 1.0 Introduction

Between June 2007 and January 2008, Colorado State Parks partnered with the Southeast Colorado Regional Heritage Taskforce (SECORHT) and other regional recreation providers representing Crowley, Otero, Kiowa, Bent, Prowers, and Baca counties to conduct three forums focusing on outdoor recreation and tourism. Members included a diverse range of stakeholders representing the local tourism industry, local governments, local economic development offices, private and public recreation interests, and other interested regional stakeholders. The Southeast Region Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan (SE Plan) is the product of these meetings.

## Regional Forum Meeting Framework

The goal of the Southeast Regional Forum meetings was to supplement current efforts by the SECORHT to generate additional tourism in the region by providing a complementary plan to expand recreation opportunities. Each of the forums were attended by about 25 members of the SECORHT as well as a handful of additional partners representing recreation-specific interests. During the first two forums, participants worked collaboratively with Colorado State Parks staff and a professional consultant to evaluate a variety of issues and needs related to outdoor recreation in the region. In addition, prior to the first forum, a pre-forum survey was distributed to the SECORHT to assess the most significant needs and priorities the group wanted to address in the SE Plan. The outcomes of this survey helped frame the group discussion during the first forum. Results are provided in Appendix A.

Discussion topics at the first two meetings included:

- Existing regional recreation assets
- Regional and local recreation preferences
- Facts and figures gathered from polls and studies about local, regional, and statewide recreation trends
- Examples of existing collaborative partnerships

At the final meeting, a framework for structuring the strategic plan was discussed and the group agreed to move forward with developing strategies that would help meet specific goals related to enhancing outdoor recreation for residents and visitors to the region (see Section 6.0). Special effort was made to identify goals that were recreation-specific, yet designed to complement a separate heritage tourism strategic plan (funded through a Colorado Tourism Office Heritage Tourism pilot project grant) that was also in progress at the time this document was developed.



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## 2.0 Regional Forum Background



### Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The concept for the Regional Forums was an outcome of the 2003 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Colorado State Parks is required by the National Park Service (NPS) to develop a SCORP every five years to continue receiving Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) apportionments.

The 2003 SCORP is entitled “Colorado’s Outdoor Recreation Future – Strategies for Colorado’s Outdoors Heritage.” The report provides analysis of Colorado’s outdoor spaces, public preferences, and the nexus of tourism and recreation as a key element of the Colorado economy. Developed in partnership with a SCORP Steering Committee, the 2003 SCORP outlined a vision for Colorado’s Outdoor Recreation Future:

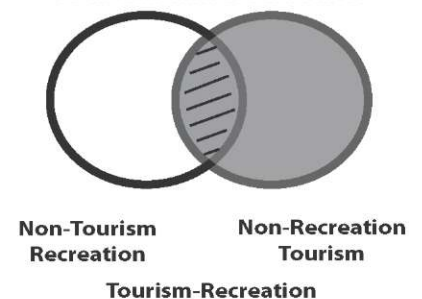
*“As Coloradans, our heritage is centered on our connections to the spectacular landscapes that define our state. Yet today, Colorado faces an enormous challenge of satisfying the outdoor recreation demands of a rapidly expanding population, while meeting the responsibility to conserve the special outdoors resources for which Colorado is renowned. Through strategic partnerships, Colorado’s diverse resource of public land agencies, business interest and non-profit groups will pursue innovative approaches that will sustain our special outdoors-based quality of life.”*

Two key themes stand out in the statewide strategy envisioned in the 2003 report: the nexus of tourism and recreation and the importance of regional collaboration. The Southeast Regional Forums are consistent with these themes, which are described in further detail below.

#### *The Nexus of Tourism and Outdoor Recreation in Colorado*

Outdoor recreation and tourism in Colorado are inextricably linked. Tourists frequently come to Colorado for recreation— to ski, hike, mountain bike, road bike, camp, rock climb or participate in the wide variety of other outdoor activities that are available. Tourism is the second largest industry in the state, behind manufacturing, generating over \$14 billion a year in direct travel spending in 2006. Additionally, tourism contributes over \$709 million to state and local tax coffers each year (Longwoods 2007). In the Southeast Region, total travel spending in 2006 exceeded \$68.5 million and generated nearly \$59 million in state and local taxes from overnight travelers (Runyan 2007).

**Figure 1: The Nexus of Tourism and Recreation**



### *The Importance of Regional Collaboration*

A key conclusion of the 2003 SCORP Steering Committee was that while many outdoor recreation issues are common to all regions of the state, solutions are best adapted to the specific character of Colorado's distinctive regions and their residents. The 2003 Steering Committee recommended the creation of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Partnership Regional Forums:

*"Regional forums should be convened to develop collaborative strategies among communities with common interests, tourism business operators, non-profit organizations, and the public lands managers responsible for delivering the outdoors experiences visitors desire."*

Acting on the recommendations of the 2003 Steering Committee, Colorado State Parks conducted the first regional forums in the North Front Range and Southwest Colorado regions in July 2004.



### Structure of the Southeast Region Strategic Outdoor Recreation Plan

Included in the SE Plan are important demographic data on the Southeast Region; key facts about regional outdoor recreation attractions; public recreation and tourism preferences; and the impact of tourism and recreation on the regional economy. The final section of the plan (Section 6.0) includes a detailed implementation plan that highlights specific objectives and actions that can be implemented to achieve regional recreation goals, including a suggested implementation timeline, key partners that can lead and assist in implementation efforts, and possible grant resources (if needed). Two maps are also provided in the plan which profile the region's most significant tourism and recreation attractions and help illustrate some of the recommendations in the Implementation Plan.

The Appendices include several documents that complement the Strategic Plan: Grants for the Southeast Colorado Regional Tourism & Outdoor Recreation Partnership Forums Priority Projects, key contacts to help implement the strategic plan, and results of the Pre-Forum Survey.

## How to Use the Plan

This document serves as a guide for future recreation planning efforts in the southeast region. Specific actions identified in the SE Plan should be considered a “menu” of options that, if implemented, will help contribute to the “recreation appeal” of the region. The plan should be distributed to members of the SECORHT and other partners within and outside the region that may be able to assist in its implementation. This plan should be referred to regularly and updated annually as actions are completed. Portions of the plan and/or the entire plan may serve as useful supporting documentation that can be directly incorporated into relevant grant applications.

The electronic version of this plan as well as the supporting maps can be downloaded by clicking on the “Regional Forums” section at [www.parks.state.co.us/Trails/SCORPplan](http://www.parks.state.co.us/Trails/SCORPplan).

## Southeast Regional Forums Outcomes

This document attempts to capture the direction and strategies developed by stakeholder participants in the three regional forum meetings. Meeting locations and dates included:

- June 7, 2007 – John Martin Reservoir State Park
- September 13, 2007 – Boggsville Historic Site
- November 1, 2007 – Kiowa County Courthouse

Over the course of these three meetings, participants identified a wide variety of priority recreation projects and initiatives that would complement ongoing heritage tourism development efforts. These were eventually narrowed down to the following four recreation goals:

Goal 1: Increase trail and recreation opportunities throughout the region.

Goal 2: Improve and expand existing recreation amenities and opportunities.

Goal 3: Improve existing and develop new tourism- & recreation-related signage.

Goal 4: Develop interpretive and educational opportunities focusing on regional heritage, natural areas, and outdoor recreation.

This document builds on the ideas generated at the three regional forums meetings and provides a starting point for future collaborative efforts. Successful implementation will require continued regional commitment and cooperation.

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## 3.0 Southeast Region Overview

Southeast Colorado is home to sweeping plains and historic treasures. In the 1540s, Francisco Vasquez de Coronado and his band of conquistadores arrived in search of gold. In 1806, Zebulon Pike led an expedition to the region with the first emissaries from the United States. The first American settlement in Colorado, Bent's Old Fort, was raised in 1833. The Santa Fe Trail meanders through the southeast region, following the Arkansas River from the Kansas border before winding south into New Mexico. Countless pioneers and homesteaders made their way west along the Trail and through this corner of the state. Towns sprang up along the Santa Fe Trail and the Arkansas River. Towns such as La Junta, Lamar, Las Animas and Rocky Ford remain today, rich in history and heritage.

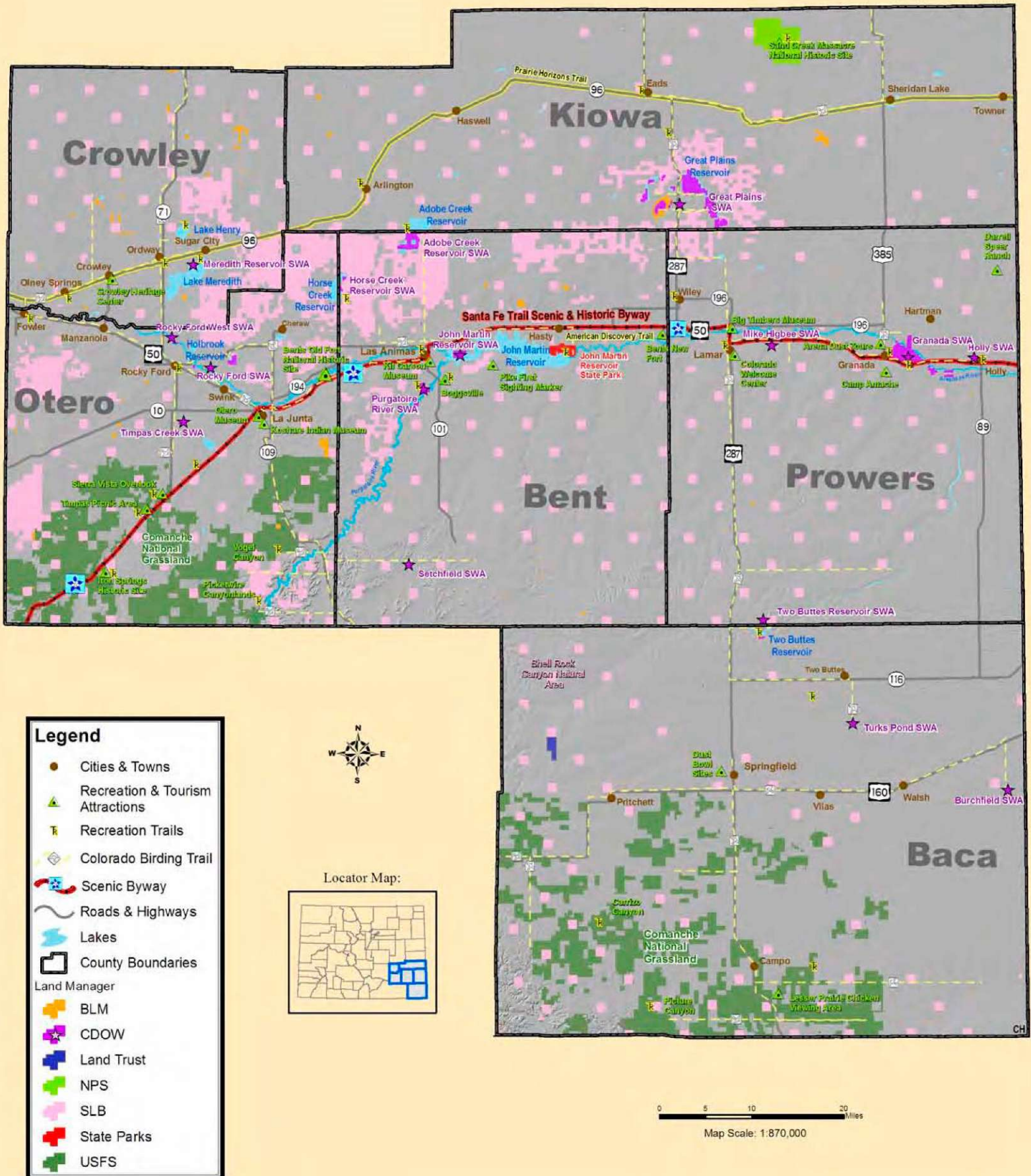
The southeast region provides a welcome contrast to the rugged mountains and the crowded Front Range. Quiet and laid-back, the area's lack of crowds and congestion may be one of its greatest assets. And while it may lack crowds, the southeast region does not lack things to see or do. Numerous historic sites such as Boggsville and Bent's Old Fort dot the landscape. Avian lovers come for The Colorado Birding Trail, fishermen and boaters for the waters of John Martin Reservoir (Figure 2). Others come for fresh-grown fruit at Rocky Ford or to hike in the Comanche National Grasslands and view pristine dinosaur tracks and pictographs. Those seeking scenic drives will find plenty of open roads and grand vistas, particularly Highway 50, which is a designated National Scenic Byway. Those in search of nature and solitude will find miles of open prairie, rolling hills, and canyons.

The region's remote feel helps contribute to its world-renowned birdwatching and wildlife watching opportunities. The area lies along the Western Central Flyway, a well-traveled migration route for birds and contains many playas, or shallow, seasonal wetlands, which provide critical bird habitat (Playa Lakes 2007). Many of these birding habitats and viewing prospects are publicized through the Colorado Birding Trail, which was launched in Spring 2007. The annual High Plains Snow Goose Festival in Lamar also provides visitors the unique opportunity to view large flocks of migrating birds that pass through the region en route to breeding grounds extending as far away as the Arctic Ocean.

John Martin Reservoir State Park and several other smaller lakes and reservoirs managed by CDOW offer fishing, boating, and swimming opportunities as well. Prized catches in many of these reservoirs include wiper, bass, crappie, white bass, catfish, walleye and saugeye (CDOW 2007). Hunting, particularly for waterfowl, is very popular, attracting people from all over the country.

Although the southeast region contains a multitude of cultural, historical, and recreation opportunities, the area is unfortunately rarely considered a recreation and tourism destination. Contributing factors include the limited infrastructure to support tourism, limited marketing, and public misconceptions about the area (First Regional Forum 2007).

Figure 2: Southeast Colorado Recreation and Tourism Attractions

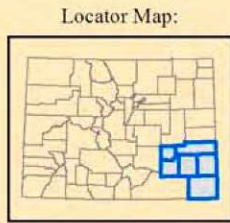


**Legend**

- Cities & Towns
- ▲ Recreation & Tourism Attractions
- ⌘ Recreation Trails
- ◇ Colorado Birding Trail
- ⌚ Scenic Byway
- Roads & Highways
- ☪ Lakes
- ▭ County Boundaries

**Land Manager**

- BLM
- CDOW
- Land Trust
- NPS
- SLB
- State Parks
- USFS



0 5 10 20 Miles  
Map Scale: 1:870,000



## Physiographic Description

The elevated plains of the Southeast Region are covered primarily with grasslands and semiarid grazing land, although stretches of pinyon-juniper woodland are present in the deep canyons and along the high plateaus. Heading south toward New Mexico, the plains transition into mountains and the Spanish Peaks dominate the viewshed.

Cottonwoods densely populate the banks of the Arkansas River, which drains nearly 25,000 square miles, making it Colorado's largest river basin (CDOW 2007). Playa lakes, or shallow, seasonal wetlands, and reservoirs are found throughout the area (Playa Lakes 2007). Gently rolling grasslands and prairies host abundant wildlife and offer world-renowned birdwatching and wildlife-watching. Rare species inhabit the area such as the Lesser Prairie Chicken, the Golden Eagle, Swift Fox, ferruginous hawks, and burrowing owls and provide unique birding opportunities. A wide variety of mammals including pronghorn, coyotes, badgers, and prairie dogs are residents, too. Snow goose, wild turkey, roadrunners, and collared lizards can also be found (USFS 2007).

Scenic vistas and large tracts of open spaces provide a sense of remoteness. Vast tracts of ranches and farmland, used primarily for grazing and growing melon, corn, and other crops, contribute to the undeveloped character of the area (Santa Fe Trail 2007).

Highway 50 is the main transportation corridor in the area, following alongside The Santa Fe Trail and the Arkansas River from the Kansas border to the Arkansas Valley. Highway 50 is also known as the Santa Fe Trail Scenic and Historic Byway, a designated state and national byway (Santa Fe Trail 2007).

This region encompasses over six million acres, or 9% Colorado's total land, and just 2% of the population (NDIS 2007; DOLA 2007). The communities along the byway are small, with populations of less than 10,000 people. Larger towns include: Eads, Lamar, Las Animas, La Junta, and Rocky Ford. High summer temperatures, moderate winds, and low annual precipitation are typical (Santa Fe Trail Scenic and Historic Byway Mountain Branch 2007).



