

## **Scenic Byways and Watchable Wildlife – Natural Partners**



### **FINAL REPORT**



**Compiled by John Koshak, SE Region Watchable Wildlife Coordinator**

**Colorado Division of Wildlife – CDOT Watchable Wildlife On Byways Grant**

## **Final Report - Colorado Division of Wildlife – CDOT Watchable Wildlife On Byways Grant – 12/31/2007**

### **Introduction - Scenic Byways and Watchable Wildlife – Natural Partners**

Driving for pleasure ranks very high on the scale of activities that Colorado residents and visitors enjoy as they travel around our state. Colorado's outstanding Scenic Byways provide some of the finest "back roads" adventures available in the country, giving travelers a chance to slow down and experience the natural and cultural resources that make Colorado great. While scenery and history have traditionally been the reason for byway designation, these byways are also excellent in their wildlife viewing potential. Development of Watchable Wildlife (WW) sites along our scenic highways provides the byway traveler with a richer and more satisfying experience.

Most byways have been designated to assist local and regional economies of rural areas in their economic development. By attracting visitors to an area, the byway provides much needed income influx to otherwise depressed rural areas. By providing a means of attracting visitors to enjoy the rural communities and their unique lifestyles, the preservation of these rural towns and their cultures can be part of a regional plan that focuses on the protection of the uniqueness in the "way of life" of rural regions and their inhabitants, without changing the very thing that makes them so appealing.

By combining the role of the byways with wildlife watching interpretation and experiences, the visitor will appreciate not only the cultural conditions of rural Colorado but also the critical connection that our rural hamlets have with the natural world. Hunting and fishing recreation have long been an economic boost to rural communities, but it is now time to provide visitors with high-quality WW opportunities, as well. Attracting travelers to WW viewing sites enhances their experience and can serve to attract visitors for a longer time frame, thus enhancing the economic impact of the byway to the community.

This project focuses on coordination of WW interpretation for byway wayside sites and interpretation. By working with each byway and with other partners from private landowners to federal agencies, the Colorado Division of Wildlife provides the expertise and administration to assist each byway in providing watchable wildlife waysides for byway visitors.

Before this grant, a few of the state's byways had developed some WW interpretation along their routes. And the Division had worked on an individual basis with a handful of the state's byways to provide some watchable wildlife interpretation, but, the attraction of wildlife and wildlife viewing must be a key component in every byway's interpretive strategy. As the state's byways worked with the Division on this project, each participating byway was able to develop their own relationship with the WW resources along their routes, and in doing so they now enable their visitors to find the best viewing sites along their byway and develop expectations of exciting wildlife viewing experiences.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	Page 2
Project #1: Pawnee Pioneer Trail Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 4
Project #2: Mount Evans Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 6
Project #3: South Platte River Trail Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 8
Project # 4: Guanella Pass Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 9
Project #5: Peak To Peak Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 10
Project #6: Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 11
Project #7: Silver Thread Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 14
Project #7A: Silver Thread Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 16
Project 8: Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 18
Project 8A: Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 21
Project 8B: Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 24
Project #9: Santa Fe Trail Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 27
Project #9A: Santa Fe Trail Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 29
Project 10: Scenic Highway of Legends Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 32
Project #11: Frontier Pathways Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 35
Project #12: Top of the Rockies Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 40
Project #13: Alpine Loop Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 42
Project#14: Cache La Poudre - North Park Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 46
Project #15: Colorado River Headwaters Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 48
Project #16: Dinosaur Diamond Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 50
Project #17: Flat Tops Trail Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 52
Project #18: Grand Mesa Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 54
Project #19: Trail of the Ancients Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 58
Project #20: Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 60
Project #21: West Elk Loop Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 63
Project #22: Collegiate Peaks Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 66
Project #22A: Collegiate Peaks Scenic and Historic Byway	Page 68
Conclusion	Page 71
Watchable Wildlife on Byways Project – Facts and Figures	Page 73
Additional Products	Page 74

## Final Report – NE Region WW on Scenic and Historic Byways

### Project #1: Byway: Pawnee Pioneer Trails Scenic and Historic Byway: Pawnee Grasslands Interpretive Project

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
700.00 to Pawnee Pioneer Trails S&H Byway	6/22/04	DOW NE Region budget	
4,880.00 to Pawnee Pioneer Trails S&H Byway	4/13/05	DOW through Byway Grant	
850.00 to Pawnee Pioneer Trails S&H Byway	6/28/05	DOW NE Region budget	
800.00 to Exhibit Design Associates	2/06	DOW NE Region budget	Change order for corrections and improvements

#### **Project Costs:**

**Total DOW contribution: \$7,230 (DOW: 2,350; grant: 4,880)**

According to project budget records provided to DOW, by the Byway, Pawnee Pioneer Trails S and H Byway contracted with *Exhibit Design Associates* for this project for a total project cost of \$31,850 +1,600 in change order costs to = \$32,450.00.

(DOW does not have any access to or detailed information about Byway or USFS contributions to this project, in part because this project was already planned, and DOW became a partner in it. USFS has explained that the Byway contribution to the project may have come from funding secured as part of a large 1999-2000 grant to the Byway.)

#### **In-kind:**

- Doris Williams estimated the Byway council in-kind at more than 40 hours at \$50.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$2,000.00 prior to the completion of the project.
- US Forest Service in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, ground preparation, research and content review is substantial, and contributed over several years. DOW does not have in-kind value for this contribution, but estimates it to be over \$10,000.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager, the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator and our Education Assistant participated. DOW does not have in-kind value for this contribution, but estimates it to be over \$5,000.

#### **Project Description:**

For this project, Pawnee Pioneer Trails Scenic and Historic Byway board and the CDOW staff together decided that the best use of this funding opportunity was to contribute to a larger Byway project on the Pawnee Grasslands that was in progress. It was suggested that our CDOW/Byways funding (the \$6,100 per Byway) would make it possible to include wildlife and wildlife viewing as part of the Byway/Pawnee Grasslands story. The Byway adapted its contract with *Exhibit Design Associates* and *Case, Lowe and Hart Inc.* to include the DOW grant. The final products for this project include:

- Scenic and Historic Byway orientation panel (2 copies); three historic interpretation panels at Crow Valley; and two interpretive panels at the buttes overlook

***See examples of panels on next page.***

#### **Follow up:**

The NE Region sees that this was a worthwhile project, and desires to assist the Grasslands with communicating additional g wildlife messages to Pawnee visitors. Consequently, we have budgeted an additional \$20,000 of our Watchable Wildlife funds for two additional partnership projects with the US Forest Service on the Pawnee Grasslands. The focus of these second phase projects will be birding on the Pawnee, and also general wildlife and ecology; all aspects of this phase 2 project will benefit byway travelers.



## Project #2: Byway: Mt Evans Scenic and Historic Byway: Mt. Goliath/Dos Chappell Nature Center

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
500.00 to Denver Botanic Gardens	6/29/04	DOW NE Operating	
4,880 to Denver Botanic Gardens	April 13, 2005	DOW through Byway Grant	
2,000 to Denver Botanic Gardens	6/30/05	DOW through Byway Grant	(for changes)

**Total: \$7,680 (DOW: 500 Grant 6,880)**

**NOTE: Center opened to public summer of 2006**

USFS Funding: Approximately \$9,000

Denver Botanic Gardens Funding: approximately \$100,000. This funding may have covered costs for Mt. Goliath trailhead improvements/development in addition to the exhibits. (See below).

Other Partner Funding: Approximately \$16,000

**In-kind:** Mt. Evans Byway members, including Byway Coordinator, and representatives from several partnerships participated in planning for the project, contributing *numerous* hours of work worth at least the \$720 required.

### **Project Description:**

When approached for a watchable wildlife interpretation project on the Mt. Evans Byway, the Byway group agreed that their top priority was to provide quality interpretive exhibits in the new Mt. Goliath/Dos Chappell nature center. (The DOW has provided funding and planning assistance for a number of wildlife interpretation products for the Mt. Evans byway in the past. In addition, for eleven years we have managed a volunteer program that focused on helping people see and learn about wildlife).

The addition of funding through the Byway and DOW grant and DOW, which the group agreed would be earmarked for wildlife and wildlife viewing messages, allowed the planning team to broaden the topics covered in the nature center beyond plants only; support for this idea was strong in the USFS. The result was a strong planning team representing a diversity of skills and knowledge areas. The final product includes Byway orientation panels outside the center, which are available to visitors at all times; a real bristlecone pine tree installation, and four interpretive "pods" representing different themes within the center. The exhibits were installed in fall of 2005. The grand opening for the center was summer of 2006.

### **Follow-up:**

During this project, and for the benefit of this project, DOW purchased one of the Byways/Grassroots Interpretive Training packages. We are now engaged in discussions with the USFS, Botanic Gardens and Forest Foundation re: supporting a joint/collaborative volunteer program to staff the new nature center.

## Project #2: Byway: Mt Evans Scenic and Historic Byway: Mt. Goliath/Dos Chappell Nature Center

### Examples of Exhibits:

Byway orientation panels outside; includes wildlife viewing tips ▼



Bristlecone tree and interpretive exhibit ▼



Alpine adaptations exhibit ▲

Alpine communities exhibit ▼



### Project #3 Byway: South Platte River Trail Scenic and Historic Byway: South Platte River Byway and Julesburg Welcome Center Visitor Info Project

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
11,000.00 to Sedgwick County Economic Development Corp. on PO	6/23/04	DOW NE Region 1,240.00 Byway Grant 9,760.00	PO #OE PBA 04 000000478
600.00 to Sedgwick County Economic Development Corp.	6/30/05	DOW NE Region 600.00	

#### Project Costs:

**Total DOW contribution: \$11,600 (DOW: \$1,840; Byway Grant \$9,760)**

**South Platte River Trail Scenic and Historic Byway: contributed \$6,000.00 directly to project.**

**Sedgwick County Economic Development**, on behalf of the Byway, paid \$15,905 to *Highway Information Systems* for 10 watt radio station; included funding from Byway partners and from DOW/grant. A small amount of funding remains for completing a second phase of the project. (See below).

**CDOT** contributed production and installation of highway signage to inform travelers of the radio information system. Currently CDOT manages and maintains the highway information system, and associated equipment.

**In-kind:** South Platte River Trail Byway members, DOW staff and CDOT staff all contributed time toward planning; will continue to contribute time to planning and producing messages; and volunteers with the Julesburg Welcome Center will help promote and distribute the Byway Tour CD's.



#### Project Description:

For phase one of this project, Byway partners, DOW and CDOT partnered to provide information and tourism promotion to travelers on Interstate Highway 76 as they enter Colorado near Julesburg. Together the team researched, selected, purchased and set up a "travelers information station" system, along with highway signs, and a variety of recorded messages. The 10 watt radio station broadcasts 24 hours a day, and provides information about the area, the Welcome Center, the Byway, wildlife and wildlife recreation, and emergency road information. The broadcast can be heard from I-76, Hwy. 385, Hwy. 138, and a short distance of I-80.

Phase two of this 'traveler information' project is the design, production and distribution of "auto tour travel tapes," (actually CDs,) that can be borrowed and returned by travelers using I-76, and traveling the South Platte River Trail Byway. Shortly after initiating planning for phase two, the planning team lost three of its primary contributors – the District Wildlife Manager, the CDOT representative, and the Byway Coordinator all retired from their positions, and the project came to a temporary stop.

#### Follow up:

**Project continues;** the new Byway Coordinator is aiming to reconvene a new planning group and complete the project for this summer. The remaining funding will cover the production of the CDs, CD covers, and a borrowing system.



## Project #4 Byway: Guanella Pass Scenic and Historic Byway: Guanella Pass Ptarmigan Research and Viewing Interpretation Project

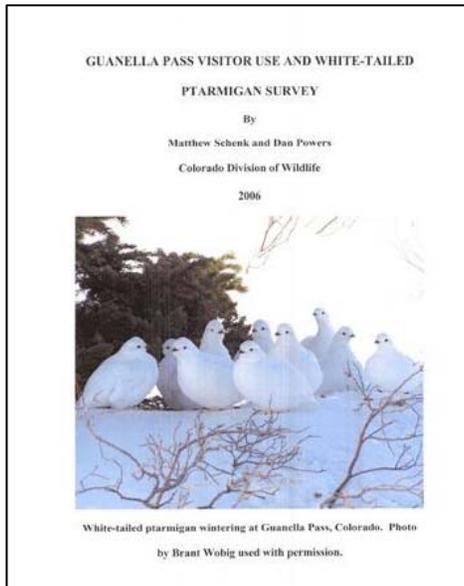
Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
2,500 to USFS	3/16/04	Byway Grant	(Grant Balance should be: 2,380)
Est. 2,000 to Dan Powers/temp employee	Winter 2004	DOW NE Region	
1,242.86 to Colorado Printing Company	4/05	DOW NE Region	
762.00 to Raven Hill Mining Company	Winter 04	DOW NE Region	

**Total: \$6,505 (DOW: 4,005 Byways Grant: 2,500)**

USFS Funding: 2,500 +

DOW and USFS staff and volunteer/in-kind: both agencies contributed at least 240 hours on the ground each year for 3 years, plus at 240 hours office time.

Byway contribution: at this time there has been no official cash donation from the Byway organization itself; however, Byway Coordinator or representatives have participated in planning and implementation to some extent, and the USFS is a partner in the Byway.



### **Project Description:**

When approached regarding this funding opportunity for a watchable wildlife interpretation project on the Guanella Pass Byway, the committee discussed a number of projects. Byway interpretive signage was already funded and underway, and uncertainty about road issues and questions about whether a signage project could be completed and installed within the time frame were discussed. The group decided that ptarmigan viewing, (learning about the demand and the potential resource impacts, and providing information about ptarmigan) was the issue they wanted to pursue. As a group we discussed the questions we wanted answers to, and agreed to support a joint effort by the USFS and DOW to study ptarmigan and recreational use of Guanella pass for ptarmigan viewing. The final products were to be a report regarding the status of white-tailed ptarmigan on Guanella Pass (noting location, numbers, significant changes in last 20 years, and suggesting management implications). In addition, the report would include information on winter ptarmigan viewing use and provide insight into the significance of any viewing impact, and recommendations for mitigation. At least one ptarmigan information product was to accompany the report.

This project is completed now, as research guidelines required a three-year study. A draft of the final report has been written. A white-tailed ptarmigan "trading card" was designed and produced.

### **Follow up:**

A recent team meeting resulted in use of this report to guide decisions about permitting commercial birding tour outfitters on Guanella Pass. In addition, based on the research findings, the team is drafting a "ptarmigan viewing" tips/guidelines flyer/brochure for distribution on site and at nearby Loveland pass. The team hopes to reconvene the Byway group and provide a presentation on the results this summer.



Project #5 Byway: Peak to Peak Scenic and Historic Byway: Website Development

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
500.00 to Tourism and Recreation Program of Boulder County	06/04	DOW NE Region	For initial project planning;

**Total: \$500 (DOW: 500)**

In-kind donation from Peak to Peak S&H Byway: \$500

**Project Description:** DOW was unable to complete a project in cooperation with the Peak to Peak Scenic Byway. Communication with the Byway representative was inconsistent, and with one individual only. When we did connect, DOW learned that the only project the Byway was committed to pursuing at this time was a web-site development in cooperation with the Tourism and Recreation Program of Boulder County and the Wild Bear nature center. The site was to provide detailed natural history about wildlife species that could be found along the Byway and at the nearby Wild Bear campus. As with the other Byway projects, we paid the Byway (in this case the Tourism and Recreation Program of Boulder County) the DOW match of \$500.00 after the initial planning meeting (which was over the phone). After that point, we did not hear from the Byway for a long time. When we attempted to re-initiate contact, the Byway coordinator we were working with had resigned. We did not pursue trying to reinitiate the project, but instead used the funding for other active and progressing projects.

