

**Segment 4: VALLIE BRIDGE TO PARKDALE  
(See Illustration 2-4)**

**1. Resource Management**

**a. Protection**

- \* Protect wildlife resources within this segment.

**b. Rehabilitation**

- \* Work with CDOW to maintain and improve fishery quality.
- \* Stabilize river erosion at river recreation sites {i.e. Canyon Trading Post, Lone Pine and Spikebuck}.

**2. Visitor Management**

**a. Visitor Information and Interpretation**

- \* Post information signs including placement of the large AHRA informational sign.
- \* Inform public of proper use of McIntyre Hills WSA with a kiosk at Five Points day use parking area and provide information about low impact use of WSA (i.e. pack-in/pack-out).

**b. Indirect Controls**

- \* Reduce traffic safety problems near developed sites along highway.
- \* Restrict recreation pedestrian traffic for public safety purposes along the highway, except where no alternative exists.
- \* Convert old Parkdale to fishing access, but only after buying/leasing downstream site for all users.

**c. Direct Controls**

- \* Reduce pedestrian/vehicle conflicts along highway at Cottonwood Rapid during special events (i.e., FIBArk).

\* Allow northside river recreational use as an exception to the Bighorn protection mitigation only at Vallie Bridge, Devil’s Hole, Three Rocks Portage and Texas Creek Sites.

\* Allow river lunch stop re-development at Lower Flood Plain Site as an exception to the riparian protection mitigation.

\* Require the use of portable toilets at the Devil’s Hole site for day use and overnight stops.

\* Allow only private boat launching at the Five Points recreation site.

### 3. Facility Management

#### a. Site Development

The planned site development for those recreation and access sites within river segment four are shown below in Table 2-5.

**Table 2-5 Segment Four - Site Development**

| Site Name           | Planned Site Development   | Development Remaining  |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Canyon Trading Post | Work to develop this recreation site. Provide for a boat ramp, signing, picnicking, fishing access, wildlife viewing & sanitation facilities. Work with CDOW to carry out needed bank stabilization effort. Work with CDOT to develop acceleration and deceleration vehicle lanes at this site entrance. | Wildlife viewing display, bank stabilization work & fishing trail.   |
| Loma Linda          | Work to develop this fishing access site.  | Signing, trail & river step enhancements.  |
| Lone Pine           | Work to develop this recreation site. Provide for fishing & boating access, signing, picnicking, wildlife viewing, parking, handicapped fishing trail & sanitation facilities. Work with CDOT to develop acceleration and deceleration vehicle lanes at this site entrance.                              | Entry & other signing, boat landing improvements, picnic tables w/sun shelters & wildlife viewing station. |
| Fernleaf Gulch      | Work to develop this access site. Provide signing & parking with riparian protective measures.   | Signing & parking improvements with barriers for wetland protection.                                       |

|               |  |  |
|---------------|--|--|
| Texas Creek   | Work to develop this recreation site. Provide for fishing access, boat ramp improvements, parking improvements, signing, picnicking, developed campsites, potable water, historic & wildlife interpretive displays w/wildlife viewing station, group camp site/lunch stop site on east end boat landing enhancements with sanitation facilities. In addition, provide for enhancements to the AHRA down river ranger station/maintenance facility, i.e. removal of barns/sheds, new roof on station, handicap accessibility, furnishings, etc. | Entry, three panel & other signing, picnic sites w/shelters, developed group campsite, developed campsites, boat landing improvements, road & parking improvements & toilets. In addition, complete all ranger station improvements. |
| Maytag        | Work to develop this public access & primitive camping site. Provide primitive camping, wildlife viewing, road improvements, signing & sanitation facilities.  | Entry, three panel & other signing, primitive campsites, wildlife viewing station, road & parking development & toilet.  |
| Devil's Hole  | Work to develop this group boat-in campsite/lunch stop. Provide campsites & signing.   | Signing, tent pads & fire rings.   |
| Pinnacle Rock | Work to develop this recreation site. Provide for a fishing & boating access, boat ramp improvements, road & parking improvements, signing, picnicking, wildlife viewing station & sanitation facilities. Work with CDOT to develop vehicle acceleration & deceleration vehicle lanes at this site entrance.   | Entry & other signing, add picnic table sun shelters & a wildlife viewing station.   |
| Three Rocks   | Work with AROA & railroad to develop safety boating portage & scouting at this rapid. Provide for a river rapid portage/scouting trail & signing.  | Signing, portage landing, trail, rapid scouting viewing pad & launch landing.  |
| Salt Lick     | Work with CDOT to develop this boating access site. Provide for signing, parking improvements & sanitation facilities.   | Entry sign, three panel sign, parking enhancements & toilet.   |
| Five Points   | Work to develop this recreation site. Provide for a fishing & boating access, rapid running viewing, campsite improvements, road & parking improvements, signing, picnicking, wildlife viewing station, potable water & sanitation facilities. Work with CDOT to develop acceleration & deceleration vehicle lanes at this site entrance.  | Entry & other signing, additional wildlife & cultural interpretive signing, potable water well system, WSA information display & sun shelters to picnic and campsite tables.   |