Source: Explore Southeast Colorado



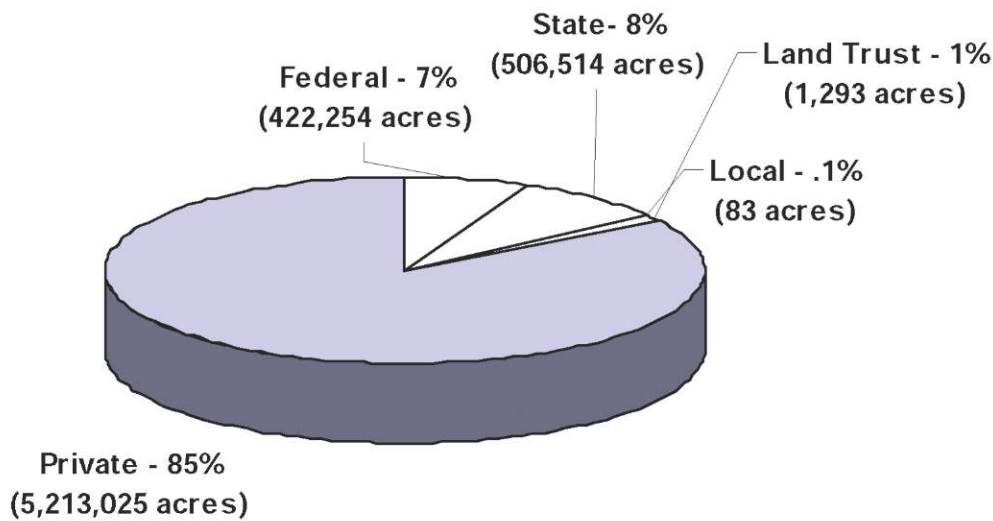
Source: National Park Service

## Public Lands

In comparison to the rest of the state, public lands in the southeast are fairly limited. Still, the region is vastly undeveloped and the wide open spaces are an increasingly important tourism and recreation amenity. Because of innovative public-private partnerships, such as those established at many working ranches along the Colorado Birding Trail, visitors can access many private lands that provide exceptional wildlife-viewing opportunities.

The southeast region is home to Comanche National Grasslands, John Martin Reservoir State Park, numerous state wildlife areas, and two national historic sites. Several reservoirs and over 460,000 acres of public land offer numerous opportunities for recreation. Though the region encompasses over 6 million acres, about 9% of the entire state, 85% is privately-owned, primarily for agricultural purposes (Figure 3). The Comanche National Grasslands, managed by the United States Forest Service (USFS), spans over 375,000 acres of the region, making it the largest tract of public land in the area (Table 1). State lands comprise over 0.5 million acres which are managed by Colorado State Parks, State Land Board, and Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW).

**Figure 3: Land Ownership in Southeast Colorado**



Source: CoMap, NREL, CSU 2007.

**Table 1: Federal, State, and Local Land Ownership**

| Land Owner                    | Acreage          | % of Total Land in Southeast CO |
|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Federal</b>                |                  |                                 |
| Bureau of Land Management     | 9,896            | 0.16%                           |
| Other Federal                 | 23,916           | 0.39%                           |
| U.S. Forest Service           | 375,147          | 6.11%                           |
| National Park Service         | 13,295           | 0.22%                           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>422,254</b>   | <b>6.87%</b>                    |
| <b>State</b>                  |                  |                                 |
| State Land Board              | 455,572          | 7.42%                           |
| CO State Parks                | 1,703            | 0.03%                           |
| CO Division of Wildlife       | 49,238           | 0.80%                           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>506,514</b>   | <b>8.25%</b>                    |
| <b>Municipalities/Schools</b> |                  |                                 |
| City                          | 21               | <0.01%                          |
| School District               | 62               | <0.01%                          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>83</b>        | <b>&lt;0.01%</b>                |
| <b>Private</b>                | <b>5,213,025</b> | <b>84.86%</b>                   |
| <b>Land Trust</b>             | <b>1,293</b>     | <b>0.02%</b>                    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>6,143,168</b> | <b>100.00%</b>                  |

Source: CoMap, NREL, CSU 2007.

## Population and Demographics

Demographics are integral in understanding trends and preferences in outdoor recreation. Population trends, availability of discretionary income, and age are all factors influencing the demand for outdoor recreation and the preferences for certain activities. Examining the median household income and poverty levels for the Southeast also helps demonstrate the need for strengthening economic drivers such as tourism and outdoor recreation that will help supplement the agricultural economy. These factors are all important when understanding the region's economy and provide an important backdrop that influences the provision, demand, and management of outdoor recreation.

The six-county area comprises just over 50,000 people and includes the towns of Lamar, La Junta, Las Animas, Rocky Ford, Eads, Fowler, Swink, Springfield and Hasty. Lamar, with a population of just over 8,800, is the largest town in the region (U.S. Census Bureau 2000).

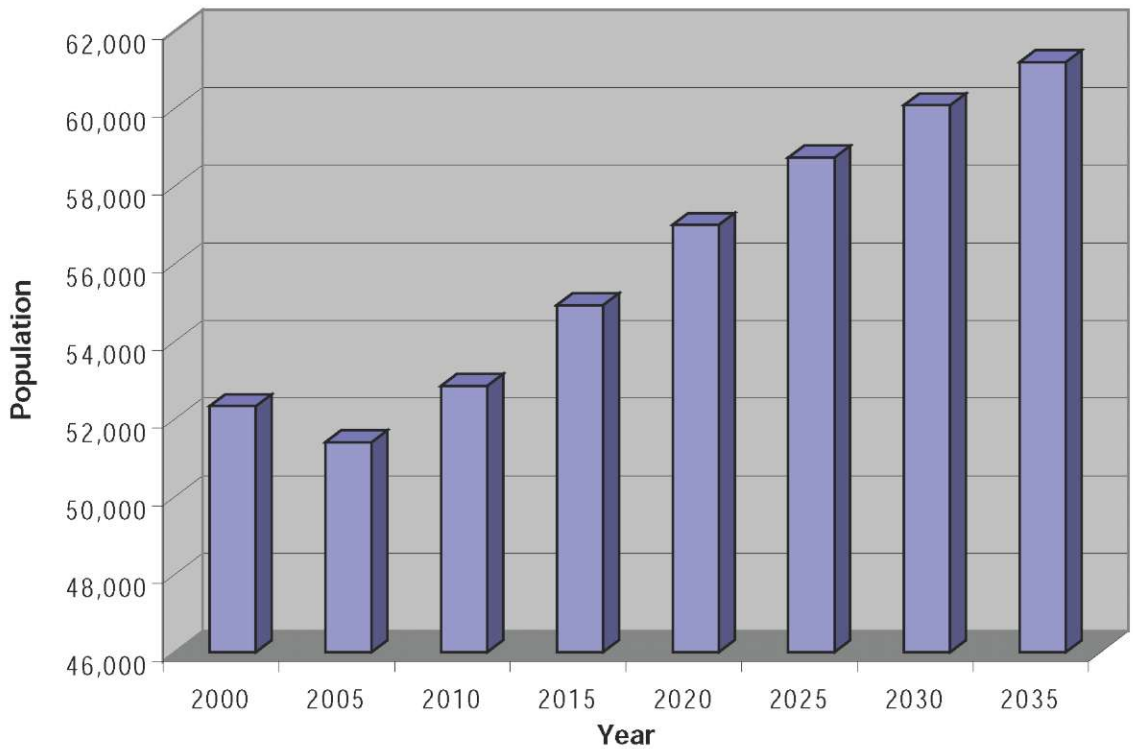
Population projections for the six counties predict incremental growth between 2010 and 2035 proceeding a minor population decline between 2000 and 2005 (Table 2). In 2005, the area's population totaled over 51,000 or just over 1% of the State's total population. By 2035, over 61,000 people are anticipated to occupy the area, or 0.8% of Colorado's overall residents. This increase of roughly 10,000 people represents average annual growth of roughly 0.6%, with a total increase of 18.1% between 2005 and 2035 (DOLA 2007).

**Table 2: Average Annual Percent Change in Population**

|                         | 2000-05 | 2005-10 | 2010-15 | 2015-20 | 2020-25 | 2025-30 | 2030-35 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>Colorado</b>         | 1.7%    | 2.0%    | 1.9%    | 1.8%    | 1.6%    | 1.5%    | 1.3%    |
| <b>Southeast Region</b> | -0.4%   | 0.6%    | 0.8%    | 0.7%    | 0.6%    | 0.5%    | 0.4%    |

Source: DOLA 2007.

**Figure 4: Population Growth and Projections for the Southeast**



Source: DOLA 2007.

In contrast to the 0.6% estimated annual growth in Southeast Colorado, the state of Colorado is expected to grow at an estimated annual rate of 1.7% over the same period. Colorado's current population of 4.7 million is anticipated to grow to nearly 7.8 million residents by 2035 (DOLA 2007). The state's population increase should be considered when estimating future demand for outdoor recreation activities in the Southeast. It is possible that as popular sites along the Front Range become more crowded recreationists could seek out less crowded experiences elsewhere.

The southeast region has a higher than average poverty level and lower median household income than the statewide average. While these figures illustrate that many of the residents may not have an overabundance of discretionary income available to devote to outdoor recreation fees or equipment, it's also important to realize that the cost of living is only 85% of the statewide average (SCORP 2003). The median age of approximately 38 years is nearly four years older than the state average of 34 (DOLA 2007).

**Table 3: Regional and Statewide Demographic Information**

| County               | Median Household Income | Persons Below Poverty Level (%) | Median Age  |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Baca                 | \$28,099                | 16.9%                           | 42.9        |
| Bent                 | \$28,125                | 19.5%                           | 37.3        |
| Crowley              | \$26,803                | 19.0%                           | 36.6        |
| Kiowa                | \$30,494                | 12.2%                           | 39.7        |
| Otero                | \$29,738                | 18.8%                           | 37.7        |
| Prowers              | \$29,935                | 19.5%                           | 32.4        |
| <b>Regional Avg.</b> | <b>\$28,866</b>         | <b>17.7%</b>                    | <b>37.8</b> |
| <b>Colorado Avg.</b> | <b>\$47,203</b>         | <b>9.3%</b>                     | <b>34.3</b> |

Source: DOLA 2007.

### Economic Profile

Agriculture is the single largest contributor to the Southeast Region economy. However, tourism (particularly “heritage tourism”) is becoming increasingly important. This section briefly summarizes some of the economic benefits of regional tourism. While economic benefits of recreation are not specifically discussed, it is important to note that tourism and recreation, and any associated economic benefits, are inherently interconnected.

The following statistics provide a “snapshot” of the tourism-related economy in the southeast. Over time, this information can be compared and contrasted with updated figures to both qualitatively and quantitatively assess the benefits of the current heritage and outdoor recreation planning efforts.

Total overnight expenditures infuse about \$49 million in total economic benefit into the six counties (Runyan 2007). In total, 119 accommodation and food services businesses are supported by local tourism with a total of 1,399 estimated jobs (Table 4). Additionally, another 108 jobs in the area are a result of overnight travel impacts.

**Table 4: Accommodation and Food Service Businesses in the Local Economy**

| County        | # of Businesses | % of Total Businesses | # of Employees | % of Employees |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Baca          | 8               | 8%                    | NA             | NA             |
| Bent          | 10              | 13%                   | 82             | 15%            |
| Crowley       | 4               | 9%                    | 17             | 4%             |
| Kiowa         | 1               | 0.40%                 | NA             | NA             |
| Otero         | 55              | 11%                   | 558            | 11%            |
| Prowers       | 41              | 10%                   | 742            | 17%            |
| <b>Region</b> | <b>119</b>      |                       | <b>1,399</b>   |                |

Source: County Business Patterns, U.S. Census Bureau 2004

The total travel impacts of overnight visitors has been fairly consistent in the region since 1996 (Tables 5 and Figure 5). The region's travel market fell from \$32.2 million in 2000 to \$28.9 million in 2001 and \$28.5 million in 2002, likely due to the decrease in overall tourism state-wide due to wildfire and drought, and 9/11. Since then, travel has rebounded to a historic high as demonstrated by an estimated economic impact of \$49.2 million in 2006 (Runyan 2007).

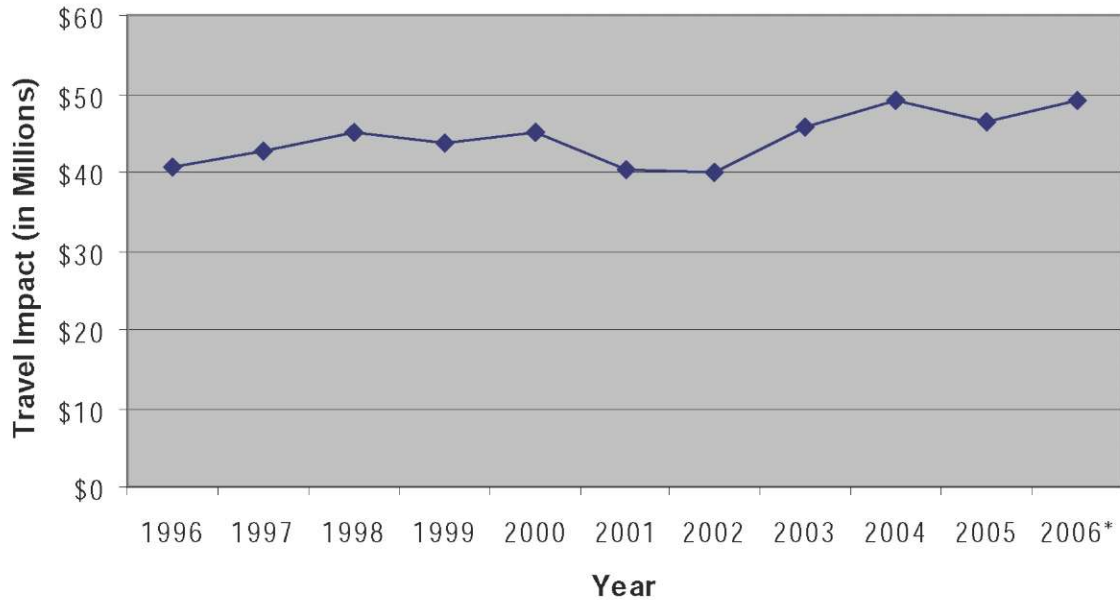
**Table 5: Overnight Travel Impacts for the Region (including employment)**

| Category              | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006* |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Travel Spending (\$M) | 56.3 | 59.2 | 61.5 | 60.2 | 62.3 | 55.9 | 55.2 | 63.3 | 68   | 64.5 | 68.5  |
| Earnings (\$M)        | 19.7 | 20.5 | 22.1 | 21.1 | 21.5 | 19.5 | 19.2 | 22.1 | 23.6 | 22   | 22.7  |
| Employment (jobs)     | 920  | 930  | 950  | 870  | 850  | 730  | 720  | 810  | 870  | 810  | 850   |
| Local Taxes (\$M)     | 1.6  | 1.7  | 1.9  | 1.7  | 1.8  | 1.6  | 1.6  | 1.8  | 1.7  | 1.6  | 1.7   |
| State Taxes (\$M)     | 41.6 | 43.7 | 46   | 44.4 | 45.9 | 41.3 | 40.7 | 46.7 | 49.8 | 47.3 | 50.1  |

\* predicted

Source: Dean Runyan 2007.

**Figure 5: Estimated Travel Impact of Overnight Visitors (excluding employment)**



\* predicted

Source: Dean Runyan 2007.

Note: In Table 5 and Figure 5, travel spending is defined as "purchases by travelers during their trip, including lodging taxes and other applicable local and state taxes, paid by the traveler at the point of sale." Earnings are the wages, salaries, and benefits for employees and business owners at sites that benefit from tourism spending. Only the specific earnings related to travel expenditures are included. The employment category includes only the jobs related to travel spending. Local taxes collected by counties and local governments on travel-related goods and services such as "travel-related purchases, lodging, food and beverage service, retail goods and motor fuel taxes." State sales tax includes state lodging and motor fuel taxes, auto rental taxes, entertainment taxes, and casino taxes (Runyan 2007). Data for 2006 is considered to be a prediction since the report was published prior to the end of the year.

## 4.0 Recreation and Tourism Attractions

### Overview

Recognizing the inherent interconnection between tourism and outdoor recreation, this section highlights some of the most significant attractions for both tourists to the Southeast Region and local residents. Where possible, current visitation and/or participation numbers for popular tourism destinations are highlighted. These numbers serve as a baseline to compare future visitation, and gauge the effectiveness of the Southeast Colorado Regional Forums, Heritage Tourism Strategic Plan, and other projects initiated to bolster tourism in the area. Southeastern Colorado's recreation and tourism assets provide many opportunities for exploring the vast open landscapes. John Martin Reservoir State Park, Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, Comanche National Grasslands, Camp Amache, and Sand Creek Massacre Site are some of the area's major attractions. Some of the existing recreation opportunities include wildlife watching, hiking, horseback riding, road bicycling, mountain biking, camping, fishing, hunting, and boating (Figure 2).

### Major Recreation and Tourism Attractions

#### *Comanche National Grasslands*

The Comanche National Grasslands (Grasslands), under the jurisdiction of the Pike and San Isabel National Forest, spans over 375,000 acres of the six-county region, or 6% of the area's total acreage. The Forest Service estimates that approximately 100,000 visitors recreate on the Comanche annually (USFS 2007). Several sites provide access to the Grasslands: Iron Spring Historic Area, Timpas Picnic Area, Sierra Vista Overlook, and Picture Canyon Picnic Area. Wildlife watchers, equestrians, hikers, bikers, and cultural and paleo-enthusiasts all visit the area to enjoy the interpreted heritage, paleontology, and wildlife resources. Picket Wire Canyonlands, located in southern Otero County, hosts many people in search of the petroglyphs and pictographs viewable on canyon walls. The Forest Service conducts public tours during spring and fall equinoxes.