## Final Report – SE and W Region WW on Scenic and Historic Byways

### Project #6: Byway: Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway: San Luis Environmental Ed. Center Interpretive Signs

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
4,888.00 to Los Caminos S&H Byway	10/07/04	DOW through Byway Grant	
500.00 to Los Caminos S&H Byway	10/25/04	DOW SE Region Operating	
720.00 to Los Caminos S&H Byway S&H Byway	4/15/06	San Luis Catholic Parish – Knights of Columbus fund	

#### Project Costs:

**Total DOW contribution: \$5,380 (DOW: 500; grant: 4,880)**

Los Caminos Scenic and Historic Byway contracted with artist Kelly Ortiz to provide artwork, graphics, text and layout of the interpretive panel for this location.

#### In-kind:

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at more than 40 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$800 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings with local historians concerning the history of the community and the La Sierra land grant area to the east of the community.
- US Forest Service provided a substantial in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review as well as providing some office and work space used by Kelly Ortiz. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the USFS to be \$500.
- Artist Kelly Ortiz donated about 80 hours for artwork, design and layout for a total of \$1,600, additionally, the watercolor paintings that she created for this project to the byway. Their estimated value is \$150 - \$200 each, for a total value of around \$1,000.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 25 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$750.

#### Project Description:

This project includes the design, fabrication and installation of 2 interpretive panels featuring original artwork providing information about the environment surrounding the community of San Luis, along the byway. In particular, the panels feature a description of the mountain area know as La Sierra, along the southern Sangre de Cristo Mts. in Colorado. (also known as the Culebra Mts.) In addition to the scientific information provided, the interesting culture and history of the Spanish land grant and the use of these mountain areas as communal lands to provide food, firewood, other resources and recreation is addressed. The final products for this project include:

- Scenic and Historic Byway orientation panels at the San Luis Environmental Education Center located on the mesa above San Luis adjacent to the Stations of the Cross and the Capilla de San Luis. Panel 1: La Sierra; Panel 2: The Oldest Town

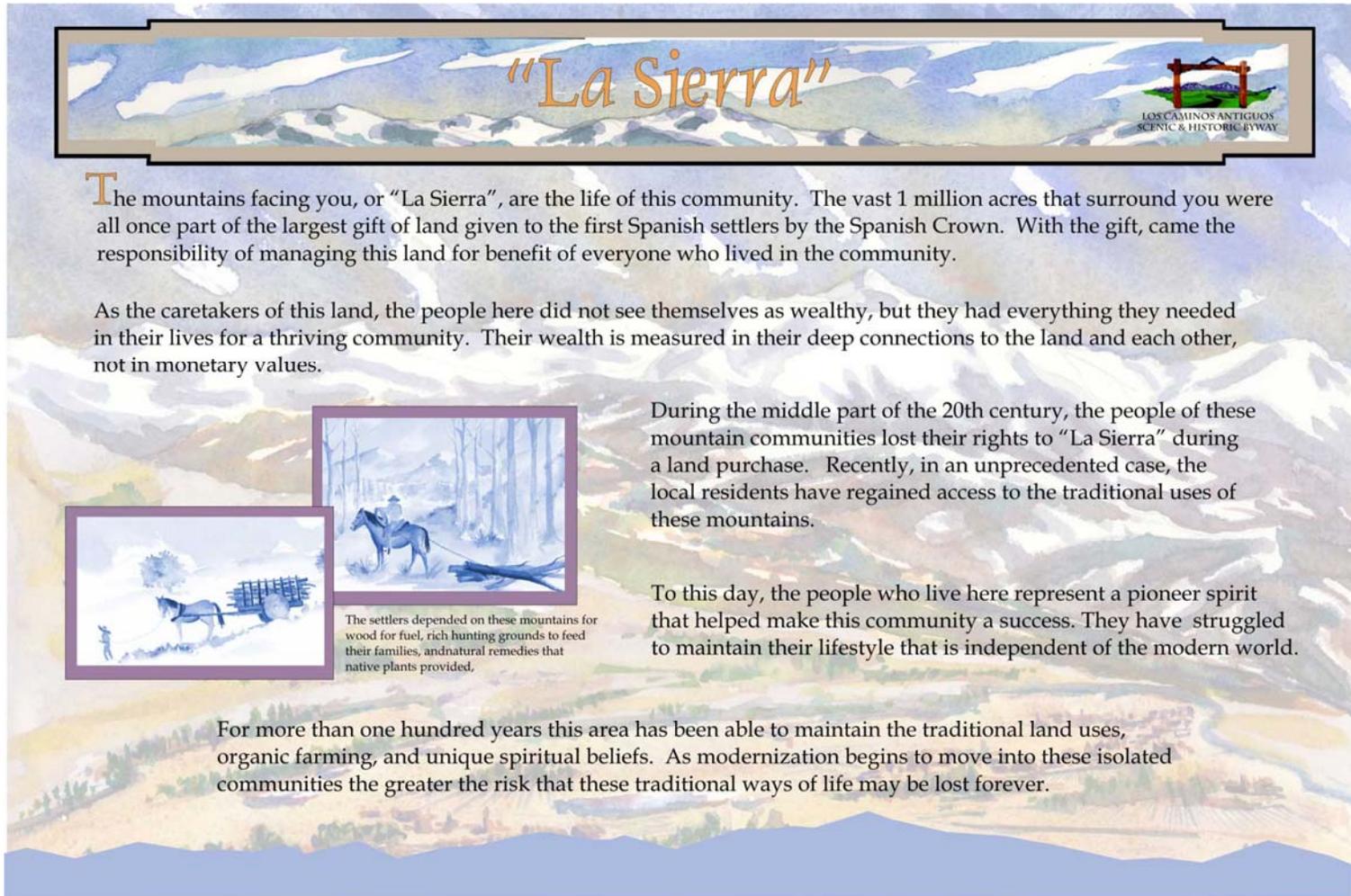
*See examples of panels on next page.*

#### Follow up:

As a major partner with the Los Caminos Antiguos since its dedication, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the 129 mile byway route. Additional panels have been planned for the Great Sand Dunes, Medano-Zapata Ranch and San Luis

Lakes State Park and Wildlife Area. Recent changes in the Great Sand Dunes to National Park status have provided more attention to the area and it would be advisable to provide additional wildlife interpretation along the byway route and at the Sand Dunes for visitors. The opportunities for interpretation at the San Luis Lakes are outstanding, especially for large birds, water birds, raptors and wetlands. The Division of Wildlife has created a Southwest Region in the past few years, and any additional projects for the area will be administered by this region.

Project #6: Byway: Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway: San Luis Environmental Ed. Center Interpretive Sign Project Artwork Sample:



▲ Byway panel; La Sierra Overlook

Project #6: Byway: Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway: San Luis Environmental Ed. Center Interpretive Sign Project Artwork Sample:

**“The Oldest Town”**

LOS CAMINOS ANTIGUOS  
SCENIC & HISTORIC BYWAY

**T**he birthplace of Colorado is here! On June 21, 1851, the town of San Luis, located just below you, was founded as the first continuous settlement in Colorado. This settlement was in the Northern most frontier of Hispano lands and very few ventured into this unknown territory. Repeated attempts to build communities here were met with difficulties such as the harsh environment and clashes with native people who used this valley as hunting and trading grounds.

The physical as well as economic isolation of San Luis from other communities helped preserve the cultures and traditions exist here as they did over a hundred years ago. The Spanish language that is still spoken here is reminiscent of 16th century Spain and is different than the contemporary Spanish language.

The people who thrived here, brought traditions from Spain but also developed unique lifestyles and religious beliefs.

Many people who live here are the descendants of the earliest settlers who established the first churches, businesses, and traditions that still exist today.



R & R Market owned by the Romero Family is the oldest continuous business in Colorado.



The first courthouse in Colorado and the only adobe courthouse in existence in Colorado.



The San Luis Valley People's ditch was hand-dug. It is over 100 miles long and is the first recorded water-right in the State of Colorado.



“La Vega” is the last remaining commons in the US still used for it’s original purpose(Boston Commons is the other-which is now a park). It has been maintained by the local citizens for more than a century much the same way the early settlers cared for it. At 540 acres it is the largest commons and it stands as San Luis’s icons for early agricultural practices where grazing land is shared resource. The shared maintenance of this is a testament to a community built on trust and dependence on each other.

▲ Byway panel; La Sierra Overlook

## Project #7: Byway: Silver Thread Scenic and Historic Byway: Silver Thread Byway Wildlife Viewing Guide

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
150.00 to Ken Archer - Photography	07/15/04	DOW through Byway Grant	
4,800.00 to Hinsdale County Chamber of Commerce	08/03/04	DOW through Byway Grant	
1000.00 to Printer B & B Printing	4/13/05	Byway Partners	Total Printing: \$6,600 for 9,700 Copies
1000.00 to Printer B & B Printing	4/13/05	BLM	

### Project Costs:

**Total DOW contribution: \$4,950 (DOW: grant: \$4,950 )**

Silver Thread Scenic and Historic Byway contracted with B & B printers printed 9,700 copies of the Silver Thread Byway Wildlife Viewing Guide.

### In-kind:

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at approximately 40 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$800 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings to plan, design, develop and print the viewing guide brochure.
- The Silver Thread Byway Interpretive Visitor's Center provided in-kind at approximately 10 hours at \$20.00 per hour for around \$200.00 as well as providing support for this project through office space, phone and fax communication, and internet access.
- The Creede Visitor's Center provided in-kind at 30 hours at \$10.00 per hour for a value of \$300.00 as well as providing meeting space, phone, fax and internet communication and office space for the project.
- US Forest Service provided a substantial in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review, graphics and layout design and text writing as well as providing meeting, office and work space used by Edna Mason. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the USFS to be \$1,000.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 25 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$750.

### Project Description:

This project includes the planning, development, design, and printing of an interpretive brochure to serve as a viewing guide for the Silver Thread Scenic and Historic Byway. The final products for this project include:

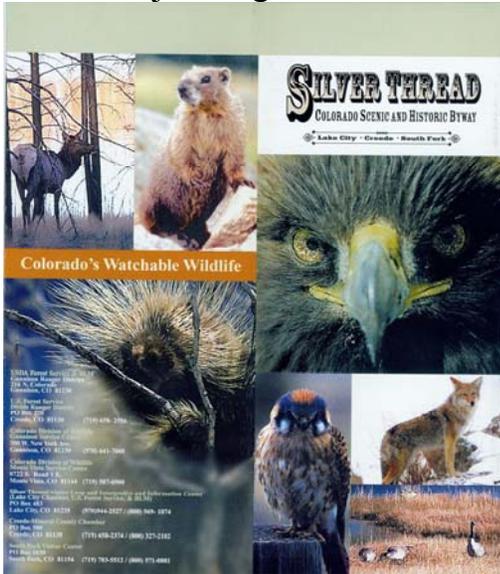
- Sixteen page full color brochure – Watching Wildlife on the Silver Thread - 9,700 copies for distribution at the Silver Thread Interpretive Center, the Creede Visitor Center, the DOW and USFS offices and local chambers of commerce in the SLV.

*See pages from the guide on the next page.*

### Follow up:

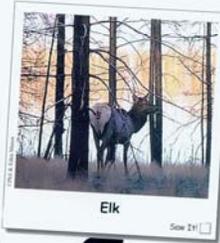
As a major partner with the Silver Thread Byway since its dedication, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the byway route. The Division of Wildlife has created a Southwest Region in the past few years, and any additional projects for the area will be administered by this region.

# Project #7: Byway: Silver Thread Scenic and Historic Byway: Watching Wildlife on the Silver Thread Viewing Guide Project Pages:



▲ Watching Wildlife on the Silver Thread – Front and Back Cover

**Watching Wildlife on the Silver Thread**



Elk

**The Silver Thread Scenic Byway provides great wildlife viewing opportunities for the motorist.**

The Thread crosses two mountain passes and wanders along the Rio Grande Valley offering glimpses of riparian habitat with summer waterfowl and wide parks that provide winter range for elk and bighorn sheep. The species present varies with the time of year. Have your binoculars ready for the best wildlife viewing.

Several animals are found in many places along the byway. Common locations have been noted with the mile marker (MM) number that corresponds to highway numbers. Just don't stop looking after passing the numbers because you never know what you'll see just around the next bend. Not all species are listed here.

**Take your time, your binoculars, be observant, drive carefully, and you will find success enjoying nature on this scenic byway.**

Introduction - : ►

Large Mammals Viewing Guide Page : ►

**Large Mammals**



Canada Lynx



Black Bear

**Cats**  
Mountain lion and bobcat are found along the byway. They are secretive nocturnal animals and the chance of seeing one is limited. Any sighting should be considered a rare opportunity. Canada Lynx have been introduced into the San Juan Mountains along the byway because their prey, the snowshoe hare, is so plentiful here. Researchers are carefully following the animals to determine the success of the reintroduction. Many of the cats were equipped with radio collars and their movement is closely tracked. In 2003 the first confirmed kittens were born.

**Black Bears**  
Black Bears are common here. A chance encounter is unlikely unless you are near a food source such as dumpsters, trashcan or another place the animal has learned to find food. Bears that have learned to find human food lose their natural fear of man and can be very dangerous and unpredictable. Black bear usually have one to three cubs during the winter in their dens. Sometimes, when the food source is plentiful, they may produce four young. Cubs stay with their mothers for two summers. Although their name seems to indicate that all of this species of bear are black, they are not. Black bears are brown, blonde, black, cinnamon and some even have white markings on their neck.

## Project #7A: Byway: Silver Thread Scenic and Historic Byway: Silver Thread Byway Wildlife Viewing Guide

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
4,800.00 to Hinsdale County Chamber of Commerce	06/15/05	DOW through Byway Grant	
1,281 to Printer B & B Printing	07/10/05	USFS – Lake City	Total Printing: \$6,200 for 9,200 Copies

### **Project Costs:**

**Total DOW contribution: \$4,800 (DOW: grant: 4,800)**

Silver Thread Scenic and Historic Byway contracted with B & B printers to reprint 9,200 copies of the Silver Thread Byway Wildlife Viewing Guide due to the popularity of the 1<sup>st</sup> printing. This brochure is available at the Silver Thread Interpretive Center in South Fork, The Hinsdale County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center in Lake City, The Creede Visitor Information Center in Creede, and the USFS Service Center in Monte Vista.

### **In-kind:**

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at approximately 15 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$300 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings to plan, redesign, develop and print the revised version of the viewing guide brochure.
- The Silver Thread Byway Interpretive Visitor's Center provided in-kind at approximately 10 hours at \$20.00 per hour for around \$200.00 as well as providing support for this project through office space, phone and fax communication, and internet access.
- The Creede Visitor's Center provided in-kind at 10 hours at \$10.00 per hour for a value of \$100.00 as well as providing meeting space, phone, fax and internet communication and office space for the project.
- US Forest Service provided a substantial in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review, graphics and layout redesign and text rewriting as well as providing meeting, office and work space used by Edna Mason. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the USFS to be \$500.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 8 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$240.