|                   |  |  |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Lower Flood Plain | Work to develop this on-river lunch stop. Provide for boat-in group lunch stop & sanitation facilities.  | Add group four table picnic shelter & replace old toilet.  |
| Spikebuck         | Work to develop this recreation site. Provide for fishing access, boat landing, wildlife viewing station, historical interpretive displays, picnicking & sanitation facilities. Work with CDOT to develop acceleration & deceleration vehicle lanes at this site entrance.                           | Entry, three panel & other signing, additional wildlife & cultural interpretive signing/displays, additional highway berms & additional picnic tables w/sun shelters.  |
| Bootlegger        | Work to maintain public river access & river lunch stop sanitation facilities.   | Entry, three panel, & other signing. Parking improvements.   |
| Old Parkdale      | Work to maintain public river access.  | N/A  |
| Parkdale          | Work to develop this recreation site. Provide for a fishing & boating access, boat ramp improvements, road & parking improvements, signing, group lunch stop sheltered areas, picnicking & sanitation facilities. Work with CDOT to develop acceleration & deceleration lanes at this site entrance. | Entry signing, three additional four table picnic shelters, road/parking/trail improvements, addition of a large group shelter over existing table area, addition of picnic table sun shelters & additional toilets. |

**b. Maintenance**

(See Areawide Actions)

**4. Access and Easement Acquisition**

- \* Identify and provide river accessible camping location and primitive facilities between Vallie Bridge and Parkdale.
- \* Acquire the small narrow strip of private river frontage upriver from the Texas Gulch bridge for public access and fishing.
- \* Buy or lease property downstream from present “old” Parkdale site.
- \* Consider placing Texas Creek, Maytag, Lower Flood Plain and Bootlegger sites under a R&PP lease to CDPOR if development is to take place.

**5. Administration**

**a. Coordination**

CDPOR/  
BLM

\* Work with landowners and counties to alleviate safety problems at pedestrian bridges.

\* Cooperate with CDOT to improve roadside parking and safety at Three Rocks Rapid.

\* Ensure river management and use does not result in impacts to McIntyre Hills WSA, which are inconsistent with BLM Interim Management Policy guidelines.

**b. Studies/Monitoring**

\* Monitor bighorn populations and reaction to public use.

\* Implement habitat improvement measures for bighorn sheep to reduce sheep dependence on habitats adjacent to the river.

\* Annually monitor resource quality in the portion of the WSA used by river recreationists (Five Points area).

**c. Supplemental Staffing/Special Programs**

\* Seek volunteer help in completing stream improvement/bighorn watering projects.

**Illustration 2-4 Segment 4**

**Segment 5: PARKDALE TO CANON CITY**  
**(See Illustration 2-5)**

**1. Resource Management**

**a. Protection**

\* Conduct Class 1 paleontology inventory before surface disturbing activities (Morrison Formation in the Parkdale area).

\* Collaborate with commercial mining interests for potential opportunities to protect riparian and esthetic values, as well as provide future public access to the north side of the river corridor in the Parkdale area.