Source: U.S. Forest Service

Trailheads at Vogel Canyon, Withers Canyon, Iron Springs, Timpas, and Sierra Vista provide access to 44 miles of trail open to non-motorized users. Guided auto tours into Picket Wire Canyonlands offer other access options for viewing some of the archeological features including the largest dinosaur track sites in North America, Rourke Ranch National Historic site, and an early 1900's Hispanic church and cemetery. In 2006, over 630 visitors experienced the Grasslands through twenty of these auto tours, which are guided by rangers. The Grasslands also contains many abandoned homesteads which enable visitors to capture a glimpse of the settler's experiences during the 1870's and 1880's (USFS 2007).

### Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site

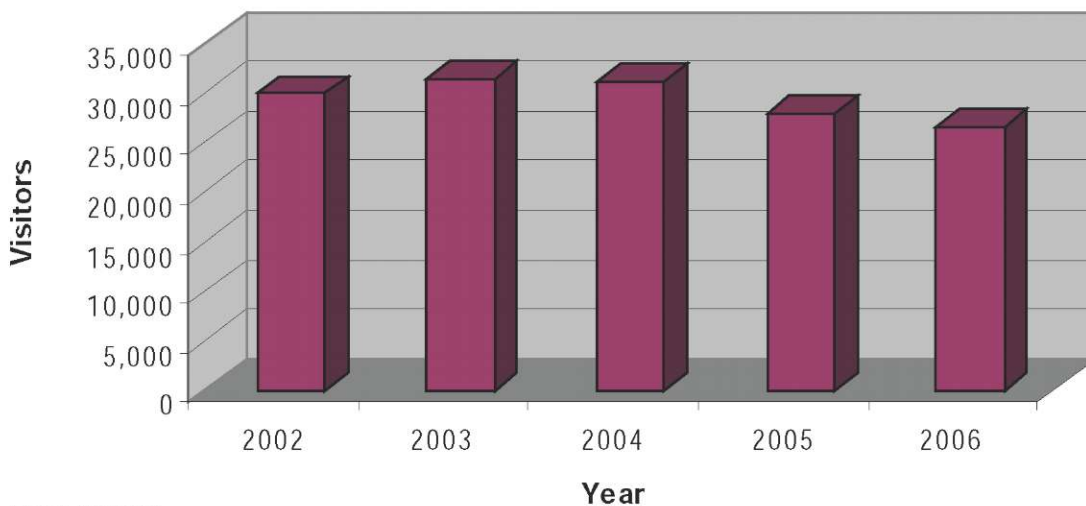
Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site (NHS) is a reconstructed 1840's trading post where fur trappers, traders, passers-through, and Plains Indians tribes once converged on the Santa Fe Trail to trade furs and supplies. Visitors to the site experience the period with staff dressed in period clothing providing details of life at the Fort in the mid-1800's. Special events are also held throughout the year. Period costumed traders and Native Americans set up camps near the fort during the Santa Fe Trail Living History Encampment and a December Holiday Celebration features candlelight tours, wagon rides, and other activities. Park staff conduct daily guided tours as well as periodic special living history demonstrations. School tours are also available throughout the year (NPS 2007).



Source: NPS

Visitation at the Fort peaked in the 1970's following its reconstruction; a record 109,000 people visited in 1975. During this period, the Fort was featured in period films like *Centennial*, *How the West Was Won*, and *Dreams West*, further publicizing the attraction. Another peak occurred in 1992 with over 48,000 attendees, but visitation has generally decreased over time. Typical annual visitation has averaged approximately 29,000 since 2001 with over 26,000 in 2006 (NPS 2007) (Figure 6).

**Figure 6: Visitation at Bent's Old Fort NHS**



Source: NPS 2007.



Interpretation is an integral part of the visitor experience at Bent’s Old Fort allowing people to learn about the settlers’ experience (Table 6). Learning-based activities are one of the fastest growing outdoor recreation activities in Colorado and a significant attraction for visitors to Bent’s Old Fort (NSRE 2007). Nearly 274,000 people have participated in interpretive activities conducted by Bent’s Old Fort employees and volunteers, both at the fort and in nearby communities. Potential future plans for the site include a renovated entrance, a nature trail, and an eight-mile trail connecting the site to Las Animas.

**Table 6: Environmental Education and Interpretation Program Participants at Bent’s Old Fort**

| Year          | Informal Interpretation | Formal Interpretation | Demonstrations & Performing Arts | Junior Ranger Program | Education Programs | Community Programs |
|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 2002          | 9,313                   | 14,587                | 12,170                           | 500                   | 325                | 13,593             |
| 2003          | 8,964                   | 8,366                 | 7,021                            | 525                   | 4,130              | 23,973             |
| 2004          | 18,858                  | 7,520                 | 4,645                            | 415                   | 4,136              | 17,533             |
| 2005          | 18,676                  | 6,197                 | 9,089                            | 380                   | 4,596              | 21,820             |
| 2006          | 17,578                  | 4,564                 | 8,119                            | 360                   | 4,282              | 21,623             |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>73,389</b>           | <b>41,234</b>         | <b>41,044</b>                    | <b>2,180</b>          | <b>17,469</b>      | <b>98,542</b>      |

Source: NPS 2007.

*John Martin Reservoir State Park*

Hosting nearly 84,000 visitors annually, John Martin Reservoir entices locals and tourists seeking both land and water-based recreation (Figure 7). Boating, swimming, wildlife viewing, picnicking, and hiking are popular activities. With 213 camping sites, many picnicking sites (including handicap accessible sites), and a fishing pier, the park is a popular regional attraction.

Although fluctuating water levels have had a significant influence on visitation and the availability of recreation activities, additional water rights were purchased in 2007 to ensure that anglers and water enthusiasts will be able to enjoy the reservoir more consistently (State Parks 2007).

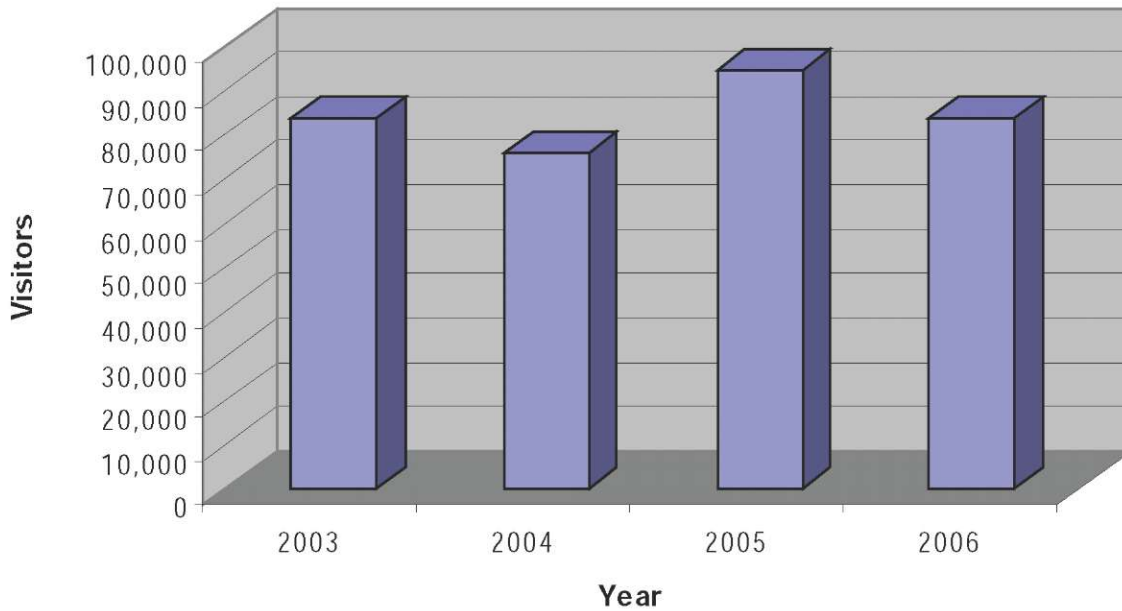


Source: Colorado State Parks

The summer months receive the most visitation at John Martin. June is the busiest month of the year, averaging over 14,000 visitors (Figure 8). Visitation increases again during the fall season, as temperatures cool off.

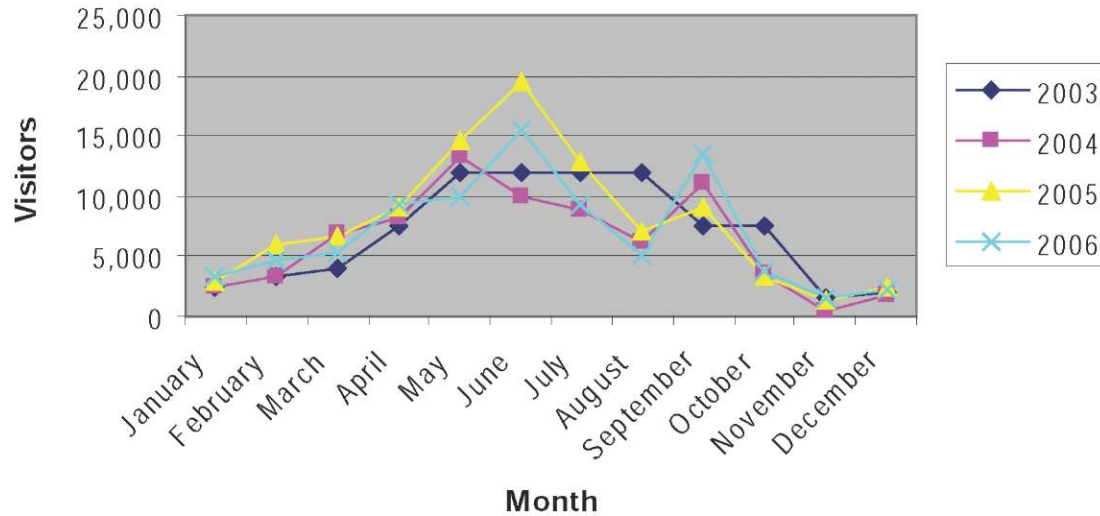
Anglers at John Martin Reservoir commonly catch walleye, saugeye, large and small bass, perch, wiper, crappie, bluegill, and catfish. Lake Hasty offers the same warmwater fishing opportunities but also provides habitat for trout (State Parks 2007).

**Figure 7: Annual Visitation at John Martin Reservoir State Park**



Source: John Martin Reservoir State Park 2007.

**Figure 8: Monthly Visitation at John Martin Reservoir State Park**



Source: John Martin Reservoir State Park 2007.

Learning-based activities are one of the most popular types of outdoor recreation in Colorado, and are an important part of the visitor experience for many tourists and recreationists (NSRE 2007). Discussion during the second forum also highlighted the importance of environmental education and interpretation offerings in the region both for locals and visitors. Environmental education and interpretation activities offer an opportunity to learn about the natural resources of the park and the area and help link the region’s heritage to its natural resources. Over 1,500 of the 84,000 visitors to John Martin participated in environmental education and interpretation activities in 2006 (Table 7). An additional 500 people in the area enjoyed interpretation activities outside the park (State Parks 2007).

**Table 7: Environmental Education and Interpretation Activities at John Martin Reservoir State Park**

| Year          | # of Participants at Programs (Not in Groups) | # of Participants in Group Programs | # of Off-Park Programs | Off-Park Program Participants | Total Participants |
|---------------|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2004          | 60  | 45                                  | 2                      | 78                            | 183                |
| 2005          | 229   | 333                                 | 2                      | 215                           | 777                |
| 2006          | 446   | 495                                 | 4                      | 220                           | 1,161              |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>735</b>                                    | <b>873</b>                          | <b>8</b>               | <b>513</b>                    | <b>2,121</b>       |

Source: John Martin Reservoir State Park 2007.

### *The Colorado Birding Trail*

The Colorado Birding Trail (Birding Trail) is a network of over 30,000 acres of public and private sites that allow birders and wildlife watchers access to view birds, wildlife, and cultural resources. The Birding Trail is the result of a statewide initiative involving the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado Audubon, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Colorado Field Ornithologists, Colorado State Parks, and Playa Lakes Joint Venture in partnership with Colorado residents and other stakeholders. The goals of the Birding Trail are to promote wildlife viewing, outdoor recreation, resource conservation on private lands, and income for rural landowners and businesses.

While the Birding Trail encompasses some local trails, the sites are primarily connected by local and county roads, as depicted in Figure 2. The majority of the trail features public sites but there are also many areas located on private lands that are also accessible to the public. Currently, over 50 landowners cooperate in providing access to visitors along the Birding Trail in the southeast region.

The first phase of this statewide project was launched in Southeast Colorado in February 2007. The Birding Trail is continuing to be developed and promoted in the Southeast and in the remaining regions of the state (CDOW 2007). Major “spur trails” along the Colorado Birding Trail in the southeast region include the:

- Plover Trail
- Snow Goose Trail
- Pronghorn Trail
- Prairie Canyons Trail
- Two Buttes Trail
- Comanche Trail

### *Santa Fe Trail Scenic and Historic Byway*

Many visitors to the southeast region travel the Santa Fe Trail Scenic and Historic Byway (Byway). The Byway connects many of the region’s cultural and recreation attractions and offers interpretive signs and picnic areas. Entering Colorado at the Kansas border, the Byway heads west along Highway 50 through Holly, Lamar, and Las Animas along the Arkansas River before turning southwest at La Junta on Highway 350. Highway 50 is also the main transportation route in the region. From La Junta the route heads south to Trinidad, then further south along I-25 to New Mexico.

The Santa Fe Trail Mountain Branch became a state byway in 1992 and a national byway in 1998 with the goal to “preserve historic sites and resources for future generations.” In the early 1990’s, under the authorization of the Trail Systems Act, the Byway was named an Auto Tour Route under the administration of the NPS, which provided funds for signs. Since achieving Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway designation, a wide variety of efforts aimed at enhancing the Byway and its contribution to the region have been made including:

- installation of interpretive signs along the Byway;
- development of interpretive areas and picnic sites;
- production and distribution of informational brochures;
- certification of interpretive and marketing programs;
- participation in multi-state promotional programs; and,
- road improvements in several communities.

(Smith and Associates 1997).



Most recently, Colorado State Parks worked with the Colorado Tourism Office to ensure that state parks situated along byways, including John Martin Reservoir State Park, are showcased in the new Colorado Scenic Byway Guide.

### *The Santa Fe Trail*

The Santa Fe Trail, which parallels the Santa Fe Trail Scenic and Historic Byway in many areas, served as a trade route between Missouri and the Mexican frontiers from the 1820’s to the 1880’s. The Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail, which traverses Southeastern Colorado, was traveled by traders in caravans, on horseback and in Conestoga wagons. Sites such as Boggsville, Bent’s Old Fort, and many private ranches are still connected today by the remnants of this historic route. People can still experience the Santa Fe Trail in Southeast Colorado by retracing the paths of settlers by hiking or horseback riding. The wagon ruts imprinted in the 1800’s are still visible today in some sections (USFS 2007). Because of the historical and cultural significance of the trail, it was designated as a National Historic Trail in 1987 (Santa Fe 2007).

### *Boggsville Historic Site*

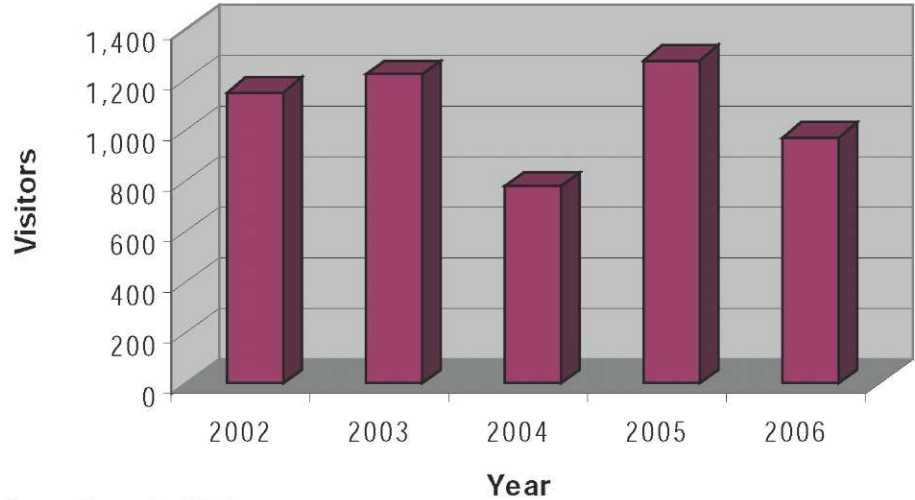
Boggsville Historic Site, about two miles south of Las Animas, is another unique attraction that reflects the pioneer history of the Southeastern Plains. The site consists of three reconstructed and furnished 1860’s homes resembling the homesteads once belonging to Thomas Boggs, John Prowers, and Kit Carson. In addition to the residences, guided tours and interpretive offerings, tent camping, RV sites, and teepees are also available. Occasionally, historical interpreters organized by the Pioneer Historical Society of Bent County portray some of the well-known characters of the period.