### **Project Description:**

This project includes the planning, development, design, and printing of an interpretive brochure to serve as a viewing guide for the Silver Thread Scenic and Historic Byway. The final products for this project include:

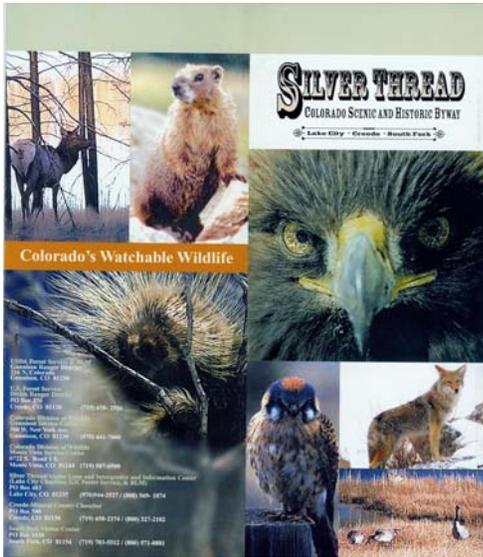
- Sixteen page full color brochure – Watching Wildlife on the Silver Thread - 9,200 copies for distribution at the Silver Thread Interpretive Center, the Creede Visitor Center, the DOW and USFS offices and local chambers of commerce in the SLV.

*See pages from the guide on the next page.*

### **Follow up:**

As a major partner with the Silver Thread Byway since its dedication, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the byway route. The Division of Wildlife has created a Southwest Region in the past few years, and any additional projects for the area will be administered by this region once a watchable wildlife coordinator position is filled. Although the Silver Thread Interpretive Center features many interesting and attractive visitor interpretive displays, the much smaller Lake City Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center does not provide any interpretive experiences for visitors other than available printed material. The DOW and the Byway are interested in providing a changeable display for this visitor center when time and budgets allow

# Project #7A: Byway: Silver Thread Scenic and Historic Byway: Watching Wildlife on the Silver Thread Viewing Guide Project Page Samples:



▲ Watching Wildlife on the Silver Thread – Front and Back Cover

### Waterbirds



**American Coot**  
See 21



**Mallard**  
See 21

**American Coot**  
Coots, also known as "mad hens", are common black waterfowl that nest in cattails. They are easily identified as they swim, by the characteristic bobbing of their head. Families swim together with both adults dipping and diving for food. As they come to the surface they are met by their young who are eager to accept any offerings.

The upper Rio Grande is a destination of many migrant waterfowl. Birds along the river also include Mallards, Gadwalls, Common Mergansers and Glossy Ibis. A stop along the river near willows in the evening can provide a chorus of the sounds of ducks and geese settling in for the night. MM 32 - 40

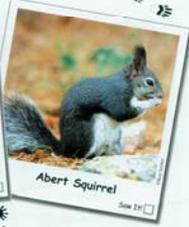
**Other Birds**  
The area is rich in avian diversity. Red-Tail, Rough-Legged and Swainson Hawks soar above the highway in summer and fall. Juncos, Chickadee, Rosy Finches and Magpies are common mountain residents. Western Tansagers and Evening Grosbeak are two of the more colorful summer inhabitants. MM 15-18

Waterbirds Viewing Guide Page : ►

### Small Mammals



**Marmot**  
See 21



**Abert Squirrel**  
See 21

**Marmots**  
Marmots, also known as whistle pigs, are large, golden brown rodents, that live in burrows. During the summer they graze on grass and other plants until they store up enough energy to hibernate. Marmots are true hibernators, that is they sleep through winter. They are frequently seen sitting on large rocks where they have a good view of intruders. When a threat appears they sound an alarm with a loud chirp or whistle. A large family resides near MM 54, MM14

**Abert Squirrel**  
Abert Squirrels are large, tassel-eared squirrels, inhabiting the ponderosa pine forests. Aberts come in two color phases, black and gray. The black color phase is more common on the east side of the Continental Divide while the gray phase is more often found on the west slope. They only live in ponderosa forests - finding everything they need for survival in the cones and branches of this lofty tree. MM 4-10, 74

Small Mammals Viewing Guide Page : ►

## Project #8: Byway: Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway: Canon City Riverwalk Interpretive Signs

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
\$500 to Sherrie York – Panel Design	5/30/03	DOW SE Region	
1,000 to Sherrie York - graphics	02/10/04	DOW through Byway Grant	
625.00 to Gold Belt Tour Byway	04/04/04	DOW through Byway Grant	
1000.00 to Gold Belt Tour Byway	4/17/04	DOW through Byway Grant	
1600 to Sherrie York - fabrication	6/11/04	Byway Partners	
3880.00 to Gold Belt Tour Byway	07/15/04	DOW through Byway Grant	

### Project Costs:

**Total DOW contribution: \$7,005 (DOW: 500; grant: 6,505)**

The Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway contracted with Sherrie York to provide graphics, layout and design for three low-profile interpretive signs located along the Canon City Riverwalk.

### In-kind:

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at approximately 35 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$700 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings to plan, design, develop and fabricate the signs at the three sites along the riverwalk.
- The Canon City Parks and Recreation department provided approximately 10 hours of in-kind at \$15.00 per hour for the installation and site preparation of the sites for each of the three signs. Additional in-kind was provided through participation in design and development meetings. This contribution adds up to approximately \$150.
- The BLM provided a substantial in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review, graphics and layout design and text writing as well as providing meeting, office and work space used by Leah Quesenberry. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the BLM to be \$1,200.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and Technicians and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 10 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$300.

### Project Description:

This project includes the planning, development, design, fabrication and installation of three low-profile interpretive signs along the Canon City Riverwalk. The final products for this project include:

- Three interpretive signs featuring interpretation about the riparian ecosystems found along the Arkansas River and the Canon City Riverwalk  
 Sign #1 “Witness the Changing Scene” Sign deals with seasonal changes for wildlife in the riparian zone  
 Sign #2 “A Natural Park in the Heart of Canon City” Sign deals with the importance of protected, natural open space for wildlife along the river  
 Sign #3 “The Arkansas River – Life Sustaining Force” Sign explains the crucial habitat provided by flowing water and the plants attracted by it along the river.

*See photos of signs on the next page.*

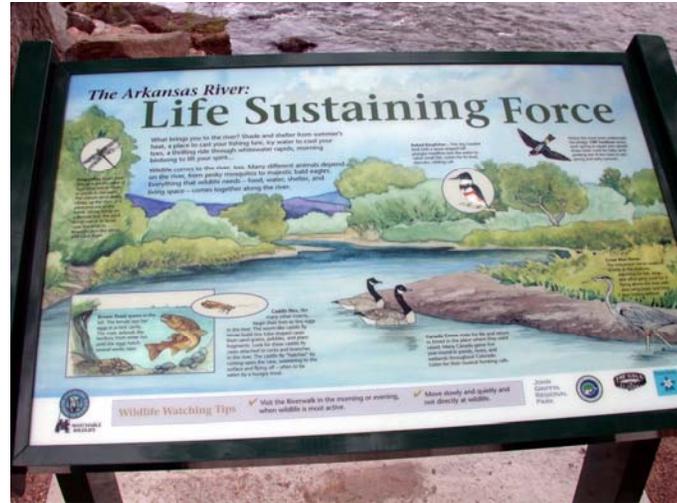
### Follow up:

As a major partner with the Gold Belt Byway since its dedication, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the byway route. Additional work at these sites will include a teachers’ curriculum and guide to use the information included on these signs to provide educational opportunities for classroom students engaged in field trips along the riverwalk.

Project #8: Byway: Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway: Canon City Riverwalk Interpretive Sign Samples:



▲ Byway panel; “The Arkansas River – Life Sustaining Force” Includes partners who worked together on the project



▲ Byway panel; “The Arkansas River – Life Sustaining Force”



▲ Byway panel; “Witness the Changing Scene”



▲ Byway panel; “A Natural Park in the Heart of Canon City”

Project #8: Byway: Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway: Canon City Riverwalk Interpretive Sign Sample:



▲Byway panel and hikers along the trail

## Project #8A: Byway: Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway: Cripple Creek Visitor Center Wildlife Interpretive Diorama

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
55.00 to Derek Rich - Taxidermy	02/10/04	DOW SE Operating	
2000.00 to Gold Belt Tour Byway	05/25/06	DOW through Byway Grant	

### **Project Costs:**

**Total DOW contribution: \$2,055 (DOW: \$55 grant: 2,000)**

The Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway contracted with Kimmelgraphics to provide graphics, layout and design for a wildlife diorama, interpretive displays and exhibits for the Pikes Peak Heritage Center at Cripple Creek

### **In-kind:**

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at approximately 10 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$200 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings to plan, design, develop and fabricate the diorama.
- The City of Cripple Creek provided approximately 10 hours of in-kind at \$15.00 per hour for this project. This contribution adds up to approximately \$150.
- Additionally, the City of Cripple Creek provided over \$30,000 from their budget and other grant funds for the design, interpretation and fabrication of the wildlife diorama.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 10 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$300.

### **Project Description:**

This project includes the planning, development, design, fabrication and installation of a, “Wildlife of the Pikes Peak Region Diorama” in the Heritage Center. Wildlife species included in the diorama and in throughout the visitor center include: American elk, mountain lion, black bear, chipmunk, bighorn sheep, wild turkey, among others.

*See photos of Heritage Center and diorama on the next page.*

### **Follow up:**

As a major partner with the Gold Belt Byway since its dedication, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the byway route. Additional work at these sites will include additional interpretive signs along the byway in partnership with the byway, the BLM and other partners.

Project #8A: Byway: Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway: Cripple Creek Visitor Center Wildlife Interpretive Diorama



▲ Pikes Peak Heritage Center – Cripple Creek



▲ Byway display – “Bighorn Sheep”

Project #8A: Byway: Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway: Cripple Creek Visitor Center Wildlife Interpretive Diorama



▲ Byway display; “Wildlife of the Pikes Peak Region”

## Project #8B: Byway: Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway: Phantom Canyon Watchable Wildlife Interpretive Sign Replacement

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
\$4,880 to MJW Designs -	6/28/06	DOW through Byway Grant	

### Project Costs:

**Total DOW contribution: \$4,880 (DOW: grant: \$4,880)**

The Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway contracted with MJW Designs to provide graphics, layout and design updates for four interpretive signs and one orientation sign located along the Gold Belt Tour Backcountry Byway in Phantom Canyon at the Dunnville Picnic Area and Rest Stop. The BLM interpretive staff in Canon City worked with the contractor and other partners to provide these new/updated interpretive signs for the byway and its visitors

### In-kind:

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at approximately 25 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$500 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings to plan, design, develop and fabricate the signs at this site.
- The BLM provided a substantial in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review, graphics and layout design and text writing as well as providing meeting, office and work space used by Leah Quesenberry. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the BLM to be \$3,000.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and Technicians and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 20 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$600.

### Project Description:

This project includes the planning, development, design/updat, fabrication and installation four interpretive signs and one orientation panel along the byway in Phantom Canyon. The final products for this project include:

- Four interpretive signs featuring interpretation about the canyon/riparian ecosystems found along Eight Mile Creek and the byway.  
Sign #1 “Rugged Canyon A Sanctuary For Wildlife” Sign deals with canyon habitat and its benefits for wildlife as well as Wildlife Viewing Tips.  
Sign #2 “Phantom Canyon’s Wildlife From Top to Bottom” Sign deals with the importance of protected, natural canyon and stream habitat for wildlife along the byway.  
Sign #3 “A Small Creek Works Wonders For Wildlife” Sign explains the crucial habitat provided by flowing water and the plants found in the riparian habitat along the creek.  
Sign #4 “Cliffs Hold Predators Great and Small” Sign interprets the canyon and cliff habitat that provides important habitat for predators such as mountain lion and peregrine falcon along the creek. “An Early Spring and a Bountiful Autumn Near the Bottom” on this sign deals with the difference in climate and seasonal changes that occur along the creek as it flows from the higher elevation on Pikes Peak down to its confluence with the Arkansas River.

*See photos of signs on the next page.*

### Follow up:

As a major partner with the Gold Belt Byway since its dedication, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the byway route. Additional work at these sites will include interpretation of rocky mountain bighorn sheep along the Shelf Road fork of the byway.

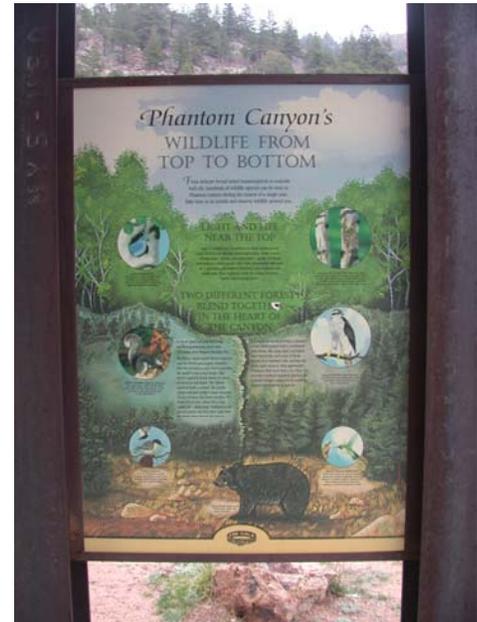
Project #8B: Byway: Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway: Phantom Canyon Watchable Wildlife Interpretive Sign Replacement



▲ Byway display; “Wildlife of the Gold Belt Tour” Interpretive Signs - Update/Replacement at Dunnville Rest Stop and Picnic Area in Phantom Canyon