**b. Rehabilitation**

\* Reduce manmade dangers and unsightly structures in this segment.

**2. Visitor Management**

**a. Visitor Information and Interpretation**

\* Post information signs and provide interpretation as shown in the AHRA Interpretive Plan [at Parkdale site].

\* Provide warnings about the manmade hazards and “expert” nature of the river below Parkdale.

**b. Indirect Controls**

(See Areawide Actions)

**c. Direct Controls**

\* Enforce railroad right-of-way restrictions.

### 3. Facility Management

#### a. Site Development

The planned site development for those recreation and access sites within river segment five are shown below in Table 2-6.

**Table 2-6 Segment Five - Site Development**

| Site Name                | Planned Site Development   | Development Remaining  |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Parkdale South # 1 & # 2 | Work to maintain public river fishing & gold placering access. Provide signing, parking, road & trail improvements.  | Additional signing, trail enhancements, road & parking improvements. |
| Royal Gorge              | Work to develop this public access site. Provide access through the "Pink House" property to the public lands upriver near Grape Creek.  | Entry sign & other signing, road & trail improvements.               |
| Canon City               | Assist Canon City in providing boater/fishing access, sanitation, changing & picnicking facilities, hiking/biking/nature trails, parking, traffic controls & other day use facilities. | N/A  |

#### b. Maintenance

(See Areawide Actions)

### 4. Access and Easement Acquisition

\* Acquire easement or use agreement to Grape Creek property for public recreation access through the "Pink House" gated area to the Royal Gorge.

\* Attempt to acquire a use agreement with railroad for all commercial photographers to be allowed into locations within the Royal Gorge.



## **5. Administration**

### **a. Coordination**

CDPOR/  
BLM

\* Collaborate with Royal Gorge Scenic and Rock-n-Rail Railroads, Canon City and Fremont County to provide for visitor and railroad safety, establish workable communications, provide needed signing, place emergency first aid equipment and provide emergency rail access while attempting to enhance trail access into the Royal Gorge.

### **b. Studies/Monitoring**

\* Provide technical assistance to Canon City if needed for river/boat related facilities.

### **c. Supplemental Staffing/Special Programs**

(See Areawide Actions)

**Illustration II-5 Segments 5 & 6**

## **Segment 6: CANON CITY TO PUEBLO RESERVOIR**

### **1. Resource Management**

#### **a. Protection**

\* Protect natural, avian and other wildlife values at use sites from human disturbance where feasible.

#### **b. Rehabilitation**

\* Work with CDOW, Audubon Society and others to restore avian and other wildlife related resources, i.e. cottonwood trees, wetland habitats, etc. where feasible.

### **2. Visitor Management**

#### **a. Visitor Information and Interpretation**

\* Include information in park brochures to educate users about private lands.

\* Develop interpretive signing at the heron rookeries requesting low noise levels from May 1 through July 15 to avoid disturbance to nesting birds.

\* Develop interpretive watchable wildlife kiosk at the Blue Heron and/or CF&I Dam/Valco Pond sites.

\* Develop avian observation stations at the Blue Heron and/or CF&I Dam/Valco Pond sites.

#### **b. Indirect Controls**

\* Recommend and encourage maximum group size limits (affecting both numbers of people per group and boats per group) on all boating parties using this segment below Florence to maintain solitude and protect area bird life. In addition, make specific criteria and rationale related to group size, bird life and solitude available in brochures and post it at key ingress points (i.e. the new Blue Heron Property) throughout the entire segment.

#### **c. Direct Controls**

\*Establish restrictions on recreation if warranted to protect heron rookeries and other wildlife, i.e. consider seasonal closures of portions of the new Blue Heron and/or CF&I Dam/Valco Pond sites during special seasons if needed.

\* Establish a site capacity at the new Blue Heron and/or CF&I Dam/Valco Pond sites to manage an appropriate level of use at these wildlife related facilities.

\* Although wildlife, riparian and aquatic values will be taken into consideration in the development of Blue Heron and/or CF&I Dam/Valco Pond sites, providing recreational facility development and access to these facilities for the public will also occur.