Source: Explore Southeast Colorado

Boggsville typically hosts between 900 and 1,200 visitors each year (Figure 9). In 2004, visits dropped below 800 but rebounded to 1,281 in 2005.

**Figure 9: Boggsville Visitation Estimates**



Source: Boggsville 2007.

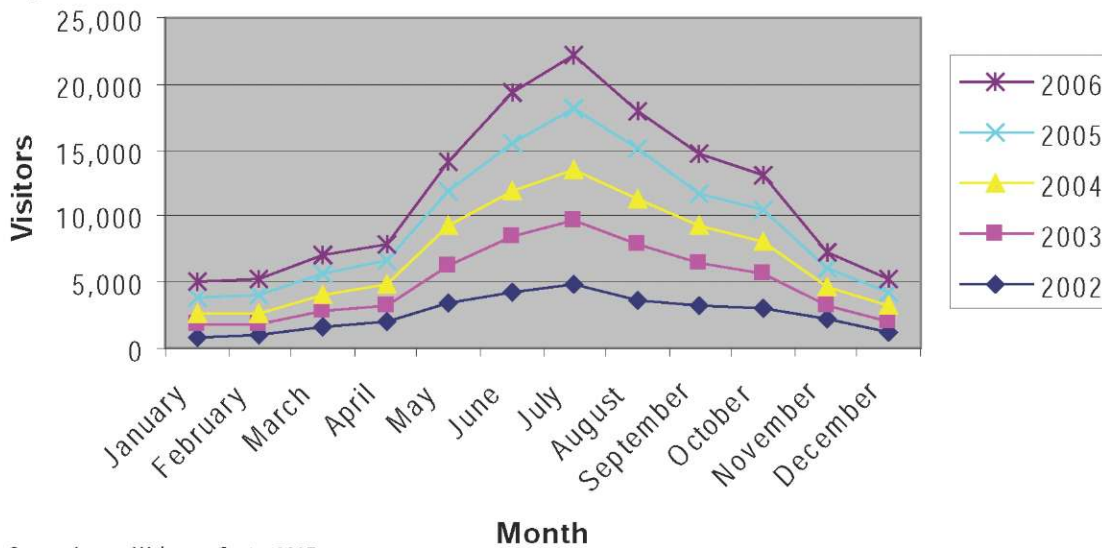
*Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site (NHS)*

The Sand Creek Massacre NHS commemorates the lives of 150 Cheyenne and Arapaho Indian women, children, and elderly who were attacked by 700 Cavalry troops on November 29, 1864. The site stretches along Big Sandy Creek in Kiowa County. Although 12,500 acres are authorized for inclusion in the National Historic Site, the National Park Service (NPS) currently owns only about 2,400 acres. Formally established as a NHS in 2000 and opened to the public on April 28, 2007, the site is the result of a partnership between numerous entities including: the State of Colorado, Kiowa County, representatives of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, private citizens, and The Conservation Fund (NPS 2007).

*Lamar Welcome Center*

Housed in the Historic Lamar Railroad Depot in downtown, the Lamar Welcome Center hosts an average of nearly 28,000 people annually (Figure 10). The center also serves as a depot for Amtrak service between Chicago and Los Angeles. Visitors and passers-through inquire at the Welcome Center for travel routes, activities, and logistical information about their trip to the Southeast. Because the Welcome Center hosts so many tourists, it is a valuable gauge of the volume of people entering the region for outdoor recreation and leisure trips. The region's peak travel season is also reflected in the Visitor Center's attendance numbers with peak months being in the summer.

**Figure 10: Visitation at the Lamar Welcome Center**



Source: Lamar Welcome Center 2007.

## Other Recreation and Tourism Activities

### Wildlife Watching

Wildlife-watching opportunities are abundant in Southeast Colorado. Comanche National Grassland alone provides habitat for approximately 275 species of birds, 60 species of mammals, 40 species of reptiles, 11 species of fish, and 9 species of amphibians (USFS 2007). Wildlife spectators also utilize the nearly 30 Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) Areas which encompass nearly 50,000 acres in the region. John Martin Reservoir State Park is another wildlife-watching hotspot.

The rolling grasslands of the southeast region accommodate a surprisingly large variety of mammals including desert bighorn sheep, mountain lions, bear, mule deer, elk, pronghorn, bobcats, fox, and coyotes. Abundant bird species are also present including: turkey, road runner, eagle, crane, pelican, lesser prairie chicken, plover, and grouse.

The southeast region's most notable wildlife viewing event is the annual Snow Goose festival, which is held each February. During this festival, birding enthusiasts gather to celebrate the arrival of thousands of Snow Geese descending on the southeastern plains. The birds migrate through Lamar along the Western Central Flyway en route to the Canadian Arctic. Made possible through a partnership formed by Colorado Division of Wildlife, Lamar Chamber of Commerce, and several other local organizations, the Festival hosts an average of nearly 200 visitors. Although pre-registration numbers indicated record attendance levels for the 2007 Festival, blizzard conditions halted travel to and from the area, severely impeding the festival's activities and attendance (CDOW 2007).

**Table 8: CDOW Areas in Southeast Colorado**

| County       | Number of CDOW Areas |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Baca         | 3                    |
| Bent         | 5                    |
| Crowley      | 4                    |
| Kiowa        | 2                    |
| Otero        | 6                    |
| Prowers      | 8                    |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>28</b>            |

Source: CDOW 2007.

### *Hunting*

Hunting is an important part of the local economy, culture, and heritage in the southeast. Big and small game hunters utilize private ranches as well as the nearly 30 Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) Areas encompassing nearly 50,000 acres in the region. Termed the “goose hunting capital of the nation,” Prowers County hosts hunters from across the country each December to participate in the annual Two Shot Celebrity Goose Hunt. Since the event started in 1966, roughly fifty hunters participate each year in this four-day event, including local and national celebrities and state and federal legislators. Teams of six participate in two stages: an upland event and sporting clays. Many of the proceeds benefit wildlife preservation projects in the southeast.

### *Bicycling*

Although the region is often not considered a biking destination, southeastern Colorado offers ample opportunities for cyclists. Some sites have trails suitable for mountain biking including Comanche National Grasslands, John Martin Reservoir State Park, and Lake Hasty (near Las Animas), and Willow Creek Park in Lamar. Abundant, well-maintained roads with low traffic volume are ideally suited for road-bicycling including:

- State Highway 109 between La Junta and Cheraw
- State Highway 10 between Walsenburg and La Junta
- U.S. Highway 160 between Springfield and Trinidad
- U.S. Highway 350 between La Junta and Trinidad
- State Highway 96 between Eads and Sugar City

One of the more notable road cycling routes is the American Discovery Trail (ADT), which is a 6,800-mile cross-country bicycling route that traverses the Southeastern Plains of Colorado while paralleling the Santa Fe Trail from Holly to Pueblo. Southeast Colorado’s portion of the ADT is primarily comprised of county and state roads and supplemented by trails including the Melon Trail in Rocky Ford. The ADT traverses many of the area’s tourism sites including John Martin Reservoir State Park and Bent’s Old Fort. Although several bikers and a few hikers tackle the Holly to Pueblo portion of the trail annually, organizers of the ADT estimate that the majority of users access this segment of the ADT for shorter day trips (ADT 2007).

The TransAmerica Trail, another coast-to-coast bicycling route, also passes through Southeastern Colorado. The TransAmerica Trail is comprised of county and local roads. In July 2005, several towns in Kiowa and Crowley counties collaborated to designate a 110-mile segment of Highway 96 as the “Prairie Horizons Trail” and helped sign the area so bicyclists could identify their route. The Adventure Cycling Association estimates about 300 cyclists ride this segment of the TransAmerica Trail each year (Crowley County 2007).

### Community Parks and Trails

The southeast region contains many community parks, trails, and picnic sites for local residents and visitors, many of which are featured in Figure 2. According to the Local Government Survey conducted by Colorado State Parks as part of the update to the Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the ten local agencies responding to the survey manage 21 parks with seven miles of multi-use, non-motorized trail.\*

In addition to the trails managed by these local governments, other trails exist at John Martin State Park, numerous State Wildlife Areas, Lake Hasty, Boggsville, and elsewhere. Figure 2 denotes each site that hosts hiking, biking, or equestrian trails and are highlighted with a Trailhead symbol. Surface type, accessibility, distance, and difficulty vary for each trail.

### Participation in Youth Corps

While this section has focused on visitation at outdoor recreation and tourism sites and environmental education programs, it's also important to consider participation in other activities that are compatible with and/or enhance outdoor recreation. Through conservation projects, Youth Corps organizations provide youth with job skills, environmental and work ethics, and educational opportunities. Colorado has 11 regional Corps, including the Colorado Range Riders Youth Corps which serves all of eastern Colorado, including the six counties participating in the Regional Forums. Since organizing in 2003, the Colorado Range Riders Youth Corps has provided 34 youth with seasonal work opportunities and completed 19 project work weeks, or a total of 760 hours. Economic benefits from the Youth Corps include the wages paid to participants and the cost savings to project recipients (Youth Corps 2007).

Youth Corps not only provide a unique opportunity for local youth to get involved in environmental improvement projects, they also benefit the tourism and recreation sites throughout the region by offering affordable workers at a significantly reduced cost. Colorado Range Riders Youth Corps projects are primarily conservation-based and include tamarisk removal and trail development and maintenance.

**Table 9: Facilities Managed by Local Government Providers**

| Item   | Total for Region |
|--|------------------|
| Public Parks and Open Spaces                         | 21 (94 acres)    |
| Picnic Shelters                                      | 11               |
| Playgrounds  | 16               |
| Non-motorized Trails                                 | 7 miles          |
| Outdoor Courts (basketball, tennis, multi-use, etc.) | 43               |
| Ballfields   | 2                |

Source: SCORP Local Government Survey, 2007.

\*Although there are several more local governments that may manage additional outdoor recreation sites in the region, the ten providers that responded to the survey are the largest. It should be understood, however, that Table 9: Facilities Managed by Local Government Providers is not an exhaustive list of all of the local parks and recreation assets in Southeast Colorado.



## 5.0 Historical Grant Funding to the Southeast Region

Many of the existing recreation opportunities in the southeast region have resulted from grant programs that facilitate the development and maintenance of local parks, open spaces, and trails. The primary grant programs include: Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) overseen by Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), and grants awarded through the Colorado State Trails Program including Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Details on the nearly \$20 million in grant awards are provided in Table 10.

**Table 10: Recreation Related Grants Received in the Region**

| County               | GOCO County Grants | GOCO Multi-County Grants | LWCF Grants        | Trails Grants   | CTF Grants         | County totals       |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Baca                 | \$927,292          | \$349,068                | \$628,370          | \$0             | \$796,128          | \$2,700,857         |
| Bent                 | \$4,401,759        | \$284,000                | \$34,128           | \$0             | \$1,020,072        | \$5,739,959         |
| Crowley              | \$137,144          | \$84,000                 | \$7,203            | \$0             | \$817,977          | \$1,046,323         |
| Kiowa                | \$403,765          | \$39,000                 | \$60,713           | \$0             | \$304,062          | \$807,540           |
| Otero                | \$1,626,249        | \$284,000                | \$368,754          | \$0             | \$3,652,873        | \$5,931,876         |
| Prowers              | \$848,694          | \$126,579                | \$67,995           | \$22,000        | \$2,431,897        | \$3,497,165         |
| <b>Region Totals</b> | <b>\$8,344,903</b> | <b>\$1,166,647</b>       | <b>\$1,167,162</b> | <b>\$22,000</b> | <b>\$9,023,009</b> | <b>\$19,723,721</b> |

Source: GOCO, Colorado State Parks State Trails Program, and DOLA 2007

GOCO grants are awarded for the purposes of open space protection, local parks, outdoor recreation facilities, environmental education facilities, and community planning. LWCF grants in Colorado are administered through the Colorado State Trails Program for trail planning, construction, and maintenance. The CTF is derived from a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds and is distributed quarterly to local governments according to population. CTF grants can be used for planning, acquisition, development, and maintenance for new conservation sites or to create recreation opportunities on existing sites. Details on applying for these grants are provided in Appendix B.

Nearly 188 GOCO and LWCF grants and \$10 million have been awarded to the southeast region since the inception of these funding sources. Grant monies have been used for the acquisition of parks, facility construction and improvements, and maintenance in the southeast. Distribution of these grants is structured to be fairly consistent with Colorado's population distribution. The region has been awarded just 2% of the total LWCF and GOCO grants distributed across the state, which is consistent with the region's percentage of the state's population (in 2005).

In addition to the LWCF funded grants, an additional \$22,000 in grants have been awarded within the region by the Colorado State Trails Program (Trails Program). This single grant equals one-one-thousandth (0.001) of the Trails Program's \$23 million total grant awards (excluding LWCF grants). This gap demonstrates the untapped potential of the annual Colorado State Trails Program that could help create more recreation opportunities in the southeast region.

The CTF grants have been the greatest sole contributor of dollars for conservation projects in the Southeast Region. More than \$9 million in CTF grants have been allocated to the six counties with the majority awarded to Otero County (The CTF is distributed based on population and Otero County contains nearly 40% of the region's total population).

## 6.0 Strategic Outdoor Recreation Plan

One of the primary elements of the Southeast Colorado Regional Tourism & Outdoor Recreation Partnership Forums was to identify priority projects and initiatives that will enhance recreational opportunities for residents and visitors (Table 11). These projects and initiatives were incorporated into specific goals, objectives, and actions that can be implemented over time to expand specific recreation opportunities. In developing the goals, objectives, and actions, special effort was made to complement the heritage tourism work already underway by the SECORHT. Implementation of the Strategic Outdoor Recreation Plan will help supplement the region's heritage tourism efforts, which aim to strengthen the outdoors market by increasing options for activities and ultimately encouraging visitors to stay longer in the region.

Goals, objectives and actions included in the Southeast Region Strategic Outdoor Recreation Plan primarily resulted from participant input gathered throughout the three Regional Forum sessions. However, some additional supplemental information was used to ensure that the plan reflected regional priorities and needs. Prior to the first forum, ideas for priority projects were generated from a pre-forum survey which assessed how well the needs of residents and visitors were being met and measured respondent's priorities for additional opportunities. Supplemental information was also gathered from the Local Government Survey conducted by Colorado State Parks as part of the 2008 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) update. The Local Government Survey identified the highest priority issues and needs for ten local governments responding to the survey from the region.

During the first forum, the results of both the pre-forum and the Local Government Survey were presented to the SECORHT for discussion. [Results of the Pre-Forum Survey are also presented in Appendix A]. Additional input from a panel of local leaders and a group brainstorming session resulted in a comprehensive list of issues, needs, and potential opportunities. At the second session, this list was revisited and participants were asked to group and refine the highest priority projects and initiatives. Specific projects and initiatives that were identified were "packaged" by the State Parks planning team into achievable goals that were presented at the third and final meeting. Based on feedback from the SECORHT, specific objectives and action strategies were developed by the State Parks planning team to help meet each goal.

Table 11 provides a detailed breakdown of the goals, objectives, and action strategies identified in the Southeast Region Strategic Outdoor Recreation Plan. Particular emphasis has been placed on the development of clear, achievable strategies for implementation. While the energy and time required to complete all of these action strategies is considerable, the responsibility is often shared among many partners (often led by a consultant) and implementation is based on a phased-approach. In addition, potential grant resources have been identified in cases where implementation may be funding dependant. Details on applicable funding sources including grant amounts, deadlines, and information contacts are detailed in Appendix B. Information on other relevant types of grant assistance are also included. Additional information on key contacts that can assist the SECORHT with implementing recommendations in the plan can be found in Appendix C.

It is important to note that the action strategies should be considered a “menu of options” for the SECORHT and not be considered exhaustive, but rather a starting point for ongoing collaboration. Members of the group can pick and choose the highest priorities and most achievable goals suitable for the region. The Strategic Outdoor Recreation Plan can serve as a guide for the sequencing, timing, funding and development of partnerships for priority projects.

Another important outcome of the plan is the establishment of a recreation and trail connectivity priorities map (Figure 11). This map highlights recreation and tourism “cluster areas” and “anchor sites,” and should prove useful in future recreation planning efforts. The map identifies the primary and secondary anchor sites identified in the Heritage Tourism Strategy as the most significant areas to focus on when creating additional outdoor recreation opportunities. The actions identified in Table 11 should be applied to clusters that encompass the primary anchor sites in the near-term and the clusters that encompass secondary anchor sites over the long-term. For example, during the development of a regional trail and recreation master plan, suggested construction of trails or other recreation infrastructure could be phased over time based on proximity to primary and secondary anchor sites.