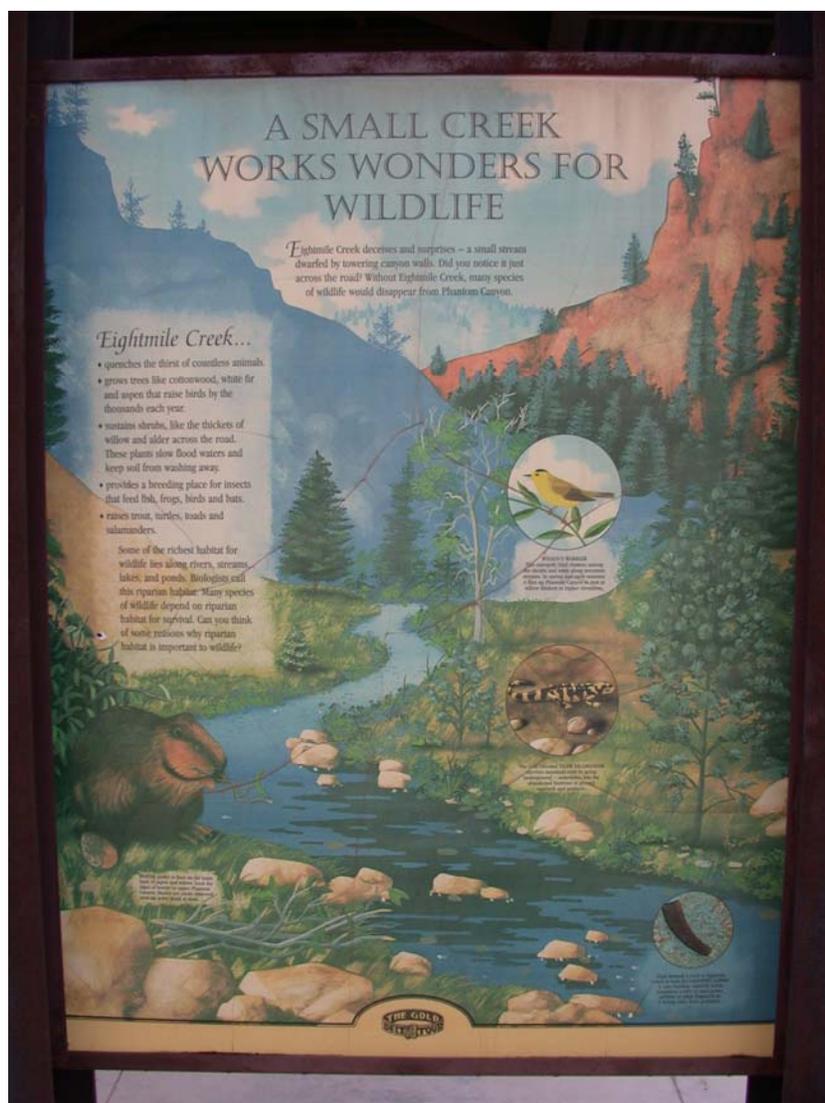


Byway Panel: “Cliffs and Predators” Interpretive Sign ►

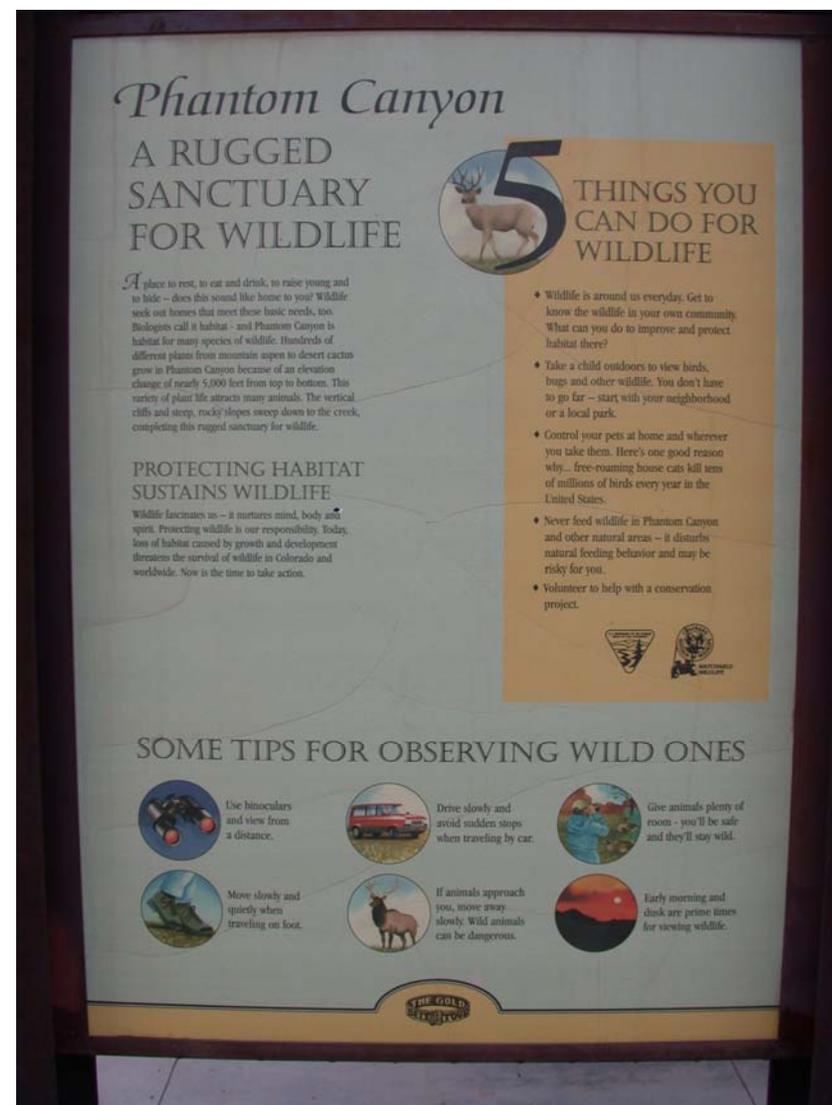


Byway Panel: “Phantom Canyon’s Wildlife From Top to Bottom” Interpretive Sign ▲

Project #8B: Byway: Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway: Phantom Canyon Watchable Wildlife Interpretive Sign Replacement



▲ Byway Panel; “Eightmile Creek” Interpretive Sign



▲ Byway Panel; “Phantom Canyon - Stewardship” Interpretive Sign

## Project #9: Byway: Santa Fe Trail Scenic and Historic Byway: Comanche National Grasslands Interpretive Signs

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
4,880 to Santa Fe Trail Scenic Byway	09/04/04	DOW through Byway Grant	
500.00 to Santa Fe Trail Scenic Byway	09/04/04	DOW SE Region Operating	
720 to Santa Fe Trail Scenic Byway	10/04/04	Byway Partners	

### **Project Costs:**

**Total DOW contribution: \$5,380 (DOW: 500; grant: 4,880)**

The Santa Fe Trail Scenic and Historic Byway project featured two interpretive signs placed at locations along the byway and on the Comanche National Grasslands, southwest of La Junta, CO.

### **In-kind:**

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at approximately 40 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$800 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings to plan, design, develop and fabricate the signs at the sites on the Comanche National Grasslands along the byway.
- The USFS provided a substantial in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review, graphics and layout design and text writing as well as providing meeting, office and work space used by staff. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the USFS to be \$500.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 20 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$150.

### **Project Description:**

This project includes the planning, development, design, fabrication and installation of two low-profile interpretive signs along the byway. The final products for this project include:

- Two interpretive signs featuring interpretation about the grassland ecosystems found along the byway on the Comanche National Grasslands.  
Sign #1 “Grassland Wildlife – A Closer Look” Sign at Timpas Picnic Area features the diversity of wildlife found along the byway on the Comanche National Grasslands.
- Sign #2 “Picketwire Canyonlands Scenic Overlook” Sign features the diversity of wildlife found in the Picketwire Canyon of the Purgatory River on the Comanche National Grasslands.

*See photo of signs below.*

### **Follow up:**

As a major partner with the Santa Fe Trail since 1999, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the byway route. Additional work at these sites will include expansion of interpretation and facilities at John Martin State Park and Wildlife Area and the addition of additional lesser prairie chicken viewing facilities along the byway on both public and private lands. Additional interpretation of the byway and the diversity of wildlife found along it should be provided at the Colorado Welcome Centers located at Lamar and Trinidad. Additionally, expansion of the Colorado Birding Trail will include interpretation along the Santa Fe Trail Byway.

Project #9: Byway: Santa Fe Trail Scenic and Historic Byway: Byway Interpretive Sign Samples:



▲ Byway panel; “Grassland Wildlife – A Closer Look” located at Timpas Picnic area on the Comanche Grasslands



▲ Byway panel; “Grassland Wildlife – A Closer Look” located at Timpas Picnic area on the Comanche Grasslands



▲ Byway panel; “Picketwire Canyonlands – Home to Many” located at Picketwire Canyon Overlook area on the Comanche Grasslands



▲ Byway panel; “Picketwire Canyonlands – Home to Many” located at Picketwire Canyon Overlook site on the Comanche Grasslands  
Note: Vault toilet in background, located at Overlook Interpretive site

## Project #9A: Byway: Santa Fe Trail Scenic and Historic Byway: Welcome Center Interpretive Signs

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
4,880 to Santa Fe Trail Scenic Byway	06/30/05	DOW through Byway Grant	
600 to Santa Fe Trail Scenic Byway	06/30/05	City of Lamar	
600 to Santa Fe Trail Scenic Byway	06/30/05	City of Trinidad	

### **Project Costs:**

**Total DOW contribution: \$3,479 (DOW: grant: 3,479)**

The Santa Fe Trail Scenic and Historic Byway project featured two 2' X 3' interpretive signs placed at the Visitor/Welcome Center locations at both ends of the byway in both Trinidad and Lamar, for a total of 4 signs.

### **In-kind:**

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at approximately 40 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$800 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings to plan, design, develop and fabricate the signs at the two welcome center sites on the byway.
- The USFS provided a small in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review, graphics and layout design and text writing as well as providing meeting, space used by staff. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the USFS to be \$750.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 8 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$240.

### **Project Description:**

This project includes the planning, development, design, fabrication and installation of two low-profile interpretive signs at Welcome Center locations at each end of the byway. The final products for this project include:

- Two interpretive signs featuring interpretation about the grassland ecosystems found along the byway and on the Comanche National Grasslands. Sign #1 "The Santa Fe Trail – A Special Place for Wildlife" Sign features the diversity of wildlife found along the byway and on the Comanche National Grasslands. It includes a list of viewing sites and features the Picketwire Canyonlands, John Martin State Park and Wildlife Area and the Campo lesser prairie chicken lek.
- Sign #1 "Watchable Wildlife on the Santa Fe Trail" Sign features the diversity of wildlife and habitat found along the byway and on the Comanche National Grasslands, including the short grass prairie, cholla cactus and other prairie habitats..

*See copy of signs below.*

### **Follow up:**

As a major partner with the Santa Fe Trail since 1999, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the byway route. Additional work at these sites will include expansion of interpretation and facilities at John Martin State Park and Wildlife Area and the addition of more lesser prairie chicken viewing facilities along the byway on both public and private lands. Additionally, expansion of the Colorado Birding Trail will include interpretation, tours and agritourism development along the Santa Fe Trail Byway on the national grasslands and private ranches.

Project #9A: Byway: Santa Fe Trail Scenic and Historic Byway: Byway Welcome Center Interpretive Signs:



▲ Trinidad Welcome Center

### Watchable Wildlife on the Santa Fe Trail

**A Shared Landscape**  
 People and wildlife have been attracted to the Santa Fe Trail since they first shared this land thousands of years ago. In early times, native hunters came in search of game, wood, fresh water, and protection from the rigors of the open prairie. Later, as the prairies were settled, our canyons became sites for homesteads, grasslands for livestock, and land for agriculture with reliable water sources. The land provided fish and game for food and a way of life for Santa Fe Trail traders and merchants. Towns grew up along the meandering rivers banks of the Arkansas and Purgatoire. Take time to explore the Santa Fe Trail and discover how people and wildlife interact today in a landscape we have shared for a millennia.



pronghorn

**Pronghorn on the Plains**  
 Over the past 3 million years, pronghorn is the sole surviving species of a once flourishing North American ungulate family, the Antilocapridae. Pronghorn have shared the grasslands of the Santa Fe Trail with fierce and fast predators which have long become extinct. Their present day predators include the wolf, coyote, bobcat, and mountain lion. We can see the presence of predators in the adaptations that the pronghorn have retained. The running speed of pronghorn approaches 60 mph and they have excellent vision. They are associated with the vast, open short grass prairies where they can detect predators at great distances. Dominant females often relax near the center of the herd while lower ranking females forage and bed on the edges.




prairie dog      prairie rattlesnake

**Home on the Prairie**  
 The prairie may seem vast and empty; when in fact, it is home to a wide variety of wildlife. Nutritious prairie grasses support many species including pronghorn, prairie dogs, coyotes and hawks. More than 80 different animals live in and around prairie dog colonies. Ground squirrels, mice, badgers and snakes hide from predators in the short-grass prairie by living underground. The burrowing owl is ground-dwelling and nests in abandoned prairie dog burrows. Because the badger's chief food is rodents, they are likely to be seen near prairie dog towns at night or early mornings. Poisonous prairie rattlesnakes use abandoned prairie dog burrows for nesting and are found frequently in the evenings warming on the surface of roads or rocks. During the hot daytime hours, they seek shade under bushes and rocks or in burrows.




burrowing owl      badger

Because there are so few trees on the grassland, many birds build their nest on the ground. They use their natural surroundings to hide from enemies. Mountain plovers prefer to nest on flat, nearly barren ground.



mountain plover

The lark bunting, Colorado's state bird, prefer sagebrush and like grassy weedy areas. Spot them in flocks along roadsides in the fall eating seeds.



lark bunting

**Cholla Cactus Habitat**  
 Cholla shrublands provide habitat for scaled quail and the curve-billed thrasher. Curve-billed thrashers build conspicuous nests which are hard to reach because they are placed in the center of dense, thorny desert vegetation. Scaled quail are monogamous ground-nesting birds. They prefer open ground areas where they can use their running abilities. When flushed, they often fly a short distance, glide to the ground, and continue to run before they hide in what-ever cover is available.





curve-billed thrasher      cholla cactus      scaled quail

An observant wildlife watcher can find animals just by knowing how, where and when to look:

- \* Watch for movement
- \* Watch for birds on fences, power poles, and trees
- \* Riparian areas and prairie dog colonies attract wildlife
- \* Dawn and dusk are excellent times for wildlife viewing
- \* Keep your distance -- use binoculars



wolf





coyote      mountain lion      bobcat

**Stronghold for Predators**  
 The West is a stronghold for mountain lion and in Colorado they are most abundant in foothills, canyons or mesa country. They are more at home in brushy areas and woodlands than in forests or open prairies. Active year round, the lion's staple diet is deer and they maintain their condition by eating one deer a week. Consider yourself very lucky if you see a bobcat! Look for them on the barren rocky slopes, especially at night. Coyotes are more often heard than seen. They usually howl once night falls and may be seen in the early mornings running across roads.

*"I think it does not come easily to us to love such a land. It is easy to love a mountain, with its inherent grandeur, handsome profile and aristocratic air. But the prairie's charms take more looking. The prairie doesn't run off with your heart the way a mountain does. Its beauties are subtle, rooted in the hues of the grasses, the undulations of the land, the infinite sky. The prairie is a girl whose beauty lies in her smile." ...Theodore Roosevelt*



Santa Fe Trail Scenic & Historic Byway

The Mountain, The Sky, The Prairie

▲ Byway panel; "Watchable Wildlife on the Santa Fe Trail located at Lamar and Trinidad Welcome Center

Project #9A: Byway: Santa Fe Trail Scenic and Historic Byway: Byway Welcome Center Interpretive Signs:



▲Byway panel; "The Santa Fe Trail – A Special Place for Wildlife" located at Lamar and Trinidad Welcome Centers



▲Sign at Lamar Welcome Center

## Project #10: Byway: Scenic Highway of Legends Scenic and Historic Byway: Byway Visitors' Guide.

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
4000 to Scenic Highway of Legends	07/24/03	DOW through Byway Grant	
500.00 to Rural Wide Web for design and photos for Visitor's Guide	07/24/03	DOW SE Region Operating	
2500 to Rural Wide Web for printing	9/03/03	Scenic Highway of Legends	

### **Project Costs:**

**Total DOW contribution: \$4,500 (DOW: 500; grant: 4,000)**

The Scenic Highway of Legends Scenic and Historic Byway project featured the development, design and printing 30,000 copies of a Visitor's Guide to the Scenic Highway of Legends. "Welcome to the Scenic Highway of Legends

### **In-kind:**

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at approximately 50 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$1,000 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings to plan, design, develop and print the visitors' guides.
- The USFS provided a substantial in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review, graphics and layout design and text writing as well as providing meeting, office and work space used by staff. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the USFS to be \$400.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 6 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$180.

### **Project Description:**

This project includes the planning, development, design, and printing of 30,000 copies of a Visitor's Guide.