### 3. Facility Management

#### a. Site Development

The planned site development for those recreation and access sites within river segment six are shown below in Table 2-7.

**Table 2-7 Segment Six - Site Development**

| Site Name              | Planned Site Development   | Development Remaining   |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Estes Overlook Gateway | Work with various other partners, i.e. Dinosaur Center/Gold Belt/Canon City & Florence/CDOC/CDOW/CDOT/etc. to develop this as a gateway site. Provide signing, visitor information, parking improvements & sanitation facilities.  | Gateway, entry, three panel & other signing & toilet.   |
| CF&I Dam/ VALCO Pond   | Work with private owners & other partners, i.e. Canon Metro Recreation District, Fremont County, Green Belt Group, etc. to develop safety boating portage & scouting at this dam. Provide for a river rapid portage around this dam, portage trail, parking, pond fishing access, wildlife viewing, signing & sanitation facilities. | Entry, three panel & other signing, parking improvements, picnic sites w/sun shelters, handicap fishing pier on lake, portage trail/steps, wildlife viewing station & toilet. |

|              |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|
| Blue Heron   | Work with other partners, i.e. Transit Mix Inc, Fremont County, Audubon Society, etc. to develop this recreation site. Provide for a river/lake fishing access, river canoe access, nature & wildlife viewing trails, wildlife viewing stations, road & parking improvements, campsites, riparian/wetland interpretive displays & trail, signing & sanitation facilities. | Entry, three panel & other signing, entrance station, potable water well system, road/parking improvements, picnic sites w/sun shelters, heron viewing station & trails, canoe landing, wetland interpretive displays, hiking trails & toilets. |
| Beaver Creek | Work to provide public river access & parking.  | Entry sign & other signing, trail & parking improvements.   |

**b. Maintenance**

(See Areawide Actions)

**4. Access and Easement**

\* Acquire a site adjacent to the CF&I Dam/Valco Pond for boating safety portage & utilization of the pond area for fishing and wildlife viewing. If acquired by BLM, consider leasing this to CDPOR under the R&PP so that development could take place.

\* Work with various partners {i.e. Gold Belt Byway Commission, Garden Park Paleontological Society, Fremont County, the communities of Canon City, Florence, Cripple Creek, Victor, etc.} to acquire or exchange for a small property at the US Highway 67/50 intersection for an AHRA gateway/publc visitor information site.

\* Complete the acquisition of the Blue Heron Property on the river in eastern Fremont County for utilization of the river and lakes for fishing and wildlife viewing as well as for river boating access. If acquired by BLM, consider leasing this to CDPOR under the R&PP so that development could take place.

\* Acquire lands for public access off County Road 112 on the south side of the river near Beaver Creek to ensure legal access to the site for management. If acquired by BLM, consider leasing this to CDPOR under the R&PP so that development could take place.

**5. Administration**

**a. Coordination**

- CDPOR/ \* Consult with CDOW on fishing access areas,  
heron  
BLM rookeries and other wildlife considerations.
- \* Explore feasibility and work with owners and local agencies and organizations to develop a boat chute or a portage around the CF&I Dam/Valco Pond below Canon City.
- \* Provide site planning assistance if requested to the City of Florence for river access site improvements.

**b. Studies/Monitoring**

- \* Monitor the great blue heron rookeries and other wildlife sites along the river.

**c. Supplemental Staffing/Special Programs**

(See Areawide Actions)

**G. IMPLEMENTATION PHASING**

The management actions listed in this chapter are somewhat generalized. CDPOR's and other AHRA partners' ability to carry them out depends on a number of factors including: available funding (e.g., user fee revenue, acquisition funding), dependence on other cooperators (e.g., CDOT, Pueblo Board of Water Works, Homestake) and successful negotiations with the private sector (e.g., access and easement acquisitions). The phase chart done in 1989 has been 90% implemented to date and does not appear to be needed to display the remaining actions in this prioritized format: therefore, we have eliminated it. However, it is expected that the partners will continue to actively pursue the remaining acquisition and development priorities. See APPENDIX D for the details of these priorities.