### Near-Term Objectives

Based on the results of the three forums, and because these efforts are easily achievable and will provide the necessary framework for accomplishing long-term goals, it is recommended that the following actions should be considered the highest priority and implemented in 2008, if possible.

- 1.1.3 Apply for planning grant to fund regional trail and recreation master plan.
- 1.3.2 Work with the SECWCD to secure a trail easement on the planned maintenance road parallel to Arkansas Valley Conduit.
- 2.1.1 Partner with State Parks to enhance visitor opportunities at John Martin State Park through purchase of canoes and/or paddleboats for rental use at Lake Hasty.
- 2.1.7 Seek out additional funding for marketing and publicizing the "Great Race" (bicycling race held in Lamar on Labor Day weekend) and annual Snow Goose Festival as "premier" festivals in the region/state.
- 2.1.8 Develop a roadside hiker guide to direct travelers and casual trail users to easily accessible trails along major travel arteries.
- 3.1.1 Prioritize areas needing wayfinding signage and determine applicable funding sources for priority sites (refer to the trail and recreation master plan described under Goal 1 and/or the Santa Fe Trail CMP, if needed).
- 3.1.3 Work with Region 2 CDOT Coordinator to have new directional/wayfinding signage, and trail signs incorporated into Regional Transportation Plans.
- 3.1.5 Consider submitting a Scenic Byways grant request to implement projects like interpretive signage/materials and interpretive pullouts (identified in the existing Santa Fe Trail CMP) or to update the CMP.

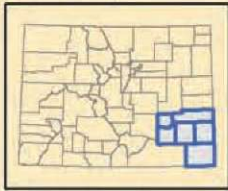
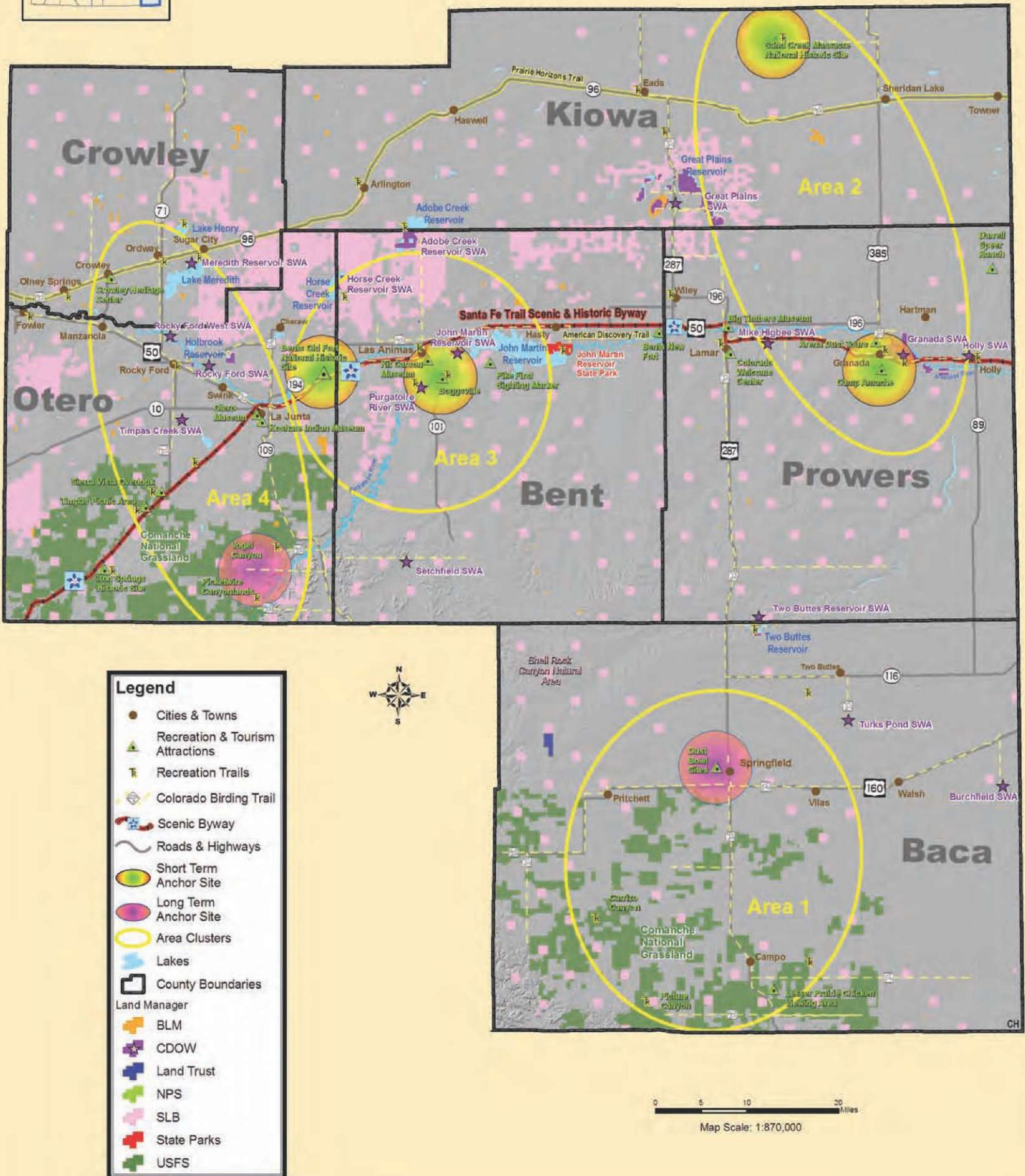


Figure 11: Southeast Colorado Recreation and Tourism Cluster Areas and Anchor Sites



## Implementation Considerations

Because implementation of some elements of the Strategic Plan are either timing dependant or likely follow in a sequential pattern, Table 11 highlights a “suggested implementation timeline.” However, because many actions are not likely to be implemented in the suggested order due to time, funding, and volunteer constraints, the column entitled “Priority” is intentionally left blank to provide the SECORHT the added opportunity to prioritize goals and objectives.

It is important to note that the southeast region already possesses some incredible recreation opportunities that could further be emphasized by expanding marketing efforts. Specifically, the High Plains Snow Goose Festival and the Great Race in Lamar showcase the region’s already existing strengths: birding and road biking. Recommendation 2.1.7 emphasizes the need to amplify marketing efforts for these events because capturing more participants will hopefully allow more visitors to experience the existing assets in the region and encourage them to return over time. The region’s remote feel helps contribute to its world-renowned birdwatching and wildlife watching opportunities. Additionally, marketing efforts should emphasize the lack of crowds and the region’s recreation opportunities in the spring and fall seasons (corresponding with the mountain “shoulder seasons” where recreational opportunities in the mountains are typically limited).

Increasing trail and recreation opportunities throughout the region (Goal 1), will likely be the most time intensive element of the Strategic Outdoor Recreation Plan, however, once grant funds are acquired for a regional recreation master plan, a consultant will be able to accomplish the majority of the work. The trail and recreation master plan will address specific considerations such as Americans with Disabilities (ADA) compliance, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) clearances, and environmental considerations.

Table 11: Strategic Outdoor Recreation Plan

| Southeast Region Strategic Outdoor Recreation Plan   |   |           |      |      |      |        |                    |   |   |  |
|--|---|-----------|------|------|------|--------|--------------------|---|---|--|
| Action Strategies within Recreation/Tourism Cluster Areas  |   |           |      |      |      |        |                    |   |   |  |
| Goals · Objectives · Actions   | Priority  | Suggested |      |      |      |        | Potential Partners |   | Potential Grant Sources                                 |  |
|  |   | Q1        | Q2   | Q3   | Q4   | Timing | Lead               | Assist                                  |   |  |
|  |   | 2008      | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012   |                    |   |   |  |
| <b>Goal 1: Increase trail and recreation opportunities throughout the region</b>   |   |           |      |      |      |        |                    |   |   |  |
| <i>1.1 Apply for funding for a regional trail and recreation master plan</i>   |   |           |      |      |      |        |                    |   |   |  |
| 1.1.1  | Secure necessary partnerships with local govts., special/water districts, and recreational trail user groups and secure matching funds required for possible planning grant (as much as 25% may be required).                       |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | SECWCD; CDOW; PARKS; Counties; NPS; EQ  | GOCO  |  |
| 1.1.2  | Consider partnering with CU/DOLA Community Tech. Asst. Prgm, CSU/Rural Community Tech. Asst. Prgm. and/or NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assist Prgm. to maximize potential planning grant.                                   |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | CU/DOLA; CSU RTAP; NPS                  | -   |  |
| 1.1.3  | Apply for planning grant to fund regional trail and recreation master plan.   |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | -                                       | GOCO; EP; ASZ; Gates; KDK; BBC; HC; CU/DOLA; CSU RTAP   |  |
| 1.1.3a   | Incorporate GIS mapping from the SE Regional Forum and develop supporting maps that may be required for grant application.  |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | -                                       | -   |  |
| 1.1.3b   | Emphasize need to build on equestrian, pedestrian, and bicycling trails; interpretive and learning opportunities; and water-based recreation.   |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | -                                       | -   |  |
| <i>1.2 Develop a regional trail and recreation master plan that will prioritize specific multi-use trails (e.g., pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycling) and land- and water-based recreation opportunities</i> |   |           |      |      |      |        |                    |   |   |  |
| 1.2.1  | Acquire a consultant to develop, manage, and possibly help implement the plan.  |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | SECWCD; CDOW; PARKS; Counties; NPS; EQ  | No addl. funds necessary. Funds obtained through 1.1.3. |  |
| 1.2.2  | Evaluate pedestrian, bicycling and equestrian trail opportunities that connect heritage anchor sites (Camp Amache, Sand Creek, Bent's Old Fort, etc.) and existing trails within Tourism Cluster Areas.                             |           |      |      |      |        | CNSLT              | SECORHT; CDOW; PARKS; Counties; NPS; EQ | -   |  |
| 1.2.3  | Develop a phased-approach and timeline for expanded recreation infrastructure, including trails, based priority level. Focus on recreation opps w/in clusters that provide additional activities for heritage tourists and birders. |           |      |      |      |        | CNSLT              | SECORHT; CDOW; PARKS; Counties; NPS; EQ | -   |  |
| 1.2.4  | Consider possible equestrian trail ride along the old Arkansas Valley Railroad from Kit Carson to Las Animas and possible agritourism amenities along the way (overnight stays at local ranches, B&Bs etc.).                        |           |      |      |      |        | CNSLT              | SECORHT, Counties, ES                   | -   |  |
| 1.2.5  | Create a GIS map of navigable sections of river and potential access points, put-ins, and take-outs.  |           |      |      |      |        | CNSLT              | SECORHT CDOW; PARKS; Counties; NPS; EQ  | -   |  |
| 1.2.6  | Work with CDOW to determine potential for improving sites for improving sites to benefit anglers; identify target areas for Fishing is Fun grants.  |           |      |      |      |        | CNSLT              | SECORHT; CDOW                           | CDOW  |  |
| 1.2.7  | Identify potential for "riverwalks," boat ramps, fishing docks, and other water-based recreation infrastructure in selected areas.  |           |      |      |      |        | CNSLT              | SECORHT; CORPS; SECWCD; CDOW; PARKS     | -   |  |
| 1.2.8  | Evaluate times of year most suitable for river recreation and the need for any in-channel diversion rights or timed-water releases.   |           |      |      |      |        | CNSLT              | SECORHT; SECWCD                         | -   |  |
| <i>1.3 Partner with local govts, special districts, and recreational user groups to implement the trail and recreation master plan</i>   |   |           |      |      |      |        |                    |   |   |  |
| 1.3.1  | Attend one of the Colorado State Trails Program grant workshops (in the southeast) to learn more about trail construction grants.   |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | Counties                                | -   |  |
| 1.3.2  | Work with the SECWCD to secure a trail easement on the planned maintenance road parallel to Arkansas Valley Conduit.  |           |      |      |      |        | PARKS; SECORHT     | SECWCD                                  | -   |  |
| 1.3.3  | Acquire recreational easements to access river through private property.  |           |      |      |      |        | SECWCD; SECORHT    | Counties; Local Govts.; CDOW            | TE, Gates, CDOW, etc., NPS RTCA Program                 |  |
| 1.3.4  | Pursue funding for development of trails and other recreation infrastructure for priority areas. Use grant resources table from the Forums project as a starting point.   |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | Grant Partners (PARKS; NPS; SECWCD)     | GOCO Legacy, NEA, CSTP, Gates, ASZ, EP, KDK, etc.       |  |
| 1.3.5  | Acquire any needed recreational in-channel diversion rights or arrange for timed water releases.  |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | SECWCD                                  | -   |  |
| 1.3.6  | Acquire any necessary environmental permits or clearances (e.g., 404 wetlands permits, threatened & endangered species clearances, migratory bird permit, etc.)   |           |      |      |      |        | CNSLT; Counties    | CORPS; USFWS; CDOW                      | -   |  |
| 1.3.7  | Work with Rangeriders Youth Corps to assist with trail construction, signage, and maintenance.  |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | RR                                      | -   |  |
| <i>1.4 Consider a feasibility study associated with developing a regional lodging/tourism tax to fund outdoor recreation and tourism projects</i>  |   |           |      |      |      |        |                    |   |   |  |
| 1.4.1  | Quantify possible benefits associated with a regional lodging/tourism tax to fund outdoor recreation and tourism projects.  |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT/CNSLT      | OEDIT; Local Chambers                   | USDA Rural Dvt Grants                                   |  |
| 1.4.2  | Meet with County Commissioners and other key county administrators throughout the region to discuss possible benefits and gather support.   |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | Counties; CSU RTAP                      | -   |  |
| 1.4.3  | Use funding to hire a marketing firm that can help promote and expand recreation opportunities, amenities, and festivals throughout the region  |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | Counties                                | -   |  |
| <b>Goal 2: Improve and expand existing recreation amenities and opportunities</b>  |   |           |      |      |      |        |                    |   |   |  |
| <i>2.1 Improve and expand existing trail and recreation amenities/opportunities</i>  |   |           |      |      |      |        |                    |   |   |  |
| 2.1.1  | Partner with State Parks to enhance visitor opportunities at John Martin State Park through purchase of canoes and/or paddleboats that could be rented for use at Lake Hasty.   |           |      |      |      |        | PARKS; SECORHT     | CDOW                                    | El Pomar  |  |
| 2.1.2  | Partner with State Parks to enhance visitor opportunities at John Martin State Park through purchase of pontoon boats that could be rented for use at John Martin Reservoir.  |           |      |      |      |        | PARKS; SECORHT     | CDOW                                    | El Pomar  |  |
| 2.1.3  | Collaborate with CDOT to ensure that widening of Hwy 50, Hwy 96 (Prairie Horizons Trail), and other highways includes expanding road shoulders to 4- to 6-foot wide for bicyclists.   |           |      |      |      |        | CDOT               | SECORHT                                 | -   |  |
| 2.1.4  | Organize a planning session with entities that developed the water-based recreation opportunities on upper Arkansas River (i.e., b/w Buena Vista and Salida and in Pueblo) to explore similar opportunities downstream.             |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | PARKS; BOR; Pueblo/Buena Vista          | -   |  |
| 2.1.5  | Regularly update regional trail map and planned regional brochure with completed trails as needed.  |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | CDOW; MMG; USFS                         | -   |  |
| 2.1.6  | Organize an annual "Endurance Ride" for road bicyclists on existing roads with the help of local bike shop owners and organizations like Bicycle Colorado.  |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT; BSO       | BC; Sen. Brophy                         | OEDIT; Corporate Sponsorships                           |  |
| 2.1.7  | Seek out additional funding for marketing and publicizing the "Great Race" (bicycling race held in Lamar on Labor Day weekend) and annual Snow Goose Festival as "premier" festivals in the region/state.                           |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | BC; Sen. Brophy; CDOW; BSO; PARKS       | CTO; Corporate Sponsorships                             |  |
| 2.1.8  | Develop a roadside hiker guide to direct travelers and casual trail users to easily accessible trails along major travel arteries.  |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | MMG                                     | -   |  |
| <i>2.2 Continue efforts to eliminate tamarisk with priority to the most suitable navigable sections of river</i>   |   |           |      |      |      |        |                    |   |   |  |
| 2.2.1  | Partner with the SECWCD to continue tamarisk removal efforts.   |           |      |      |      |        | SECWCD             | SECORHT; CDOW                           | -   |  |
| 2.2.2  | Continue to work with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and Range Riders Youth Corps to remove tamarisk from high priority sites.   |           |      |      |      |        | CDOW; SECORHT      | VOC; RR                                 | NFWF; HP; CDOW; CSTP Special Projects grants            |  |
| <b>Goal 3: Improve existing and develop new tourism- &amp; recreation-related signage</b>  |   |           |      |      |      |        |                    |   |   |  |
| <i>3.1 Work with State and County agencies to improve existing and add new directional/wayfinding signage and interpretive signage throughout the region</i>   |   |           |      |      |      |        |                    |   |   |  |
| 3.1.1  | Prioritize areas needing wayfinding signage and determine applicable funding sources for priority sites (refer to the trail and recreation master plan described under Goal 1 and/or the Santa Fe Trail CMP, if needed).            |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT;SFTBC      | CDOT; Counties; Local Govts             | -   |  |
| 3.1.2  | Inventory trails adjacent to (or in close proximity to) major travel arteries. Work with state and county officials to identify locations for trail/hiking signs along roadways.  |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | CDOT; Counties; Local Govts             | -   |  |
| 3.1.3  | Work with Region 2 CDOT Coordinator to have new directional/wayfinding signage, and trail signs incorporated into Regional Transportation Plans.  |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT; PARKS     | CDOT; Counties                          | -   |  |
| 3.1.4  | Access NPS National Historic Trail cost-share program to assist with signage expenses and development of interpretive sites.  |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | NPS                                     | NPS   |  |
| 3.1.5  | Consider submitting a Scenic Byways grant request to implement projects like interpretive signage/materials and interpretive pullouts (identified in the existing Santa Fe Trail CMP) or to update the CMP.                         |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT; SFTBC     | CDOT; Counties                          | NSB; TE   |  |
| 3.1.6  | Utilize school groups to create content for and possibly assist in designing interpretive signage.  |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | Local Schools                           | -   |  |
| 3.1.7  | Use Rangeriders Youth Corps to assist with installation of signage and construction if possible.  |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | RR                                      | -   |  |
| <b>Goal 4: Develop interpretive and educational opportunities focusing on regional heritage, natural areas, and outdoor recreation</b>   |   |           |      |      |      |        |                    |   |   |  |
| <i>4.1 Partner with federal, state, and nonprofit agencies to expand and enhance interpretive and educational opportunities</i>  |   |           |      |      |      |        |                    |   |   |  |
| 4.1.1  | Coordinate with Linda Groat, CDOW Education Specialist, to discuss better publicizing and partnering on existing programs.  |           |      |      |      |        | SECORHT            | CDOW                                    | -   |  |
| 4.1.2  | Work with Bent's Old Fort NHS to better publicize interpretive programs and Youth Ranger programs.  |           |      |      |      |        | NPS                | CAEE                                    | -   |  |
| 4.1.3  | Meet with CAEE to further develop education partnerships and potential projects centered on environmental education and interpretation.   |           |      |      |      |        | CDOW; SECORHT      | CAEE                                    | -   |  |
| 4.1.4  | Apply for funding potential interpretive and environmental projects.  |           |      |      |      |        | CDOW; SECORHT      | -                                       | EPA; CDOW; NWF; GOCO                                    |  |