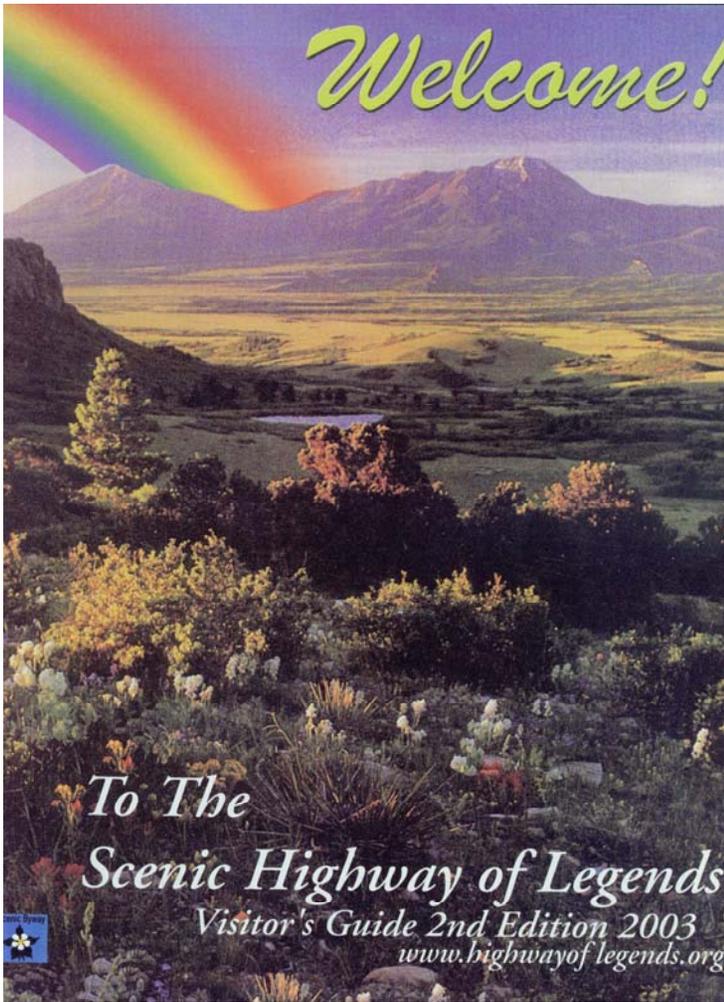
- The "Welcome to the Scenic Highway of Legends – Visitor's Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2003" was published Rural Wide Web, Inc and Sir Speedy.
- The guide features several locations for wildlife viewing along the byway including, Trinidad Lake State Park, Longs Canyon Wildlife Viewing Area, The Purgatoire River Valley, Bosque del Oso State Wildlife Area, Spanish Peaks State Wildlife Area, North Lake State Wildlife Area, San Isabel National Forest – Farley Nature Trail, the Spanish Peaks Wilderness, Lathrop State Park and others.

*See Visitor's Guide sample pages below*

### **Follow up:**

As a major partner with the Scenic Highway of Legends since 2002, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the byway route and the Purgatoire River. Additional work at these sites will include expansion of interpretation and facilities at Monument Lake and nearby state wildlife areas, and the addition of elk viewing facilities and interpretation along the byway at the Bosque del Oso State Wildlife Area and near the town of Stonewall. Additional interpretation of the byway and the diversity of wildlife found along it should be provided at the State Park Visitor Centers located at both Lathrop and Trinidad.

Project #10: Byway: Scenic Highway of Legends Scenic and Historic Byway: Visitor's Guide:

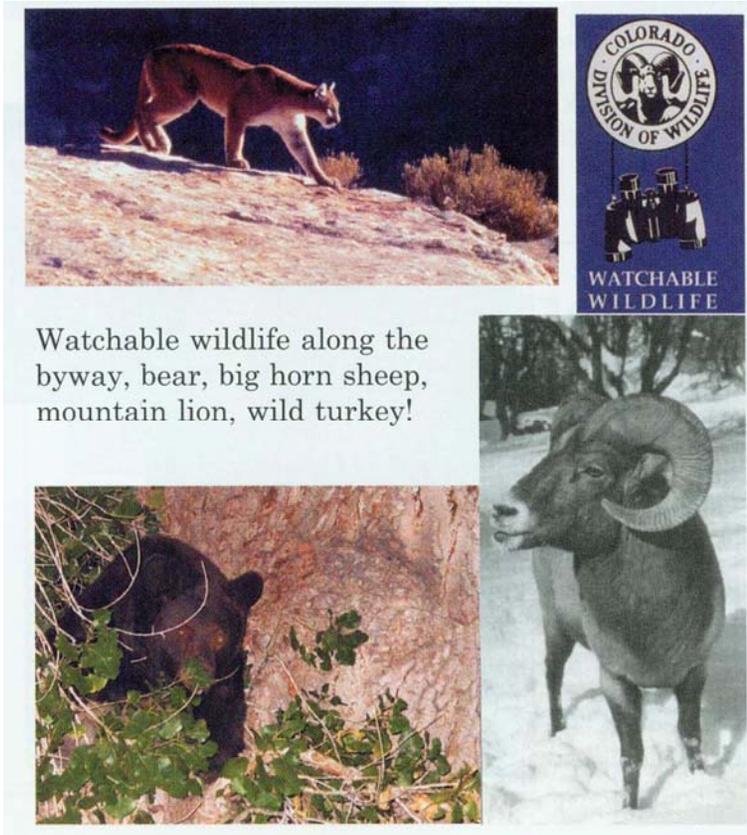


▲ Scenic Hwy of Legends – Visitor's Guide



▲ Scenic Hwy of Legends – Visitor's Guide Page

Project #10: Byway: Scenic Highway of Legends Scenic and Historic Byway: Visitor's Guide:



Watchable wildlife along the byway, bear, big horn sheep, mountain lion, wild turkey!

▲ Scenic Hwy of Legends Visitor's Guide – Watchable Wildlife information along the byway– Featured in the Visitor's Guide



▲ Rustic Entrance Sign – located at Bosque del Oso State Wildlife Area

## Project #11: Byway: Frontier Pathways Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive signs at Lake Isabel Recreation Area

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
280.00 to Cimarron Trading Co.	05/22/04	DOW through Byway Grant	Fish graphics for WW sign
500.00 to Kimmellgraphics	9/01/04	DOW SE Region Operating	
4,880 to Kimmellgraphics	06/15/05	DOW through Byway Grant	
500.00 to Kimmellgraphics	06/15/05	DOW SE Region Operating	
2,400 to Kimmellgraphics	08/15/05	San Isabel National Forest	Graphics, layout and fabrication – Carhart Sign and Orientation panel

### **Project Costs:**

**Total DOW contribution: \$6,160 (DOW: 1,000; grant: 5,160)**

The Frontier Pathways Scenic and Historic Byway project featured the development, design, fabrication and installation of four interpretive signs at the Lake Isabel site along the byway and located in San Isabel National Forest.

### **In-kind:**

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at approximately 10 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$200 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings to plan, design, develop, fabricate and install these interpretive signs.
- The USFS provided a substantial cash and in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review, graphics and layout design and text writing as well as providing meeting, office and work space used by staff. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the USFS to be \$500.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 10 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$300.

### **Project Description:**

This project includes the planning, development, design, and fabrication of four low profile interpretive signs for Lake Isabel along the byway.

Sign #1 Wildlife Viewing Tips – Fish of Lake Isabel

Sign #2 Arthur Carhart and the birth of Automobile Recreation

Sign #3 Lake Isabel – Orientation and trails for recreation and wildlife viewing

Sign #4 Civilian Conservation Corps – Explains the history of projects using the Civilian Conservation Corps (Sign paid for by USFS)

*See artwork of signs below.*

### **Follow up:**

As a major partner with Frontier Pathways since its designation, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the byway route. Additional work at these sites will include expansion of interpretation and facilities in the Wet Mountain Valley and in nearby state parks and state wildlife areas. Additional interpretation of the byway and the diversity of wildlife found along it should be provided at the State Park Visitor Centers located at Lake Pueblo State Park, at the Byways Information Center located at the El Pueblo Museum in Pueblo, and at the All Aboard Westcliffe visitor center in the Wet Mountain Valley.

Project #11: Byway: Frontier Pathways Scenic and Historic Byway: Lake Isabel Interpretive signs



Lake Isabel

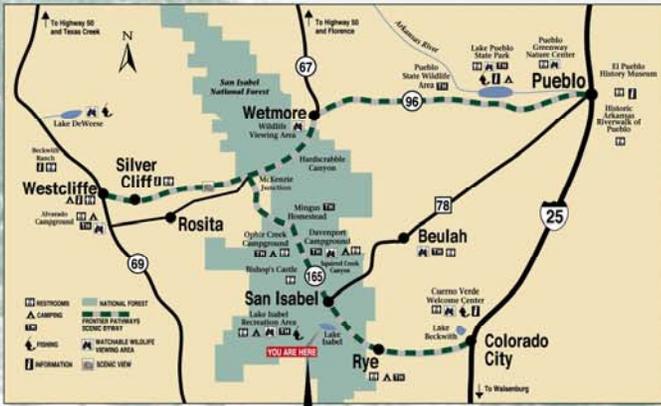
## Frontier Pathways

**Scenic & Historic Byway** – a 103-mile route – follows in the footsteps of American Indians, Spanish, French and American explorers. This rich land beckoned many fortune seekers: fur trappers, traders, prospectors and ranchers. In the 1870s, homesteaders established their roots in these green meadows, forests and canyons. And, in the early 20th Century, this area became the inspiration for the first planned campgrounds in any National Forest.

Frontier Pathways extends from Pueblo through Wetmore to Westcliffe and Silver Cliff, traveling through the San Isabel National Forest to Colorado City and I-25.

Frontier Pathways is one of 99 National Scenic Byways and is one of more than 24 Colorado Scenic Byways. The Scenic Byways program is administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. Started in 1992, the program was established to create a distinctive collection of American roads, their stories and treasured places. For more information, visit:

[www.frontierpathways.org](http://www.frontierpathways.org)  
[www.coloradobyways.org](http://www.coloradobyways.org)  
[www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org)




For more information please contact the U.S. Forest Service:

San Carlos Ranger District  
 3170 E. Main St.  
 Canon City, Colorado 81212  
 (719) 269-8500 • [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/sanc>

▲ Lake Isabel – Frontier Pathways/Lake Isabel Orientation sign

**Lake Isabel**

**TRACK YOUR TRASH**

*Please help keep Lake Isabel clean – Pack it in, Pack it out!*

**U.S. Forest Service**  
**NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS**  
 Scenic Byway  
**AMERICA'S BYWAYS®**  
 U.S. Department of Transportation  
 Federal Highway Administration

## Colorado's Wildlife - It's Something to See!

**Tips for successful wildlife watching:**

- ◆ Watch from a safe distance. Use binoculars, a spotting scope or camera with telephoto lens.
- ◆ Move slowly and don't approach. Don't chase or harass wildlife.
- ◆ Leave your pets at home or keep them leashed. Watch animals carefully. If they appear stressed, limit your time watching them.
- ◆ Respect others who are watching the same animals.
- ◆ Don't feed wild mammals. They have specific dietary needs and may become dependent on "handouts."
- ◆ Avoid animals that are acting strangely or aggressively.

**Aquatic Residents**

Lake Isabel's rich riparian habitat is home to native and non-native fish, minnows, insects and other aquatic creatures that are all part of a healthy environment.

**RAINBOW TROUT**  
**BROWN TROUT**  
**CUTTHROAT TROUT**

**Look for mountain lions and their tracks in rugged, rocky terrain.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Black bears spend their days looking for food and eating. In the fall, their search gets even more focused, as they attempt to consume up to 20,000 calories each day - the caloric equivalent of 10 large pizzas - to prepare for hibernation.

**GARBAGE KILLS BEARS!**

[www.wildlife.state.co.us](http://www.wildlife.state.co.us)

▲Lake Isabel – Wildlife Viewing tips sign

**Lake Isabel**

## Arthur Carhart – Recreation Pioneer

The end of WWI forged a new era for the industrial workers at the booming steel mills in Pueblo. On summer weekends, over 2,500 people drove their Model T's into the cool, green Wet Mountains. At the time, no picnic areas or campgrounds were available in the National Forest. This sudden onslaught overwhelmed the canyon – threatening to destroy the natural beauty and tranquility that attracted these pioneering campers.

To combat overcrowding, poor sanitation and the growing danger of wild fire, the Forest Service hired a young Landscape Architect named Arthur Carhart, in 1919. He constructed public campgrounds with toilets, trash receptacles and drinking water. Carhart's use of picnic tables, outhouses, and fire grates created the first campgrounds in the National Forest System. This new idea called “camping” took off and almost 90 years later, it is one of the most popular activities on public lands.

Flooding washed out the road in Squirrel Creek Canyon in 1947, but the original campground remains, hidden in the dark shadows of the pines standing along the stream.

Arthur Carhart was hired in 1919 as the first recreation planner for the U.S. Forest Service. His pay was \$1,800 annually.

Lake Isabel, 1945.

Work started on the dam for Lake Isabel in 1936 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. This was one of the only reservoirs in the state developed purely for recreational use.

Carhart's radical recreational ideas first developed near Lake Isabel. It served as an example for parks and forests, nationwide providing safe, enjoyable recreation in a beautiful outdoor setting.

[www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)

▲Lake Isabel – Arthur Carhart sign

Project #11: Byway: Frontier Pathways Scenic and Historic Byway: Lake Isabel Interpretive signs.

# Remembering the C.C.C.

## A Vision Come True

Work started on Lake Isabel by the Civilian Conservation Corps (Company 812) in 1936. This was one of the few reservoirs in the state of Colorado developed purely for recreation and not for irrigation use. Double shifts worked on the project with 40 trucks hauling clay from three steam shovels and one elevating grader.

Crews worked through the night with electric power furnished by a 9 kilowatt diesel light plant. The dam was completed in 1939 and the lake was filled the next year. The CCC installed the Lake Isabel signs, put riprap on the downstream face of the dam, built roads, and did landscaping.



Building the dam wall.

## A History of Service

The Civilian Conservation Corps camp was located in San Isabel City (now San Isabel). It was designated as Camp-59-C. During the late 1930s 59-C was the largest CCC project in the United States.



The CCC was started during the Depression to keep unemployed young men out of trouble. They earned \$30 a month of which \$23 was sent home to help their families. For the CCC enrollees "home" was a tent camp within the National Forest or on other public lands. The camps were run by US Army officers and the Forest Service provided staff to oversee the construction of new roads and trails, erosion control structures, and grazing improvements, among other public works projects.



Landscaping



Ripraping the dam.



Many of the buildings you see in the town of San Isabel (then called St. Charles) were part of the CCC camp. The Lake Isabel Lodge was used as the CCC mess hall (and earlier a privately operated lodge.) Some of the cabins housed CCC personnel, though many were originally built in 1924.

This exhibit was funded in part through a grant from the Colorado Historical Society secured by the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association.



Besides the lake, dam, and spillway, little remains of the original CCC construction at Lake Isabel. Most of the men who contributed to the success of this project are no longer around to enjoy it. But the results of their vision, their efforts and their labor will remain for the benefit of generations to come.

San Isabel National Forest



▲Lake Isabel – Civilian Conservation Corps sign

## Project #12: Byway: Top of the Rockies Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive signs/kiosks at Hayden Ranch Interpretive site along the byway

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
13,673 to Conlin Associates	03/14/03	Lake County	Hayden Ranch Recreation Area Project
500 to Exhibit Design	03/15/04	DOW SE Region Operating	
4880 to Exhibit Design	04/27/04	DOW through Byway Grant	
8,200 to Exhibit Design	03/15/05	Lake County	Hayden Ranch Recreation Area Project

### **Project Costs:**

**Total DOW contribution: \$5,380 (DOW: 500; grant: 4,880)**

The Top of the Rockies Scenic and Historic Byway project featured the development, design, fabrication and installation of two interpretive signs and a kiosk at the Hayden Ranch site along the byway and located along the Arkansas River. Additional funds for Hayden Ranch Project from Lake County through a grant.

### **In-kind:**

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at approximately 25 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$500 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings to plan, design, develop, fabricate and install these interpretive signs.
- The USFS provided a substantial cash and in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review, graphics and layout design and text writing as well as providing meeting, office and work space used by staff. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the USFS to be \$1,000.
- Lake County provided additional in-kind contributions of more than 40 hours at \$25.00 per hour and additional services including project coordination, communication, research and content review, graphics and layout and editing text, as well as providing meeting, office and work space used by staff and volunteers. Additional wildlife signs were provided by Lake County along the river banks. The total for all this in-kind from Lake County is approximately \$1,000.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 8 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$240.

### **Project Description:**

This project includes the planning, development, design, and fabrication of three low profile interpretive signs for Lake San Isabel along the byway.

Sign #1 Watchable Wildlife Ecosystem Panel discusses plant adaptations to altitude in the Rockies

Sign #2 Watchable Wildlife "Birds N' Bugs" Panel discusses animal adaptations to climate and altitude in the Sawatch Range.

*See artwork of signs below.*

### **Follow up:**

As a major partner with the Top of the Rockies Byway since 2001, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the byway route. Additional work at these sites will include expansion of interpretation and facilities both north and south of Leadville and in wildlife viewing areas near Granite. Additional interpretation of the byway and the diversity of wildlife found along it should be provided at the Arkansas Headwaters State Park Visitor Center located in Salida and at the local Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Centers located in Leadville and Buena Vista.

Project #12: Byway: Top of the Rockies Scenic and Historic Byway: Hayden Ranch Interpretive kiosk and signs.



▲ Watchable Wildlife Kiosk – Hayden Ranch Site

S



▲ Watchable Wildlife Ecosystem Sign Panel – Hayden Ranch Site



▲ Watchable Wildlife Birds Sign Panel – Hayden Ranch Site

### Project #13: Byway: Alpine Loop Scenic and Historic Byway: Byway Interpretive Sign Panels

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
500.00 to Western Colorado Interpretive Assoc.	09/15/04	DOW SE Region Operating	
720.00 to Western Colorado Interpretive Assoc.	2/13/05	Byway Partners	
4,880.00 to Western Colorado Interpretive Association	06/14/05	DOW through Byway Grant	

#### **Project Costs:**

**Total DOW contribution: \$5,380 (DOW: 500; grant: 4,880)**

The Alpine Loop Byway was provided these funds through the Western Colorado Interpretive Association to provide artwork, graphics, text and layout of the interpretive panels for this backcountry byway as well as for the visitor center in Lake City.

#### **In-kind:**

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at more than 15 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$300 through their efforts to complete this project.
- BLM and US Forest Service provided a small in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review as well as providing some office and work space used by Arden Andersen. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the BLM/USFS to be \$1,000.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 10 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$300.

#### **Project Description:**

This project includes the design, fabrication and installation of interpretive panels featuring original artwork providing information about the wildlife and wildlife habitats of the byway. In particular, the panels feature a description life in the alpine tundra of the San Juan Mts. The final products for this project include:

- Scenic and Historic Byway interpretive panel along the byway route.
- Beavers- Nature's Engineer interpretive panel located at Lake City Visitors' Center.
- Watchable Wildlife of the Alpine Tundra – Wildlife Viewing Brochure for visitor handout at each end of the byway.

*See example of products on next page.*

#### **Follow up:**

As a partner with the Alpine Loop since 2002, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the backcountry byway route. Additional panels will be planned for the Visitor's Center and Chamber of Commerce located in Lake City. The Division of Wildlife has created a Southwest Region in the past few years, and any additional projects for the area are administered by that region.

Project #13: Alpine Loop Scenic and Historic Byway: Byway Interpretive Sign



As you travel the Alpine Loop watch for wildlife.

**Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep**  
Bighorn sheep are grazers. They feed on plants in meadows, open woodlands, and above timberline. For protection, they seek out steep rocky cliffs. Historically, sheep migrated from mountain range to mountain range. Today, they remain year round due to roads and subdivisions that have broken-up their migration routes.



Photo: Bureau of Land Management



Photo: Ed El West Service

**Bald and Golden Eagles**  
Bald and golden eagles can be seen in cottonwood trees, on cliffs, or soaring on air currents in the San Juan Mountains. Bald eagles build large stick nests in cottonwood trees and usually stay close to the rivers where they can fish. The larger golden eagle can be seen soaring in the valleys where they hunt small mammals.



Photo courtesy of Jimmie Kehr

**Yellow-Bellied Marmots**  
The marmot is the largest member of the squirrel family in North America. They have dark brown fur and a yellowish-brown underside. Marmots are also called "whistle pig" because their whistle-like signal can be heard as far away as one mile. They can be seen on any high mountain pass, open meadows, or near rocky outcrops.

**Tips for Viewing Wildlife**

- Stay in your vehicle and remain quiet.
- Keep your distance. If your behavior changes their behavior, you are too close.
- Keep pets on a leash — don't let your pets chase wildlife.
- Wear clothing that blends with the environment.
- Do not feed wildlife. They get plenty of food from their natural environment.

**Please Keep Wildlife Wild!**

**Moose**  
Moose were known to have lived in the San Juan Mountains historically, however, no records exist to verify this statement. Between 1930 and 1993, one hundred moose were relocated by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) from northern Colorado and Utah to an area near Spring Creek Pass. This area was chosen because of the willow thickets that provide food, shelter, cover, and a quick escape from predators.



Photo courtesy of James Selig



Photo: Colorado Division of Wildlife

**Lynx**  
The lynx is a member of the cat family and is most recognized by its two-inch ear tufts and flared ruffs of hair on each side of its lower jaw. In 1999, lynx were reintroduced into the San Juan Mountains to reestablish this Colorado endangered species. Lynx prefer living in high elevation, mixed forests that have thick underbrush used by snowshoe hare. Lynx have dispersed widely and may be seen in almost any habitat.



Photo: USDA, Forest Service

**Mule Deer**  
Mule deer can be recognized by the large "mule-like" ears. They are most active in the morning and the evening where they feed in large open meadows and scrub brushland. Watch carefully as they often cross the highway when you least expect it.



This project was partially funded by a State Historical Fund grant awarded from the Colorado Historical Society, and the Federal Highway Administration — National Scenic Byway Program.

## Project #13: Alpine Loop Scenic and Historic Byway: Byway Interpretive Sign

Beaver panel: Visitor Center Display

# B E A V E R

## NATURE'S ENGINEERS

The beaver is Colorado's largest rodent and is one of the few animals that significantly change their environment to meet their needs. Beavers are well suited to live near the water. They have webbed hind feet, a paddle shaped tail that is used like a rudder, and valves in their ears and nose that close when they swim underwater.

Keep an eye out as you travel along streams for dams, ponds, lodges, canals, slides, and gnawed stumps that indicate beavers are in the area.



It takes a beaver about 30 minutes to fell a 5-inch diameter tree. They eat the leaves, bark and young branches of aspen and willow. (They do not eat fish or other aquatic animals.) The rest of the wood and branches may be used to build or repair their dams or lodges.

In the early history of this country, beaver provided a strong incentive for mountain men to explore the west. Beaver were trapped for their thick fur and castor from their scent glands that was used to make perfume. In many areas they almost disappeared. Today they are trapped occasionally and their survival is secure.

### Beaver Ponds – Water Storage in the Arid West

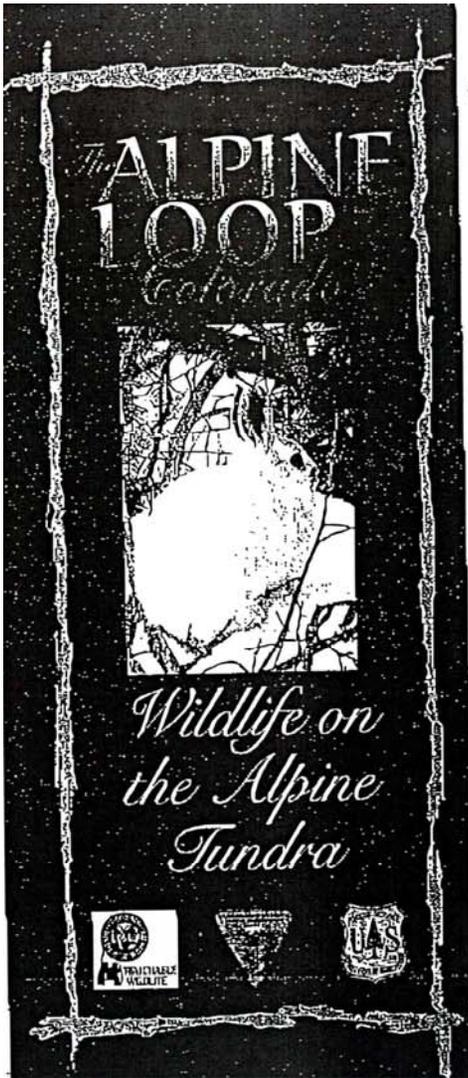
Beaver are an important species in the Rocky Mountains. They create and maintain critical wetlands throughout the arid west. As a result, many species of wildlife are able to survive, especially during dry years. Beaver and the modifications they make to their environment help to:

- Create ponds that store water for use by fish and other animals.
- Raise the water table and recharge springs.
- Reduce soil erosion and flooding in the spring.
- Increase riparian habitat used by many other species.
- When old dams silt in, they turn into lush streamside meadows.

It is recognized that beaver can cause damage when they chew down desirable trees, block culverts, or flood roads and trails with their ponds. In some cases beaver are trapped to reduce problems. In other cases, beaver are relocated into a valley that could benefit from their skills at stabilizing streams and building wetlands.

# Project #13: Alpine Loop Scenic and Historic Byway: Byway Interpretive Brochure

## Alpine Loop: Watchable Wildlife Brochure



### Welcome

Over ??? species of wildlife can be found in Colorado and of these more than ??? can be found in the alpine tundra zone at or above treeline.

This guide is an introduction to a few of the common types of animals you might see in the high country of Colorado at elevations above 9,000 feet. Look for wildlife along streams, in open meadows, on high-elevation passes, and along the ridge lines just after sunrise or in the hours just before sunset along forest margins.

*Anything else?*

**TIPS FOR VIEWING WILDLIFE**

- Stay in your vehicle and remain quiet.
- Keep your distance. If your behavior changes their behavior, you are too close.
- Keep pets on a leash - don't let your pets chase wildlife.
- Watch for wildlife that flies with the wind and sound.
- Do not feed wildlife. Feeding is illegal and harmful to the animals.
- Do not touch or handle any wildlife.
- Do not take any part of any wildlife.
- Do not feed any wildlife.



**Snowshoe Hare**  
Snowshoe hare live in subalpine forests in alpine zones where there are thickets of willow. They have relatively short ears, but they have huge hind legs for travel in deep snow. Snowshoe hare are a mottled brown color in summer and have white fur in winter. This allows them to be camouflaged throughout the year to avoid predators such as fox, coyote, bobcat, lynx, and owls.

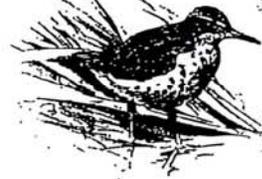
- Photo USDA Forest Service



**Wilson's Warbler**  
Wilson's warbler can be found in vegetation at the edge of wet meadows where they fly between clusters of dwarf conifer trees and riparian willows. Notice the black cap on the otherwise yellow warbler.



**White-crowned Sparrow**  
The black and white stripes on the head of this sparrow distinguish this bird from other sparrows. It can be found in a variety of alpine habitats especially at timberline where it finds refuge in the stunted trees.



Watch closely or listen for evidence of wildlife: the distinctive call of a white-crowned sparrow, the bobbing of a spotted sandpiper, or a beaver-chewed willow branch along Hanson Creek, Lake Fork of the Gunnison, or the Animas River.



**Spotted Sandpiper**  
These small shore birds can be found on the edges of ponds, lakes and rivers at elevations up to 14,000 feet. Watch for the spotted sandpiper when it "bobs" its tail as it forages for insects.



**Beaver**  
Beaver are found in riparian zones throughout Colorado. Watch for evidence of these aquatic rodents along streams and rivers where they build their dams and lodges.



*beaver lodge*

## Project #14: Byway: Cache La Poudre-North Park Scenic and Historic Byway: Byway Interpretive Sign Panel in Walden

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
4,890.00 to Bruce Andersen and Associates	06/15/05	DOW through Byway Grant	
500.00 to Bruce Andersen and Associates	06/15/05	DOW W Region Operating	
720.00 to Bruce Andersen and Associates	9/13/05	Byway Partners	

### **Project Costs:**

**Total DOW contribution: \$5,390 (DOW: 500; grant: 4,890)**

Cache La Poudre Scenic and Historic Byway contracted with Bruce Andersen and Associates to provide artwork, graphics, text and layout of the large size interpretive panel (4' X 8') for this location along the byway in Walden.

### **In-kind:**

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at more than 20 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$400 through their efforts to complete this project.
- US Forest Service provided a small in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review as well as providing some office and work space used by staff. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the USFS to be \$500.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 8 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$240.

### **Project Description:**

This project includes the design, fabrication and installation of an interpretive panel featuring original artwork providing information about the wildlife and habitats found in North Park and along the byway. The Panel highlights the many wildlife viewing opportunities in North Park, similar to the map in the "Watching Wildlife in North Park" brochure. The final products for this project include:

- Cache La Poudre – North Park Scenic and Historic Byway orientation and interpretive panel at the rest area in Walden.