Anticipated Level of Effort Required for Action

- Low level of effort
- Moderate level of effort
- High level of effort

ORGANIZATIONS

BC- Bicycle Colorado

BOR- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

BSO - Bicycle Shop Owners

CAEE - Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education

CDOT- Colorado Department of Transportation

CDOW- Colorado Division of Wildlife

CHC- Colorado Horse Council

CORPS- U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

CSU RTAP- Colorado State University Rural Technical Assistance Program

CU/DOLA- University of Colorado/Department of Local Affairs Colorado Center for Community Development

EPA- Environmental Protection Agency

EQ- Equestrian groups

ES- Emergency service agencies

IMBA- International Mountain Bike Association

MMG- MMG Worldwide

NEA- National Endowment for the Arts

NPS- National Park Service

NWF- National Wildlife Federation

OEDIT- Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade

PARKS- Colorado State Parks

RR- Range Rider Youth Corps

SECORHT- Southeast Colorado Regional Heritage Task Force

SECWCD- Southeast Colorado Water Conservancy District

SFTBC- Santa Fe Trail Byway Commission

USFS- U.S. Forest Service

USFWS- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

VOC- Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado

**GRANT SOURCES**

ASZ - Anshutz Foundation

BBC - Bikes Belong Coalition

CSTP- Colorado State Trails Program

EP - El Pomar Foundation

GOCO - Great Outdoors Colorado

HC - Healthcare Organizations

HP - Hewlette Packard Foundation

KDK - Kodak Foundation

NFWF - National Fish and Wildlife Fund

NSB - National Scenic Byways Program

OEDIT - Office of Economic Development and International Trade

TE - National Transportation Enhancements

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# **Appendix A: Pre-Forum Participant Survey**

## Pre-Forum Participant Survey

Prior to the first forum meeting in June, invitees were asked to help determine the needs and priorities for outdoor recreation in the region by completing a Pre-Forum Participant Survey. Forum participants were asked two primary questions:

- How effectively are the outdoor recreation needs of Southeast Coloradans and their visitors currently being met? and;
- What level of priority should be placed on specific types of collaborative efforts among communities, public land agencies, non-profit organizations and outdoors-related businesses?

Respondents were asked to respond to the questions on a 1 to 5 scale, with "1" being the least important or lowest rating (depending on the focus of the question), and "5" being the most important or highest rating. Averages and total scores were tallied to reflect regional consensus and are provided in Table A2. A total of 20 surveys were received. While the results do not represent a statistically rigorous approach, responses provide useful qualitative information.

**Table A1: Summary of Southeast Region Respondents**

| Organization/Agency Represented | Respondents |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Non-profit organization         | 6           |
| State Agency                    | 5           |
| Local Government                | 5           |
| Federal Agency                  | 3           |
| Tourism Business                | 1           |
| Regional Planning Organization  | 1           |
| School or University            | 1           |
| <b>Total Respondents</b>        | <b>20</b>   |

*\*\*Two participants represented two entities but were only counted once.*

## Summary of Survey Results

Overall, respondents concluded that the needs of Southeastern Coloradans and their visitors are only being met on a poor to moderate level. [On a scale of 1 – 5, an average response of 2.7 was recorded]. A summary of survey results follows:

- Respondents' overall impression of the effectiveness at meeting outdoor recreation needs of Southeastern Coloradans and visitors: (rating = 2.7)
  - o Most significant need = "Amount of tourism infrastructure to draw recreationists/visitors" (rating = 2.2)
  - o Greatest strength = "Stewardship of the public land resources through sustaining and enhancing plant, fish, and wildlife habitats" (rating = 3.3)
- Respondents' overall impression of the effectiveness of specific outdoor recreation and tourism attractions in meeting the needs of Southeastern Coloradans and visitors:
  - o Greatest gaps = Equestrian trails, pedestrian, and biking trails (rating = 2.0)
  - o The provision of motorized recreation trails was also considered to be inadequate. (rating = 2.3)
  - o The needs of recreationists desiring "primitive" type recreation areas with little or no development seem to be adequately met (rating = 3.5).

- According to the twenty respondents, the top three issues to address through collaborative efforts are:
  - o “Development of regional tours that include options to combine visits to outdoor recreation and cultural/historical sites” (rating = 4.3)
  - o “Partnerships with the State and its congressional delegation to attract and leverage additional federal funding sources to support/develop additional recreation opportunities” (rating = 3.9)
  - o “Develop collaborative investment strategies among public agencies, business community, farm and ranch owners, and non-profit land conservation organizations” (rating = 3.8)
  
- When asked about priorities specific to public information and marketing, participants determined the top three issues to address through collaborative efforts are:
  - o “Connectivity to other existing information resources outside of Southeast Colorado (e.g. statewide websites, brochures, magazines, etc.)” (rating = 4.4)
  - o “Website links between existing outdoor recreation and cultural attractions” (rating = 4.2)
  - o Two issues were tied for third place:
    - “Centralized website to provide a clearinghouse about available recreation sites and activities” (rating = 4.1) and;
    - “Regional marketing network that integrates promotion of outdoors attractions and cultural attractions” (rating = 4.1)

### Successful Partnerships and Collaborations Related to Outdoor Recreation

Many successful partnerships have developed in the region in recent years. Some of the groups that have formed out of these partnerships are already taking steps to develop or expand outdoor recreation opportunities in the region. Examples of successful partnerships include numerous state, local, and federal entities supporting the Colorado Birding Trail and High Plains Snow Goose Festival; National Parks Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program; and numerous County economic development outreach efforts. Respondents consistently felt that the SECORHT, the Colorado Birding Trail, and the High Plains Snow Goose Festival were effective partnerships that are successfully working on outdoor recreation needs and issues. Additionally, other successful collaborations mentioned include:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Southeast Colorado Heritage Trails   | • Town of Walsh and GOCO park project  |
| • Jackson's Pond (CDOW and Town of Eads)   | • Biking Trail running through Crowley and Kiowa Counties                            |
| • Arena Dust Tours and CDOW  | • NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program and several local projects |
| • Lesser Prairie Chicken Lek at Campo (CDOW, SECORHT, & High Plains Snow Goose Festival) | • Sand Creek Massacre site and local residents                                       |
| • Santa Fe Trail Scenic & Historic Byway (Pioneer Historical Society, CHS, NPS, & CDOT)  | • John Martin Reservoir (State Parks, CDOW, & Army Corps of Engineers)               |
| • Hiking trail at Bent's Old Fort (NPS & CO Preservation, Inc.)                          | • Bent's Old Fort and local residents  |
| • Bent County Conservation District Tamarisk Eradication Projects                        | • Bent County Tourism Development Committee & SECORHT                                |
| • Kiowa County Economic Development Foundation, RMBO, & CDOW                             |  |

Table A2 illustrates the comprehensive results of the survey organized in descending order of the average score (or ranking). An average of 4 or above is considered good to excellent while 3 is considered average, and 1 and 2 are considered poor.

**Table A2: Comprehensive Results of the Pre-Forum Survey**

| <b>General Outdoor Recreation Opportunities</b>   | <b>Average Score</b> |
|---|----------------------|
| Stewardship of public lands   | 3.3                  |
| Wide variety of outdoor rec. opportunities and attractions                                    | 3.1                  |
| Opportunities to integrate historic/cultural visits with recreation attractions               | 2.8                  |
| Efficient, accessible public information about opportunities                                  | 2.8                  |
| Collaboration among tourism, businesses, & public agencies to market recreation opportunities | 2.6                  |
| Volunteer opportunities for public land and stewardship projects                              | 2.5                  |
| Youth outreach efforts to sustain a stewardship ethic   | 2.4                  |
| Tourism infrastructure to draw recreationists to the region                                   | 2.2                  |

| <b>Specific Recreation and Tourism Opportunities</b>                    | <b>Average Score</b> |
|---|----------------------|
| "Primitive" type recreation areas                                       | 3.5                  |
| Historical and cultural sites   | 3.3                  |
| Birding and wildlife viewing sites and trails                           | 3.3                  |
| Community/neighborhood parks  | 3.2                  |
| RV and tent camping sites   | 3.0                  |
| Dispersed recreation with limited trails, camping, boating, and fishing | 2.8                  |
| Large parks with a wide range of development and services               | 2.7                  |
| Motorized recreation trails   | 2.3                  |
| Equestrian trails   | 2.0                  |
| Pedestrian and biking trails  | 2.0                  |

| <b>Collaborative Investment Strategies</b>  | <b>Average Score</b> |
|---|----------------------|
| Development of regional tours combining cultural/historical site visits with outdoor rec. activities  | 4.3                  |
| Partnerships with State and congressional delegation to attract funding   | 3.9                  |
| Develop collaborative investment strategies between state agencies, businesses, farm and ranch owners, and non-profit land conservation orgs. | 3.8                  |
| Acquisitions of land through fee title purchases and conservation easements for recreation purposes   | 3.3                  |
| Public recreation agency marketing and business plans to attract corporate sponsorships of facility development                               | 3.0                  |
| Regional partnerships to finance large recreation complexes with sports fields and rec. centers   | 2.6                  |

**Table A2, cont.**

| <b>Public Information and Marketing</b>   | <b>Average Score</b> |
|---|----------------------|
| Connectivity to information resources outside the region  | 4.4                  |
| Website links between existing outdoor recreation and cultural attractions  | 4.2                  |
| Regional marketing network integrating outdoors and cultural attractions  | 4.1                  |
| Centralized website with a clearinghouse of recreation sites and activities   | 4.1                  |
| Establish a regional outdoor recreation marketing brochure that includes public agencies, tourism and outdoors businesses | 3.9                  |
| Promotion of local and non-local school-based environmental and cultural/heritage programs                                | 3.8                  |
| Creating collaborative visitor centers as a centralized source of information   | 3.6                  |
| Centralized regional information clearinghouse about outdoor education facilities and programs                            | 3.5                  |





**Appendix B:  
Potential Grant Sources**



| Potential Grant Sources                   |  |   |   |  |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| Grant                                     | Agency or Organization   | Appropriate Project(s)  | Details   | Eligibility Criteria   | Award Amount  | Deadline and Grant Specifics   | Website   | Contact   |
| <b>Federal Grant Programs</b>             |  |   |   |  |   |  |   |   |
| National Scenic Byways Program            | Federal Highway Administration-National Scenic Byways Program (administered by CDOT) | Signage, roadside amenities, trail construction along Highway 50, conservation easements along byway, marketing materials or plan | Requires a two-step process involving registering and submitting through <a href="http://www.grants.gov">www.grants.gov</a> and <a href="http://www.bywaysonline.org">www.bywaysonline.org</a> . Typically only one grant application per byway is permitted annually.  | Anyone may apply on behalf of the byway.   | Up to \$100,00 but depends on availability of Colorado-specific funds.  | January  | <a href="http://www.colorado-byways.org">www.colorado-byways.org</a>                                    | Sally Pearce; 303-757-9786; <a href="mailto:sally.pearce@dot.state.co.us">sally.pearce@dot.state.co.us</a>  |
| National Transportation Enhancements (TE) | Federal Highway Administration (Administered by CDOT)                                | Roadside amenities (picnic sites, restrooms, rest stations, etc.), trail construction, and signage                                | Funds community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience. Awarded for twelve program areas including: pedestrian and bicycle facilities, safety, and education activities, acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites, scenic or historic highway programs, and scenic beautification. | Federal, tribal, state, county or municipal government agencies. Requires a 20% minimum local match. | Varies  | Must be adopted by the Pueblo Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and included in their 20-year plan and 6-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). | <a href="http://www.dot.state.co.us/DesignSupport/">http://www.dot.state.co.us/DesignSupport/</a>       | Wendy Pettit; 719-546-5748 ; <a href="mailto:wendy.pettit@dot.state.co.us">wendy.pettit@dot.state.co.us</a> |
| Environmental Education Grants            | Environmental Protection Agency  | Environmental education projects  | Supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills.   | Colleges, state education or environmental agencies, non-profit organizations.                       | More than 75% percent of grants awarded receive less than \$15,000. Approximately 12 larger grants for \$50,000 - \$100,000 also available. | Mid-November   | <a href="http://www.epa.gov/enviroed">www.epa.gov/enviroed</a>  | Diane Berger or Sheri Jojokiant; 202-564-0451   |
| Rural Business Opportunity Grants         | USDA Rural Development   | Feasibility studies, website development  | Promotes sustainable economic dev. in rural communities through training and technical assistance and economic dev. planning. Funds may be provided for feasibility studies, community economic dev. planning, etc.   | Rural governments, rural non-profit organizations, rural Indian tribes, and cooperatives             | Up to \$50,000 for a project that serves a single state; up to \$150,000 for a two-state project  | Open cycle   | <a href="http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/rbog.htm">http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/rbog.htm</a> | 760 Bent Las Animas, CO 81054; 719-456-0120 ext. 4  |