*See example of panel on next page*

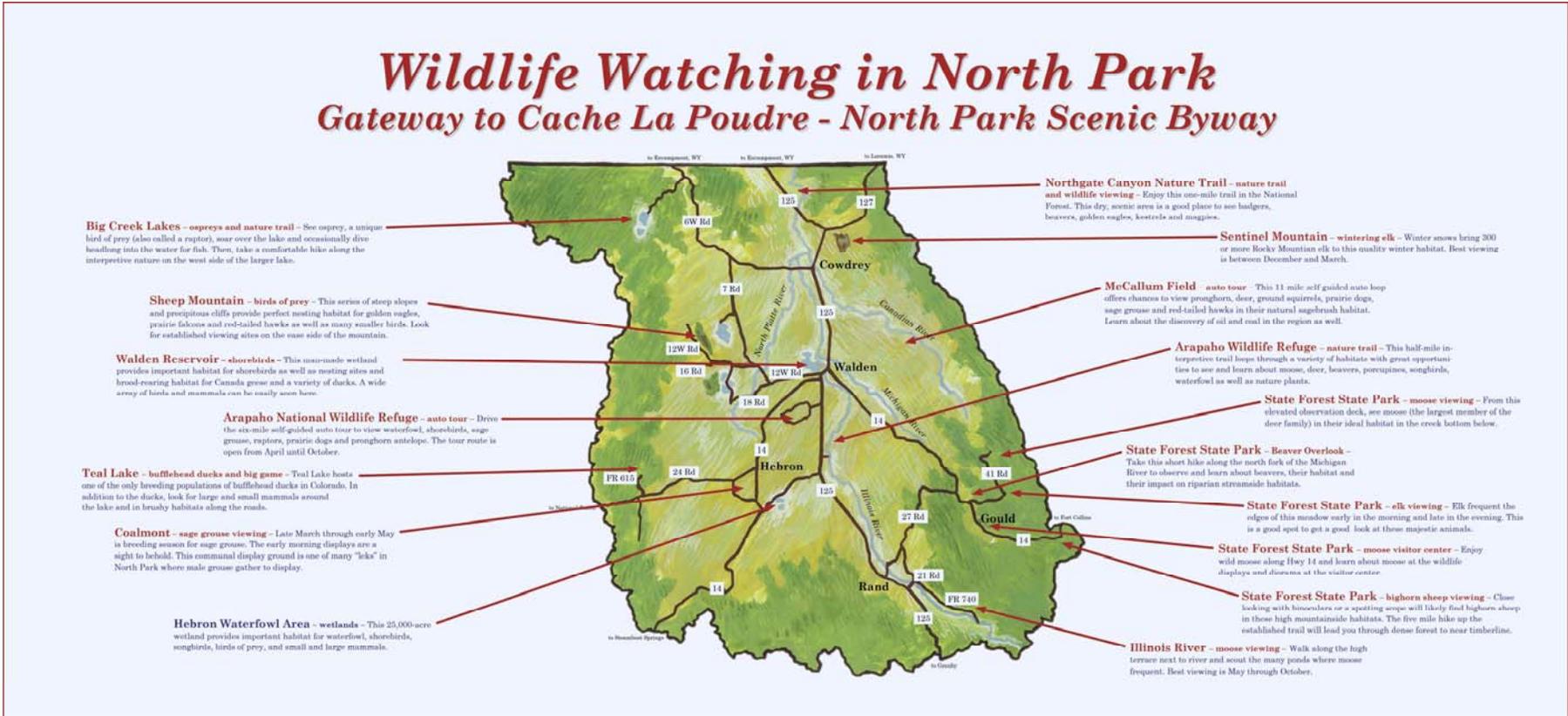
.

### **Follow up:**

As a partner with the Cache La Poudre – North Park Scenic and Historic Byway since 2003, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the 101 mile byway route. Additional will be planned for the Poudre River corridor, Cameron Pass along CO Hwy 14, as well as State Forest State Park, and the many wildlife viewing sites located in North Park, like the Arapahoe National Wildlife Refuge and several State Wildlife areas that outstanding wildlife viewing opportunities.

Because Sage Grouse viewing has become an extremely popular event for wildlife viewers in the spring, the DOW and the byway should continue to provide well monitored viewing opportunities for these spectacular birds. Currently, the DOW and other partners sponsor grouse viewing in North Park during the early spring. (see [www.wildlife.state.co.us](http://www.wildlife.state.co.us) for more information,

Project #14: Cache La Poudre-North Park Scenic and Historic Byway: Byway Interpretive Sign Panel at kiosk in Walden:



▲ Wildlife Watching in North Park byway panel



▲ North Park Sage Grouse

## Project #15: Byway: Colorado River Headwaters Scenic and Historic Byway: Byway Interpretive Sign Panel in Pioneer Park, Hot Sulphur Springs.

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
1,800.00 to Jim Cox	06/16/04	DOW through Byway Grant	
500.00 to Colorado River S&H Byway	05/25/05	DOW W Region Operating	
3,080.00 to CMS Consulting	06/24/05	DOW through Byway Grant	
720.00 to CMS Consulting	08/13/05	Byway Partners	

### **Project Costs:**

**Total DOW contribution: \$5,380 (DOW: 500; grant: 4,880)**

Colorado Headwaters Scenic and Historic Byway contracted with CMS Consulting to provide artwork, graphics, text and layout of the interpretive panel for this sign panel located in Hot Sulphur Springs, along the byway.

### **In-kind:**

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at more than 36 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$720 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings to plan, design, develop and fabricate the sign at Pioneer Park in Hot Sulphur Springs, along the byway.
- US Forest Service and BLM provided a small in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review as well as providing some office and work space used by staff. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the USFS to be \$400 and the BLM to be \$500.
- Employees of Hot Sulphur Springs Resort provided in-kind labor of approximately 14 hours at \$15.00, approximating a value of \$210 for installation and site preparation of the site and the sign.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 20 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$300.

### **Project Description:**

This project includes the design, fabrication and installation of an interpretive panel featuring original artwork providing information about the wildlife viewing opportunities along the Colorado Headwaters Scenic and Historic Byway. The final products for this project include:

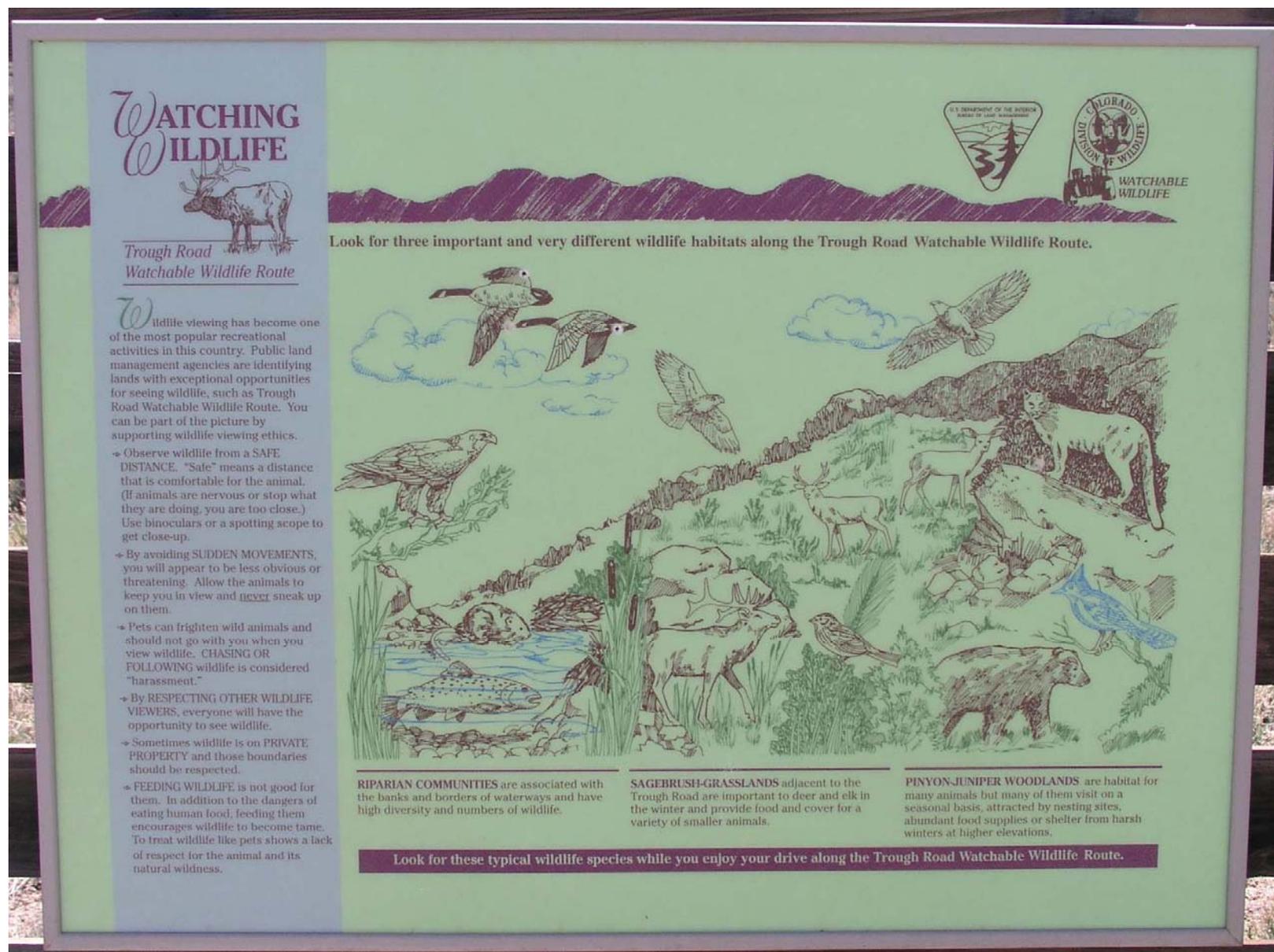
- Scenic and Historic Byway wildlife viewing panel at the Pioneer Park in Hot Sulphur Springs. This sign points out the wealth of wildlife viewing opportunities found along the Trough Road Watchable Wildlife Route.

*See examples of panels on next page.*

### **Follow up:**

As a partner with the Colorado Headwaters Scenic and Historic Byway since 2003, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the 80 mile byway route. Additional panels have been planned along the Colorado River corridor. An outstanding wildlife viewing area is currently located along the byway at Windy Gap. Interpretive signs, scopes and a rest area provide a pleasant stopover for visitors along the byway.

Project #15: Byway: Colorado River Headwaters Scenic and Historic Byway: Byway Interpretive Sign Panel in Pioneer Park, Hot Sulphur Springs:



▲ Byway panel; Trough Road Watchable Wildlife Route

## Project #16: Byway: Dinosaur Diamond Scenic and Historic Byway: Wildlife Viewing Interpretive Sign Panel at Fruita Welcome Center

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
75.00 to Mt. View Photography - Photos	06/10/04	DOW through Byway Grant	
375.00 to Bruce Gill - Photos	06/10/04	DOW through Byway Grant	
675.00 to Paul Gray - Photos	06/10/04	DOW through Byway Grant	
75.00 to Terry Bridgman - Photos	06/10/04	DOW through Byway Grant	
466.00 to Angel Sign	08/09/04	DOW through Byway Grant	
500.00 to Dinosaur Diamond	09/15/04	DOW W Region Operating	
400.00 to Dinosaur Diamond	09/15/04	Byway Partners	

### **Project Costs:**

**Total DOW contribution: \$2,441 (DOW: 500; grant: 1,941)**

The Dinosaur Diamond Scenic and Historic Byway provided graphics, layout and design for a wildlife viewing interpretive panel located at the Colorado Welcome Center in Fruita.

### **In-kind:**

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at approximately 30 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$600 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings to plan, design, develop and fabricate the interpretive panel at the welcome center.
- The BLM provided a substantial in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review, graphics and layout design and text writing as well as providing meeting, office and work space. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the BLM to be \$800.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and Technicians and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 10 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$300.

### **Project Description:**

This project includes the planning, development, design, fabrication and installation of a watchable wildlife interpretive panel at the Colorado Welcome Center in Fruita. The final products for this project included:

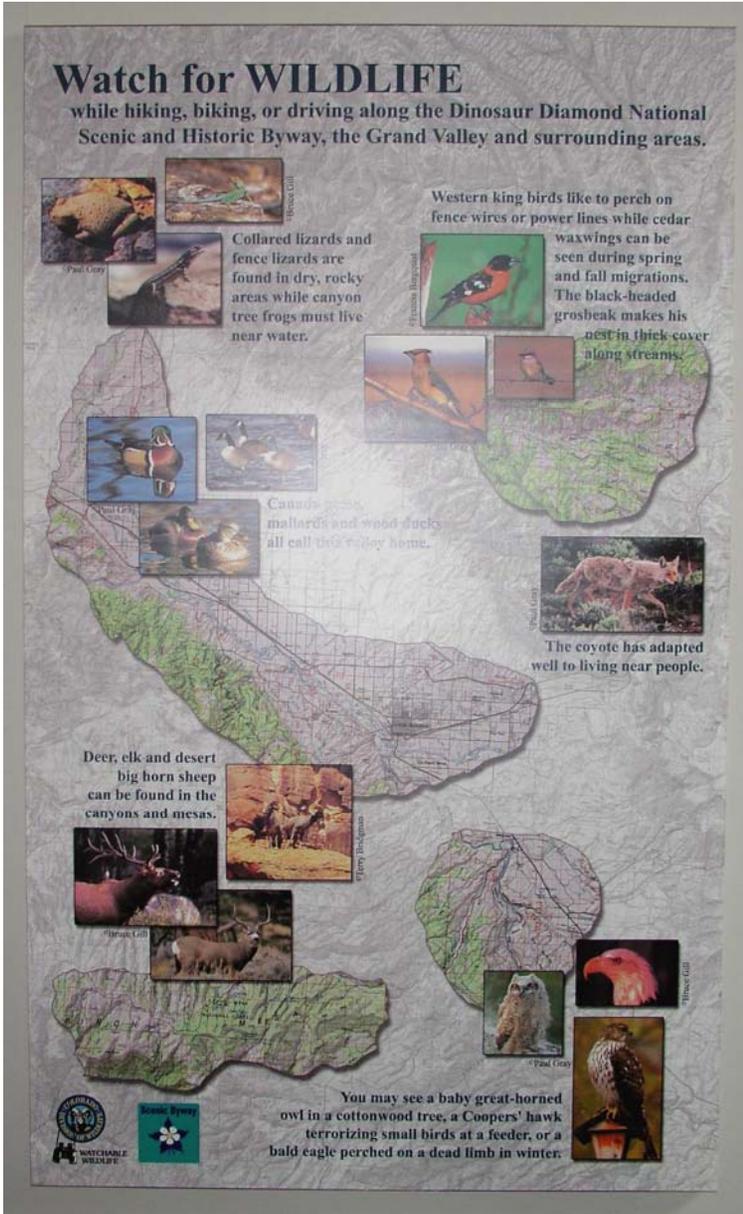
- “Watch For Wildlife”, Interpretive and Orientation Panel at the Colorado Welcome Center in Fruita.
- CDOW information included on DVD to be played for visitors at welcome center.

*See photos on the next page.*

### **Follow up:**

As a major partner with the Dinosaur Diamond Byway since its dedication, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the byway route. Additional work at these sites will include species and habitat specific interpretive sign panels and waysides explaining habitat, habitat needs of wildlife, and wildlife viewing ethics.

Project #16: Byway: Dinosaur Diamond Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panel in Public Lands Room at Fruita Welcome Center:



▲Byways Panel – Fruita Welcome Center



▲Fruita – Byway along the Colorado River

## Project #17: Byway: Flat Tops Trail Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panels on Colorado Hwy 64 at Ripple Creek Pass

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
4,880.00 to Interpretive Graphics	12/07/04	DOW through Byway Grant	
560 to Interpretive Graphics	12/07/04	DOW through Byway Grant	Shipping, etc.
500.00 to Flat Tops Trail Scenic Byway	12/07/04	DOW W Region Operating	Shipping, etc.
720.00 to Interpretive Graphics	12/10/04	Byway Partners	

### **Project Costs:**

**Total DOW contribution: \$5,380 (DOW: 500; grant: 4,880)**

The Flat Tops Trail Scenic and Historic Byway installed three interpretive panels along the byway at Ripple Creek Pass in cooperation with the USFS.

### **In-kind:**

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at approximately 20 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$400 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings to plan, design, develop and fabricate the signs at the site at Ripple Creek Pass on the byway.
- The USFS provided a small in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review, graphics and layout design and text writing as well as providing meeting, office and work space. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the USFS to be \$700.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and Technicians and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 10 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$300.

### **Project Description:**

This project includes the planning, development, design, fabrication and installation of two low-profile interpretive signs along the Byway Route. The final products for this project include:

Three interpretive sign panels located at Ripple Creek Pass Interpretive Site along the Flat Tops Trail Scenic and Historic Byway.