| Grant  | Agency or Organization       | Appropriate Project(s)   | Details  | Eligibility Criteria                          | Award Amount  | Deadline and Grant Specifics  | Website   | Contact  |
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| National Heritage Trails Cost Share Program  | National Park Service        | Wayside and interpretive signage and amenities along Santa Fe Trail; interpretive programs | Challenge Cost Share is a program offering federal funding, to be matched 50/50, for preservation and interpretation-education projects along the Santa Fe National Historic Trail.  | Local governments, non-profits                | Up to \$30,000. 50% match required. Costs are reimbursed after completion of project.   | February 1  | <a href="http://www.nps.gov/safe/">http://www.nps.gov/safe/</a>   | John Conoboy,<br>Chief of Interpretation and Resource Management;<br>505-988-6733;<br><a href="mailto:john_conoboy@nps.gov">john_conoboy@nps.gov</a>   |
| <b>State Grant Programs</b>                  |                              |  |  |   |   |   |   |  |
| Colorado Heritage Planning Grants            | Office of Smart Growth, DOLA | Trail plan or lodging/bed tax  | Helps local jurisdictions develop collaborative solutions to create healthy economies and build sustainable communities to manage growth. Projects funded include addressing loss of agriculture and open space, traffic congestion, fiscal impacts to local governments, etc. | Any local governments                         | Up to \$50,000. In cases where a large number of local governments apply jointly to fund a project, higher grant amounts will be considered. Approximately \$1.8 million has been awarded to projects involving approximately 100 local governments since the program's inception in 2000 | November 30   | <a href="http://www.dola.state.co.us/dlg/osg/index.htm">http://www.dola.state.co.us/dlg/osg/index.htm</a>   | Eric Bergman,<br>Director; Division of Local Government;<br>1313 Sherman St.<br>Room 521<br>Denver, CO 80203;<br>303-866-4552;<br><a href="mailto:eric.bergman@state.co.us">eric.bergman@state.co.us</a> |
| Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Program | DOLA                         | Wayside amenities, signage, trail construction   | Assists communities impacted by the growth and decline of extractive industries through assistance for improvements to public facilities and local government planning efforts.  | Local governments                             | \$500,000 is the suggested maximum grant guideline. Larger matching amounts are generally more competitive. Dollar for dollar match is recommended.   | April 1, August 1, December 1   | <a href="http://dola.colorado.gov/dlg/ta/eiaf/index.html">http://dola.colorado.gov/dlg/ta/eiaf/index.html</a>   | Lee Merkel,<br>Southeast Region Representative;<br>132 West "B" Street<br>Suite 260<br>Pueblo, CO 81003;<br>719-544-6577;<br><a href="mailto:lee.merkel@state.co.us">lee.merkel@state.co.us</a>          |
| Marketing Matching Grant Program             | Colorado Tourism Office      | Marketing plan, brochure, website development  | Two programs (Statewide Marketing Matching Grant Program and Regional Matching Grant Program) provide support for marketing projects including promotion, networking, communication, and education.  | Local governments or non-profit organizations | Up to \$15,000  | December 5<br>For every \$1 the organization allocates to the program, the CTO will provide \$2 in matching funds. Up to 15% of the match may be in-kind. | <a href="http://www.colorado.com/data/docs/Marketing%20Grant%20Criteria%20FY%202008.pdf">http://www.colorado.com/data/docs/Marketing%20Grant%20Criteria%20FY%202008.pdf</a> | Marketing Matching Program Manager;<br>303-892-3885  |

| Grant   | Agency or Organization | Appropriate Project(s)  | Details   | Eligibility Criteria   | Award Amount   | Deadline and Grant Specifics  | Website  | Contact  |
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| Local Parks and Outdoor Recreation grants                             | GOCO                   | Wayside amenities (picnic sites, rest stops or restrooms, parking areas, etc.), access points to Arkansas River, trails within parks (but not trails that are part of a larger trail network), environmental education facilities | To assist local governments in acquiring, expanding, enhancing and improving parks, outdoor recreation and environmental education facilities.  | Municipalities, counties, park and recreation special districts  | No limit. At least 25% of the total project cost in matching funds (cash and in-kind from the applicant and partners). Grantee must provide at least 10% of the total project cost in cash. Match can be waved or reduced if special circumstances exist.  | March, August   | <a href="http://www.goco.org/GrantPrograms">www.goco.org/GrantPrograms</a> | Wally Piccone, Senior Program Manager; 1600 Broadway Suite 1650 Denver, CO 80202; 303-226-4522; <a href="mailto:wpiccone@goco.org">wpiccone@goco.org</a> |
| Local Parks and Outdoor Recreation grants ( <i>Mini-grant cycle</i> ) | GOCO                   | Wayside amenities (picnic sites, rest stops or restrooms, parking areas, etc.), access points to Arkansas River, trails within parks (but not trails that are part of a larger trail network), environmental education facilities | This program allows smaller municipalities to apply for up to \$31,500 through a reduced grant application. GOCO will fund projects to expand, enhance and improve parks and related outdoor recreational facilities, including environmental education facilities. Projects may be for acquisition, renovation or enhancement of facilities, but not for operations and maintenance. | Local governments. (Majority of applications are from communities with a population of less than 5,000).   | Up to \$31,500. Applicants may request up to 70% of the total project cost. Total project cost can not exceed \$45,000. At least 25% of the total project cost in matching funds (cash and in-kind from the applicant and partners). Grantee must provide at least 10% of the total project cost in cash. Match can be waved or reduced if special | March, August   | <a href="http://www.goco.org/GrantPrograms">www.goco.org/GrantPrograms</a> | Wally Piccone, Senior Program Manager; 1600 Broadway Suite 1650 Denver, CO 80202; 303-226-4522; <a href="mailto:wpiccone@goco.org">wpiccone@goco.org</a> |
| Legacy Grant Program  | GOCO                   | Regional trail system, Arkansas River recreation access and riverwalk   | These projects are multi-year projects with regional or statewide significance.   | Local governments, land trusts and state agencies  | No limit. Typically multi-million dollar awards. Over \$211 million for 40 Legacy Projects has been awarded to date.   | Offered periodically depending on available resources. Colorado State Parks must be a partner for any outdoor recreation Legacy Grants. | <a href="http://www.goco.org/GrantPrograms">www.goco.org/GrantPrograms</a> | Wally Piccone, Senior Program Manager; 1600 Broadway Suite 1650 Denver, CO 80202; 303-226-4522; <a href="mailto:wpiccone@goco.org">wpiccone@goco.org</a> |
| Planning grants   | GOCO                   | Regional Outdoor Recreation Master Plan (including trails and Arkansas River recreation component)  | Must directly relate to an effort to identify or acquire open space, natural areas, or local park lands and encompass more than just trails.  | Municipalities, counties, non-profit land conservation organizations, CDOW, State Parks, and special districts (with land conservation as a primary purpose) | Up to \$75,000. At least 25% of the total project cost must be matched, with 10% in cash. Match can be waved or reduced if special circumstances exist.  | March, August   | <a href="http://www.goco.org/GrantPrograms">www.goco.org/GrantPrograms</a> | Wally Piccone, Senior Program Manager; 1600 Broadway Suite 1650 Denver, CO 80202; 303-226-4522; <a href="mailto:wpiccone@goco.org">wpiccone@goco.org</a> |

| Grant                                 | Agency or Organization | Appropriate Project(s)  | Details  | Eligibility Criteria  | Award Amount   | Deadline and Grant Specifics | Website   | Contact  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---|--|---|--|------------------------------|---|--|
| Open Space grants                     | GOCO                   | Acquisition of lands (stream/river corridors, greenways, etc.)              | Assists with acquiring prime agricultural lands, important wildlife habitats, buffers surrounding parks, natural areas and corridors between communities.  | Local governments, land trusts, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and Colorado State Parks   | No limit. Lands acquired should have limited facilities constructed on them.   | February, August             | <a href="http://www.goco.org/GrantPrograms">www.goco.org/GrantPrograms</a>  | Wally Piccone, Senior Program Manager; 1600 Broadway Suite 1650 Denver, CO 80202; 303-226-4522; <a href="mailto:wpiccone@goco.org">wpiccone@goco.org</a> |
| Fishing is Fun grants                 | CDOW                   | Fishing and river access, riparian restoration (including tamarisk removal) | Enhances Colorado's fishing resources through river access, habitat improvement, education, etc. and focuses on angler access, habitat development and improvements, and fishing site improvements. Involves local communities in a three-way partnership with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Federal Sportfish Restoration Act monies.                       | Local governments, park and recreation departments, water districts, individuals, conservation groups and other non-profit organizations  | \$1,000 to \$400,000. Has awarded \$20,000,000 since 1987. Must be matched with non federal cash or in kind services. Funds up to 75% of total expenses. | March                        | <a href="http://wildlife.state.co.us/Fishing/Resources/Tips/FishingIsFunProgram/">http://wildlife.state.co.us/Fishing/Resources/Tips/FishingIsFunProgram/</a> | Doug Krieger, Program Manager; Southeast Regional Service Center 4255 Sinton Road Colorado Springs, CO 80907; 719-227-5200 ext. 202                      |
| Colorado Wildlife Conservation Grants | CDOW                   | Arkansas River riparian corridor acquisition or improvements                | Supports projects on private lands to conserve, restore or enhance Colorado's threatened, endangered or declining wildlife species. Should benefit one or more of the 210 species determined to be in "greatest conservation need" according to the Colorado Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (which includes numerous species in the Southeast Region). | Private wildlife conservation or education organizations, local governments, higher education researchers, local governments, school districts, and any other entities outside the Department of Natural Resources. | Up to \$50,000. Projects must have 1:1 matching funds.   | February                     | <a href="http://www.wildlife.state.co.us">www.wildlife.state.co.us</a>  | Southeast Regional Service Center 4255 Sinton Road Colorado Springs, CO 80907; 719-227-5200 ext. 202   |

| Grant                     | Agency or Organization        | Appropriate Project(s)   | Details  | Eligibility Criteria   | Award Amount  | Deadline and Grant Specifics | Website   | Contact   |
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| Schoolyard Habitat Grants | CDOW                          | Environmental education projects   | Encourages teachers to create school-based learning programs that create habitats for native wildlife such as butterfly gardens, wetland creations, xeriscaping, nature trails, and urban wildlife habitat projects. | The School Habitat Project Fund has funds available for wildlife habitat improvement projects — for Project WILD, Project WET and Project Learning Tree teachers, their students, and schools. | Up to \$1,000.  | March                        | <a href="http://wildlife.state.co.us/Education/ServiceLearning/SchoolyardHabitatGrants/">http://wildlife.state.co.us/Education/ServiceLearning/SchoolyardHabitatGrants/</a> | Linda Groat, Southeast Region Education Coordinator; 2500 S. Main St. Lamar, CO 81052; 719-336-6608; <a href="mailto:Linda.groat@state.co.us">Linda.groat@state.co.us</a>             |
| Trail Planning Grants     | Colorado State Trails Program | Trail plan   | Projects related to trail planning, feasibility, trail inventory, trail use studies, analysis of existing and proposed trails, etc. for trails on lands open to the public.  | Local, county, and state governments; federal agencies; recreation and metro districts; and non-profit organizations with management responsibilities over public lands are eligible.          | Up to \$20,000. 25% match required.   | November 1                   | <a href="http://parks.state.co.us/Trails/Grants/">http://parks.state.co.us/Trails/Grants/</a>   | Casey Swanson, Southern Region Trail Coordinator; 4255 Sinton Road Colorado Springs, CO 80907; 719-227-5259; <a href="mailto:casey.swanson@state.co.us">casey.swanson@state.co.us</a> |
| Trail Construction Grants | Colorado State Trails Program | Trail construction   | For projects related to developing recreational trails on lands open to the public.  | Local, county, and state governments; federal agencies; recreation and metro districts; and non-profit organizations with management responsibilities over public lands are eligible.          | Several categories exist: small (up to \$25,000), mid-size (up to \$150,000) and large (up to \$200,000) Note: Only one construction and one planning application per agency/organization are permitted annually. Matches range between 25% match for small grants and equal match for mid and large scale. | November 1                   | <a href="http://parks.state.co.us/Trails/Grants/">http://parks.state.co.us/Trails/Grants/</a>   | Casey Swanson, Southern Region Trail Coordinator; 4255 Sinton Road Colorado Springs, CO 80907; 719-227-5259; <a href="mailto:casey.swanson@state.co.us">casey.swanson@state.co.us</a> |
| Special Projects Grants   | Colorado State Trails Program | Mapping navigable parts of Arkansas River and/or creating a tamarisk removal plan (including mapping), trail signage | For training in trails design, maintenance and/or construction, building of volunteer organization, mapping project, adopt-a-trail development, trail use education, and/or signage.                                 | Local, county, and state governments, federal agencies, recreation and metro districts, and non-profit organizations with management responsibilities over public lands are eligible.          | Up to \$20,000.   | November 1                   | <a href="http://parks.state.co.us/Trails/Grants/">http://parks.state.co.us/Trails/Grants/</a>   | Casey Swanson, Southern Region Trail Coordinator; 4255 Sinton Road Colorado Springs, CO 80907; 719-227-5259; <a href="mailto:casey.swanson@state.co.us">casey.swanson@state.co.us</a> |

| Grant                                     | Agency or Organization  | Appropriate Project(s)   | Details   | Eligibility Criteria  | Award Amount  | Deadline and Grant Specifics  | Website   | Contact  |
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| Active Community Environment Grants       | Colorado Physical Activity and Nutrition Program                          | Data collection for trail plan, identify funding strategies for trail plan, etc.   | Supports communities to be more active through community enhancements including design projects, sidewalks, parks, lighting, and other features.  | Local governments   | Up to \$4,000   | August  | <a href="http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/pp/CO/PAN/grants/index.html">http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/pp/CO/PAN/grants/index.html</a> | Shana Patterson, Dept. of Public Health and Environment; 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South Denver, CO 80246-1530; 303-692-2441; <a href="mailto:shana.patterson@state.co.us">shana.patterson@state.co.us</a> ; |
| Conservation Trust Fund (CTF)             | DOLA  | Outdoor recreation master plan or construction of parks, trails, and/or riverwalk on federal, state, or local government lands | Planning can encompass private lands but acquisition and/or construction must be on federal, state, or local government lands   | Local governments   | Varies (dependent on State Demographer's population estimates)  | Funds are allocated quarterly to each local government in Colorado. For details on how these grants have been allocated thus far, contact your local government agency. | <a href="http://www.dola.state.co.us">www.dola.state.co.us</a>  | Tamra Hooper, CTF Program Administrator; 303-866-6398; <a href="mailto:tamra.hooper@state.co.us">tamra.hooper@state.co.us</a>  |
| <b>Private Grant Programs</b>             |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| Kodak American Greenways Awards Program   | Eastman Kodak, The Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society | Consulting fees, marketing materials, interpretive signage, trail planning and construction, etc.                              | Facilitates the development of new greenway projects.   | Non-profits. Public agencies may also apply but community organizations receive preference. | Grants typically range from \$500 to \$1,000, with a maximum of \$2,500.  | Applications accepted each year between March 1 - June 15   | <a href="http://www.conservationsfund.org/node/245">http://www.conservationsfund.org/node/245</a>                               | 703-525-6300; <a href="mailto:kodakawards@conservationsfund.org">kodakawards@conservationsfund.org</a> ;   |
| Parks, Conservation and Recreation Grants | The Gates Family Foundation   | Trail planning and/or construction   | Funding focuses include: parks, conservation, and recreation and community development and revitalization. Gates has several foci including preserving ranch/agriculture lands through easements and supporting the state's trail system. | Non-profit organizations and government agencies  | No limit. Nearly \$4.1 million was awarded for parks, conservation, and recreation projects in 2006, approximately 50% of the Foundation's total budget. Note that although there is a community development and revitalization grant program, very little of the Foundation's budget was awarded in this area in 2006. | January 15 (review in early-April), April 1 (review in mid-June) July 1 (review in mid-September), October 1 (review in mid-December)                                   | <a href="http://www.gatesfamilyfoundation.org">www.gatesfamilyfoundation.org</a>  | Karen White Mather, Grants Manager, 575 Cherry Creek North Drive, Suite 100 Denver, CO 80209-3600; 303-722-1881; <a href="mailto:info@gatesfamilyfoundation.org">info@gatesfamilyfoundation.org</a>        |



| Grant                                | Agency or Organization                | Appropriate Project(s)  | Details   | Eligibility Criteria  | Award Amount  | Deadline and Grant Specifics   | Website   | Contact   |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| Facility Project Grants              | Bikes Belong Coalition                | Trail construction and bike lanes   | Aims to "connect existing facilities or create new opportunities; leverage federal, state, and private funds; influence policy; and generate economic activity." Eligible projects include bike paths, trails, routes, and bike lanes.  | Non-profit organizations and government agencies  | Up to \$10,000.   | Quarterly  | <a href="http://www.bikesbelong.org">www.bikesbelong.org</a>  | Elizabeth Train, Grants & Research Director; 303-449-4893 ext 3; <a href="mailto:elizabeth@bikesbelong.org">elizabeth@bikesbelong.org</a> |
| Bring Back the Natives Grant Program | National Fish and Wildlife Foundation | Tamarisk removal  | Provides funds to restore damaged or degraded riverine habitats for native aquatic species through watershed restoration and improved land management. Preference is given to projects that will keep sensitive or declining species off the Endangered Species List or for listed species that have a chance for recovery and de-listing within five to ten years. | Local governments, community/watershed groups, non-profits, educational institutions, conservation districts, state agencies, tribal agencies, and federal agency | Grants range from \$10,000 - \$100,000. Average grant size is \$60,000.                                 | December 2:1 non-federal match is required. Note, no funds available in 2006.  | <a href="http://www.nfwf.org">www.nfwf.org</a>  | 202-857-0166  |
| Western Land Protection Grants       | Hewlett-Packard Foundation            | Water acquisition and planning, land acquisition, and habitat restoration | Protects the great open spaces of the West. Specific grant programs include public finance for land conservation, western water reform, wilderness and roadless areas, impacts of motorized recreation.   | Non-profit organization   | From \$30,000 to over \$1 million. Grants similar in scope have been awarded for \$30,000 to \$200,000. | Ongoing, open application process. A letter of interest must be submitted via: <a href="http://www.hewlett.org/Grantseekers/ShortLOI.htm">http://www.hewlett.org/Grantseekers/ShortLOI.htm</a> | <a href="http://www.hewlett.org/Programs/Environment/West/WestCriteria.htm">http://www.hewlett.org/Programs/Environment/West/WestCriteria.htm</a> | 2121 Sand Hill Road<br>Menlo Park, CA, 94025;<br>650-234-4500   |

| Grant                        | Agency or Organization     | Appropriate Project(s)  | Details  | Eligibility Criteria                           | Award Amount   | Deadline and Grant Specifics   | Website   | Contact   |
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| Concrete Connections Program | Colorado Walks             | Sidewalk-based trails   | CCF provides a funding source for local sidewalk system improvements.  | Non-profits and local governments              | To be determined   | Opening call for grants will begin January 2008  | <a href="http://www.coloradowalks.org/ccf.php">www.coloradowalks.org/ccf.php</a>  | PO Box 24007<br>Denver, CO 80224;<br>303-549-5081;<br>303-549-5081;<br><a href="mailto:info@coloradowalks.org">info@coloradowalks.org</a>   |
| Worldwide Grant Program      | Tourism Cares              | Interpretive signage  | Primarily funds: capital improvements that protect, restore, or conserve sites of exceptional cultural, historic, or natural significance, or education of communities and the public about conservation and preservation of sites of exceptional cultural, historical, or natural significance. | Non-profit organizations                       | Typical grants are \$10,000  | February, May, October   | <a href="http://www.tourismcares.org/WorldwideGrantProgram.aspx">http://www.tourismcares.org/WorldwideGrantProgram.aspx</a> | Carolyn Viles,<br>Grants Program Director,<br>585 Washington St.<br>Canton, MA 02021;<br>781-821-5990;<br><a href="mailto:carolynv@tourismcares.org">carolynv@tourismcares.org</a>                            |
| General grants               | Anschutz Family Foundation | Outdoor or environmental education plan or programs, marketing materials, continued support for the SE regional Tourism Group | Aims to improve the lives of individuals, promote self-sufficiency, and assist with community development. Foundation welcomes requests for general operating support and efforts designed to promote increased organizational capacity.   | Non-profit organization                        | \$2,500 to \$10,000. Awarded \$2.3 million in 2006. (Note: SE Regional Tourism Group was supported by Anschutz in 2006).                                       | January 15, August 1. Only one proposal per year per organization permitted.   | <a href="http://www.anschutzfamilyfoundation.org/info.htm">http://www.anschutzfamilyfoundation.org/info.htm</a>             | The Anschutz Family Foundation;<br>555 17 <sup>th</sup> St.<br>Suite 2400<br>Denver, CO 80202;<br>303-293-2338;<br><a href="mailto:info@anschutzfamilyfoundation.org">info@anschutzfamilyfoundation.org</a> ; |
| General grants               | El Pomar Foundation        | Any of the priority projects  | Mission is to "enhance, encourage and promote the current and future well being of the people of Colorado through grantmaking and community stewardship."  | Non-profit organizations and local governments | Median grant: \$22,000; typical awards are between \$2,500 - \$50,000. Grants greater than \$100,000 are possible, particularly outside of Front Range region. | Ongoing, open cycle. Entities receiving grants must wait three years before re-applying. (Note: Bent County Dev. Foundation and Crowley County received grants in 2006). | <a href="http://www.elpomar.org">www.elpomar.org</a>  | 719-633-7733;<br><a href="mailto:grants@elpomar.org">grants@elpomar.org</a>   |

| Grant  | Agency or Organization            | Appropriate Project(s)            | Details  | Eligibility Criteria                                | Award Amount   | Deadline and Grant Specifics   | Website   | Contact   |
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| Fundraising Capacity-Building Program Grants | Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation | Developing fundraising strategies | Grants are for the purpose of helping conservation-focused organizations develop and execute a fundraising capacity-building program. Ideally, this fundraising should be a marketing tool to focus on raising new and additional money. | Non-profit organizations with a conservation focus. | Initial grants are typically between \$1,500 - \$2,000 with the possibility of much larger grants after building a relationship. Requires a minimum of a 10:1 match. | Ongoing.<br>By invitation only. Must meet with the group and acquaint them with your organization. | <a href="http://earthfriends.com/index.htm">http://earthfriends.com/index.htm</a> | Lee Robert,<br>Executive Director;<br>P.O. Box 11217<br>Jackson, WY<br>83002;<br><a href="mailto:lee@earthfriends.com">lee@earthfriends.com</a> ; |

| Additional Resources   |  |  |  |   |         |                         |   |  |
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| Agency   | Services and Resources                                   | Appropriate Project(s)   | Description  | Eligibility Criteria  | Award   | Deadline and Cycle Info | Website   | Contact  |
| Office of Smart Growth, DOLA   | Technical and planning assistance                        | Planning assistance  | Provides technical and financial assistance to local governments in the areas of land use planning and growth management through a variety of programs.                                      | Local governments   | Various | Ongoing                 | <a href="http://www.dola.state.co.us/osg/index.htm">http://www.dola.state.co.us/osg/index.htm</a> | Eric Bergman,<br>Director, Division of Local Government;<br>1313 Sherman St.<br>Room 521<br>Denver, CO 80203;<br>303-866-4552;<br><a href="mailto:eric.bergman@state.co.us">eric.bergman@state.co.us</a> |
| National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) | Planning assistance for trails and conservation projects | Arkansas River water recreation plan, trail plan, public process component, tamarisk removal, arranging conservation easements, etc. | RTCA provides technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. | State or local agency, tribe, non-profit organization, or citizens' group. Federal agencies, including the NPS, may apply only in collaboration with a non-federal partner. | Varies  | August 1                | <a href="http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/">http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/</a>       | Kay Salazar;<br>303-969-2857;<br><a href="mailto:kay_salazar@nps.gov">kay_salazar@nps.gov</a> ;  |

| Agency   | Services and Resources                                 | Appropriate Project(s)                | Description  | Eligibility Criteria   | Award  | Deadline and Cycle Info  | Website   | Contact  |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| State Community Revitalization Partnership                 | DOLA   | Marketing/Riverwalk                   | Provides economic development opportunities related to historic preservation to downtowns and community centers. Specifically, assists with advisory services, targeted technical assistance, and educational opportunities. Projects have included special event promotion, marketing plans, etc.         | This program is for communities with less than 20,000 residents and those that have not been designated Colorado Main Street communities.  | DOLA funds will combine with up to a 50% local match to pay for the assessment and technical assistance services. No match is required for scholarships. | Ongoing. Communities interested in applying for funds must first contact CCRA or their DOLA field representative. A Letter of Interest must then be submitted to DOLA. | <a href="http://www.ccraonline.org">www.ccraonline.org</a>  | Charlie Unsel, Division of Local Government; 1313 Sherman St. Room 521 Denver, CO 80203; 303.866.2156; Fax: 303.866.4819; <a href="mailto:charles.unsel@state.co.us">charles.unsel@state.co.us</a> |
| Main Street Program  | Colorado Community Revitalization Association and DOLA | Riverwalk                             | Provides long-term technical assistance, access to training opportunities, and direct help from a nationwide network of downtown revitalization professionals and organizations.   | Must be a designated "Main Street" community and commit to hire a full-time paid program director for at least three years. Communities with a population under 2,500 may petition to allow for a part-time manager. | Varies   | Annual, open application process. Deadline: early July   | <a href="http://www.dola.state.co.us/dlg/fa/crp/index.html">http://www.dola.state.co.us/dlg/fa/crp/index.html</a>                 | Katherine Correll; 240 S. Broadway Suite 102 Denver, CO 80209; 303.282.0625; <a href="mailto:info@ccraonline.org">info@ccraonline.org</a>  |
| Partners for Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration Program | DOI US Fish and Wildlife Service                       | Riparian restoration on private lands | Provides technical assistance to private landowners interested in restoring or improving native habitats for fish and wildlife including riparian habitats. In the Southeast, the program has completed 160 landowner agreements covering 1,757 wetland acres, 27,883 upland acres, and 30 riparian miles. | Private landowners   | Varies. Some private landowner costs are incurred, on average about \$45/acre.   | Open cycle   | <a href="http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/piw/colorado/co35.htm">http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/piw/colorado/co35.htm</a> | Katy Fitzgerald, Partners for Fish and Wildlife; Bent County Agricultural Bldg. 760 Bent Avenue Las Animas, CO 81054-1730; <a href="mailto:katy_fitzgerald@fws.gov">katy_fitzgerald@fws.gov</a>    |

| Agency  | Services and Resources | Appropriate Project(s)   | Description   | Eligibility Criteria | Award   | Deadline and Cycle Info   | Website   | Contact  |
|---|------------------------|--|---|----------------------|---|---|---|--|
| UCDHSC/DOLA Colorado Center for Community Development | UCDHSC/DOLA            | Trail planning, interpretive signage, wayfinding signage, feasibility study for lodging tax, etc.  | Provides Colorado communities with design and planning assistance on a wide range of open space, development, and community service issues.   | Local governments    | Match is usually between 50%-60% of total project cost. | Two application cycles: prior to beginning of fall and winter semesters.        | <a href="http://www.cudenver.edu/Academics/Colleges/ArchitecturePlanning/Centers/Co%20Ctr%20of%20Community%20Development/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.cudenver.edu/Academics/Colleges/ArchitecturePlanning/Centers/Co%20Ctr%20of%20Community%20Development/Pages/default.aspx</a> | Judith Bergquist;<br>303-556-6658;<br><a href="mailto:judith.bergquist@cu-denver.edu">judith.bergquist@cu-denver.edu</a>   |
| CSU/DOLA Technical Assistance Program                 | CSU/DOLA               | Trail planning, marketing materials including website, interpretive signage, wayfinding signage, feasibility study for lodging tax, etc. | Provides technical assistance to 34 counties in Eastern, Southeastern, and South Central Colorado. The <i>Rural Assistance Program</i> offers affordable, professional design, planning, and technical assistance to rural communities with fewer than 8,000 residents. Projects are varied and have included: parks, trails, and open space planning; website development; research and planning; etc. | Local governments    | Requires a \$500 local match                            | Annually. Must be submitted at beginning of school year, preferably mid-summer. | <a href="http://www.coopext.colorado.edu/cd/">www.coopext.colorado.edu/cd/</a>  | Diana Laughlin;<br>Union Depot<br>132 W. B St.<br>Suite 260<br>Pueblo, CO 81003-3458;<br>719.545.9393;<br><a href="mailto:Diana.Laughlin@ColoradoState.edu">Diana.Laughlin@ColoradoState.edu</a> ; |



## **Appendix C: Key Contacts**





| Organization/Agency                                     | First Name | Last Name  | Title   | Address  | Phone #            | Email  |
|---|------------|------------|---|--|--------------------|--|
| CDOT Scenic Byways Program                              | Sally      | Pearce     | Scenic Byways Program Coordinator               | 4201 E. Arkansas, Denver, CO 80222                     | 303-757-9786       | <a href="mailto:Sally.Pearce@dot.state.co.us">Sally.Pearce@dot.state.co.us</a>   |
| Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area                     | Robert     | White      | Park Manager                                    | 307 W. Sackett Ave., Salida, CO 81201                  | 719-539-7289       | <a href="mailto:ahra@state.co.us">ahra@state.co.us</a>                           |
| Arkansas Valley Audubon Society                         | Lura       | Zimmerman  | President                                       | PO Box 11187, Pueblo, CO 81001                         | 719-543-4690       | <a href="mailto:lura_gsc@aculink.net">lura_gsc@aculink.net</a>                   |
| Bicycle Colorado  | Dan        | Grunig     | Executive Director                              | 1525 Market St., Suite 100, Denver, CO 80202           | 303-417-1544       | <a href="mailto:dan@bicyclecolorado.org">dan@bicyclecolorado.org</a>             |
| Colorado Backcountry Horsemen                           | Carole     | Schoenrock | Rocky Mountain Chapter Treasurer                | PO Box 41, Penrose, CO 81240                           | 719-942-3390       |  |
| Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)            | Wendy      | Pettit     | Region 2 Planner                                | 905 Erie Ave., Pueblo, CO 81002                        | 7195465748         | <a href="mailto:wendy.pettit@dot.state.co.us">wendy.pettit@dot.state.co.us</a>   |
| Colorado General Assembly                               | Greg       | Brophy     | Colorado State Senator, District 1              | 200 E. Colfax, Denver, CO 80203                        | 303-866-6360       | <a href="mailto:greg@gregbrophy.net">greg@gregbrophy.net</a>                     |
| Colorado Horse Council (COHOCO)                         | Brian      | Kitchen    | Executive Director                              | 420 E. 58th Ave., Ste. 145, Denver, CO 80216           | 303-292-4981       |  |
| Colorado Mountain Biking Association (COMBA)            | Terry      | Breheny    | Outreach Committee Chair                        | PO Box 280415, Lakewood, CO 80228-0415                 |                    | <a href="mailto:outreach@comba.org">outreach@comba.org</a>                       |
| Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition (COHVCO)         | Jerry      | Abboud     | Legislative Affairs Specialist                  | 2003 W. Alameda, Denver, CO 80223                      | 303-539-5010       | <a href="mailto:jabboud@cohvco.org">jabboud@cohvco.org</a>                       |
| Colorado Range Riders Youth Corps                       | Helena     | Shea       | Executive Director                              | P.O. Box 1583, 109 Front St., Sterling, CO 80751       | 970-522-7322       | <a href="mailto:corangeriders@hotmail.com">corangeriders@hotmail.com</a>         |
| Colorado Round Up Riders                                | Bill       | Packard    | Executive Secretary                             | 1733 S Uinta Way, Denver, CO 80231-2911                | 303-755-9243       |  |
| Colorado State Trails Program                           | Casey      | Swanson    | Southern Region Trail Coordinator               | 4255 Sinton Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80907            | 719-227-5259       | <a href="mailto:casey.swanson@state.co.us">casey.swanson@state.co.us</a>         |
| CSU/DOLA Technical Assistance Program                   | Diana      | Laughlin   | Extension Specialist                            | Union Depot, 132 W. B St., Suite 260, Pueblo, CO 81003 | 719-545-9393       | <a href="mailto:Diana.Laughlin@ColoState.edu">Diana.Laughlin@ColoState.edu</a>   |
| CU/DOLA Rural Assistance Program                        | Judith     | Bergquist  | Associate Director Rural Programs Denver        |  | 303-556-6658       | <a href="mailto:Judith.Bergquist@cudenver.edu">Judith.Bergquist@cudenver.edu</a> |
| Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)                      | Lee        | Merkel     | Southeast Region Representative                 | 132 W. "B" St., Suite 260, Pueblo, CO 81003            | 719-544-6577       | <a href="mailto:lee.merkel@state.co.us">lee.merkel@state.co.us</a>               |
| Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Smart Growth Program | Eric       | Bergman    | Director of Office of Smart Growth              | 1313 Sherman St., Room 521, Denver, CO 80203           | 303-866-4552       | <a href="mailto:eric.bergman@state.co.us">eric.bergman@state.co.us</a>           |
| Cobb & Associates (Town of Fruita PR Firm)              | Eric       | Mello      | Senior Marketing Director                       | 743 Horizon Ct., Suite 201, Grand Junction, CO 81056   | 970-242-7674 EXT 9 | <a href="mailto:eric@caa.com">eric@caa.com</a>                                   |
| Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)                          | Wally      | Piccone    | Senior Program Manager                          | 1600 Broadway, Suite 1650 Denver, CO 80202             | 303-226-4522       | <a href="mailto:wpiccone@goco.org">wpiccone@goco.org</a>                         |
| International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA)        | Josh       | Osterhoudt | Eastern Colorado State Representative           |  | 719-599-0149       | <a href="mailto:Medwheeljo@aol.com">Medwheeljo@aol.com</a>                       |
| National Park Service National Historic Trails Program  | John       | Conoboy    | Chief of Interpretation and Resource Management | P.O. Box 728, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0728          | 505-988-6733       | <a href="mailto:john_conoboy@nps.gov">john_conoboy@nps.gov</a>                   |

| Organization/Agency  | First Name | Last Name | Title                       | Address                                  | Phone #        | Email  |
|--|------------|-----------|-----------------------------|--|----------------|--|
| National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) | Joy        | Lujan     | Community Planner           | P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225         | 303-969-2853   | <a href="mailto:Joy.Lujan@nps.gov">Joy.Lujan@nps.gov</a>                 |
| Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT)                   | Darlene    | Scott     | Development Representative  | P.O. Box 386, Burlington, CO 80807       | 719-346-4644   | <a href="mailto:darlene.scott@state.co.us">darlene.scott@state.co.us</a> |
| Vaqueros Riding Club   | Barbara    | Cook      | Race Organizer              | P.O. Box 1473, Lamar, CO 81052           | 719-336-7156   | <a href="mailto:haircuts_plus@yahoo.com">haircuts_plus@yahoo.com</a>     |
| Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado  | Bevin      | Carithers | Deputy Director of Programs | 600 South Marion Pkwy., Denver, CO 80209 | (303) 715-1010 | <a href="mailto:bevin@voc.org">bevin@voc.org</a>                         |