Sign #1 “ No Boundaries” Wildlife Viewing Sign offers information on where to view wildlife species along the byway

Sign #2 “ Land Of Many Uses” explains the USFS multiple use philosophy to byway travelers

Sign #3 “Alien Invasion” provides information on the negative impacts of non-native weeds and management actions. The sign includes photos of five species of these weeds to aid identification

Ripple Creek Pass sits at an elevation of 10,438 feet at the boundary between the White River and Routt National Forests. The Ripple Creek Overlook provides tremendous roadside views into the spectacular backcountry of the Flat Tops Wilderness. At this scenic wayside, in addition to the three signs produced by this project there are also existing signs that allow visitors to learn about the development of the wilderness philosophy, learn about watchable wildlife (elk), and understand the geological development of the Flat Tops and the area.

*See photos of signs on the next page.*

### **Follow up:**

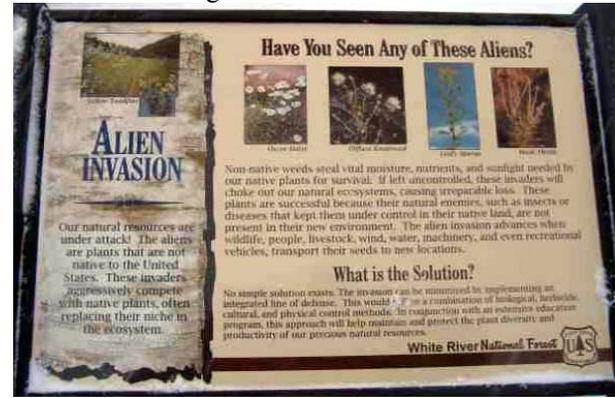
As a major partner with the Flat Tops Byway since its dedication, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the byway route.

Project #17: Byway: Flat Tops Trail Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panels on Colorado Hwy 64 at Ripple Creek Pass  
Land of Many Uses Sign



▲Byway panel; Ripple Creek Pass Interpretive Site

Alien Invasion Sign



▲Byway panel; Ripple Creek Pass Interpretive Site



▲Byway Panel - No Boundaries – Wildlife Viewing Sign – Ripple Creek Pass Site

## Project #18: Byway: Grand Mesa Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panels at the Grand Mesa Visitor's Center

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
4880.00 to Prism Interpretive Services	08/25/03	DOW through Byway Grant	
720.00 to Prism Interpretive Services	10/12/03	Byway Partners	
500.00 to Prism Interpretive Services	10/12/03	DOW W Region Operating	

### **Project Costs:**

**Total DOW contribution: \$5,380 (DOW: 500; grant: 4,880)**

The Grand Mesa Scenic and Historic Byway project consists of three low-profile watchable wildlife panels installed at the Grand Mesa Visitor's Center on the byway. These panels may be removed seasonally due to deep snow.

### **In-kind:**

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at approximately 20 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$400 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings to plan, design, develop and fabricate the signs at the Grand Mesa Visitor's Center on the byway.
- The USFS provided a small in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review, graphics and layout design and text writing as well as providing meeting, office and work space. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the USFS to be \$500.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and Technicians and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 6 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$180.

### **Project Description:**

This project includes the planning, development, design, fabrication and installation of three low-profile interpretive signs at the Grand Mesa Visitor's Center located along the Byway Route. The final products for this project include:

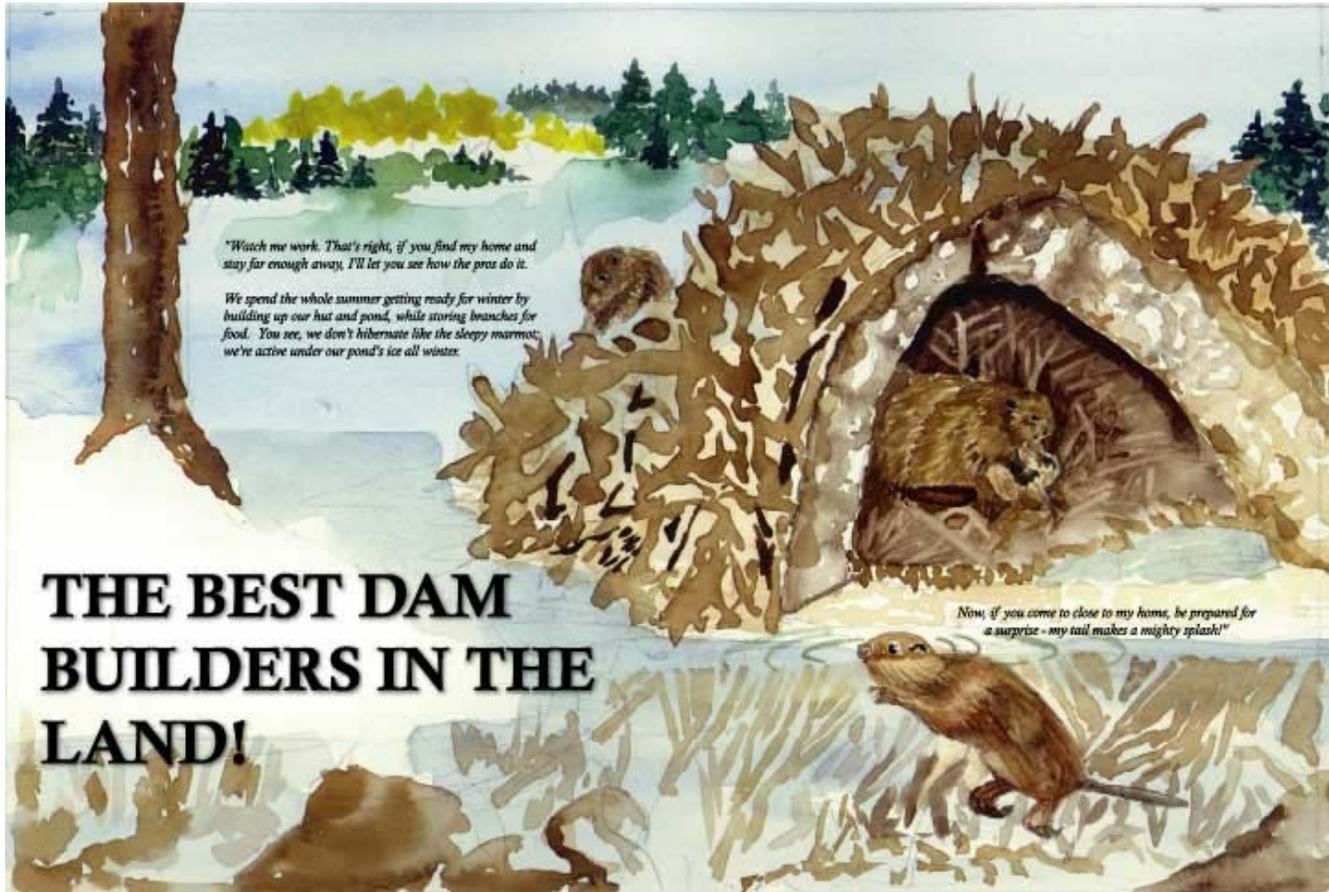
- Three interpretive signs featuring interpretation about wildlife and ecosystems found along the Grand Mesa Scenic Byway.  
Sign #1 "The Best Dam Builders in the Land" Sign deals with the biology and habits of beavers on the byway  
Sign #2 "Look For Us" Sign introduces visitors to some of the many birds found along the byway  
Sign #3 "Squirrel or Chipmunk – You Be The Judge" Sign explains the differences between ground squirrels and chipmunks – both commonly found along the byway.

*See photos of signs on the next page.*

### **Follow up:**

As a major partner with the Grand Mesa Byway since its dedication, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the byway route.

Project #18: Byway: Grand Mesa Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panels at the Grand Mesa Visitor's Center



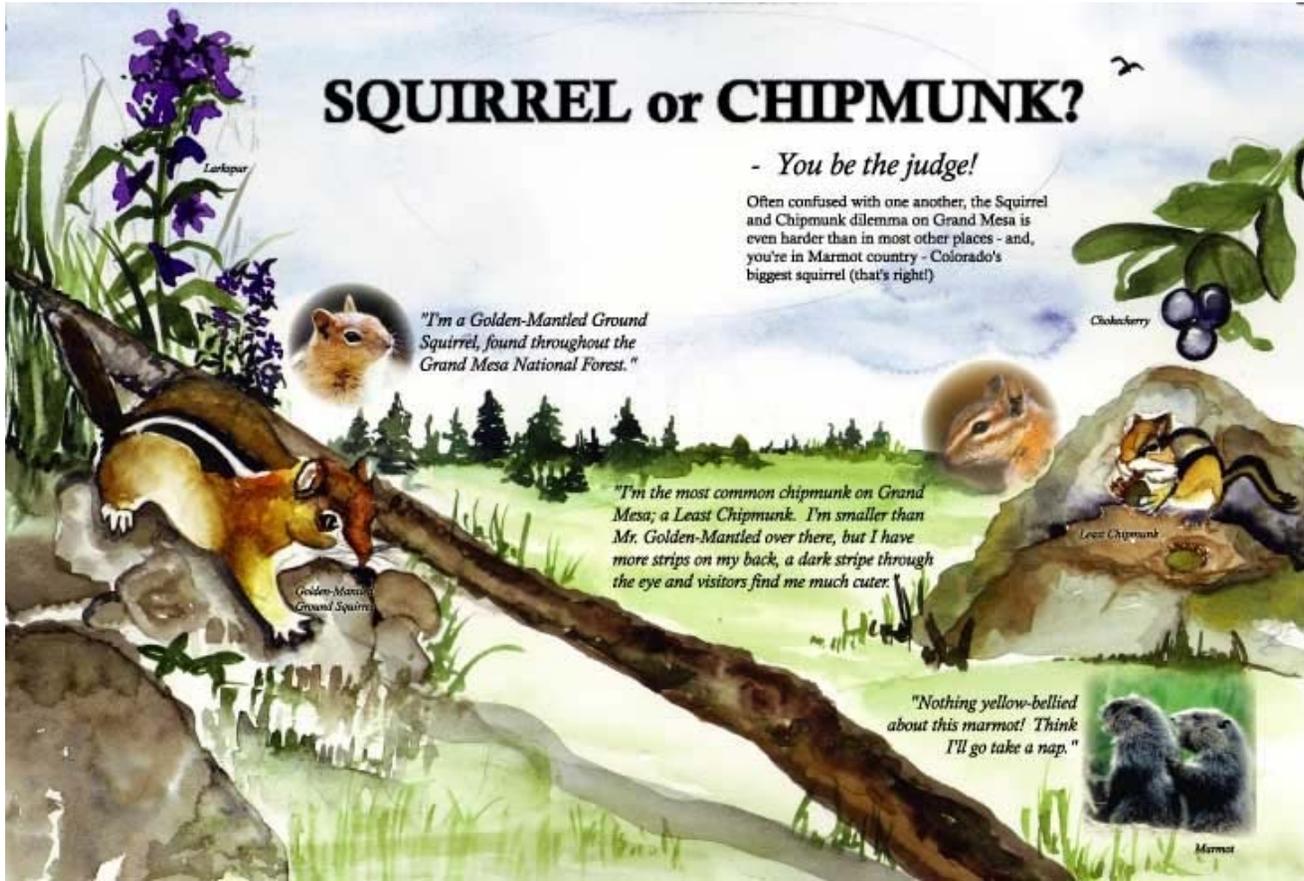
▲Byway panel: Beavers

Project #18: Byway: Grand Mesa Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panels at the Grand Mesa Visitor's Center



▲ Byway panel: Birds

Project #18: Byway: Grand Mesa Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panels at the Grand Mesa Visitor's Center



▲ Byway panel: Squirrels and Chipmunks

## Project #19: Byway: Trail of the Ancients Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panel at the Cortez Visitor's Center

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
4,880.00 to Bruce Andersen	07/07/04	DOW through Byway Grant	
720.00 to Bruce Andersen	10/12/04	Byway Partners	
500.00 to Bruce Andersen	10/12/04	DOW Operating	

### **Project Costs:**

**Total DOW contribution: \$5,380 (DOW: 500; grant: 4,880)**

The Trail of the Ancients Scenic and Historic Byway project consists of a watchable wildlife panel installed at the Cortez Visitor's Center on the byway.

### **In-kind:**

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at approximately 10 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$200 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings to plan, design, develop and fabricate the signs at the Cortez Visitor's Center on the byway.
- The USFS provided a small in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review, graphics and layout design and text writing as well as providing meeting, office and work space. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the USFS to be \$400.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and Technicians and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 10 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$300.

### **Project Description:**

This project includes the planning, development, design, fabrication and installation of an interpretive sign panel at the Cortez Visitor's Center located along the Byway Route.

- This interpretive sign featuring interpretation about wildlife and habitat found along Trail of the Ancients and San Juan Skyway Byways and helpful tips for a successful wildlife viewing experience.

*See photo of sign on the next page.*

### **Follow up:**

As a major partner with the Trail of the Ancients Byway, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the byway route.

Project #19: Byway: Trail of the Ancients Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panel at the Cortez Visitor's Center

# Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway

*diverse wildlife*

## Wildlife Habitat

As you enjoy your visit to southwest Colorado, note that this region is home to abundant wildlife. In fact, between the sandstone deserts of the Four Corners and the alpine tundra of the high peaks you can find just about any species the West has to offer.

Take time to explore!

## Wildlife Viewing Tips

- Slow down and look closely into the landscape.
- Take side roads to access more remote terrain.
- Use binoculars and spotting scopes for a closer look.
- Look during the optimal hours around dawn and dusk.
- Come back again and again to learn the area and it's wildlife.



▲ Byway Interpretive Site: Trail of the Ancients Byway – Wildlife Viewing Interpretive Sign

## Project #20: Byway: Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panels at Nine Mile Hill and Norwood Kiosk sites

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
2,440.00 to Bruce Andersen	09/22/03	DOW through Byway Grant	
720.00 to Bruce Andersen	10/12/03	Byway Partners	
500.00 to Bruce Andersen	10/12/03	DOW W Region Operating	
2,440.00 to Bruce Andersen	10/23/03	DOW through Byway Grant	
600.00 to Timberwolf Welding	02/28/05	DOW through Byway Grant	Pedestal Fabrication

### **Project Costs:**

**Total DOW contribution: \$5,980 (DOW: 500; grant: 5,480)**

The Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway project consists of watchable wildlife panels installed along the byway.

### **In-kind:**

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at approximately 20 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$400 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings to plan, design, develop and fabricate the signs at the Grand Mesa Visitor's Center on the byway.
- The USFS provided a small in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review, graphics and layout design and text writing as well as providing meeting, office and work space. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the USFS to be \$600.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and Technicians and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 6 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$180.

### **Project Description:**

This project includes the planning, development, design, fabrication and installation of interpretive signs at the Nine Mile Hill and Norwood Kiosk Interpretive Sites located along the Byway Route. The final products for this project include:

- Two "Haven For Wildlife" interpretive signs featuring interpretation about the wildlife and habitats found along the byway route, as well as wildlife viewing tips for visitors.

*See photo of sign on the next page.*

### **Follow up:**

As a major partner with the Unaweep/Tabeguache Byway since its dedication, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the byway route.

Project #20: Byway: Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panels at Nine Mile Hill and Norwood Kiosk sites



▲ Byway Interpretive Site: Unaweep/Tabeguache Byway –Signs at Nine Mile Hill Interpretive Site -

Project #20: Byway: Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panels at Nine Mile Hill and Norwood Kiosk sites

**Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic Byway**  
*haven for wildlife*

**LEGEND**


**Wildlife Habitat**  
As you enjoy your visit to the Uncompagne Plateau and along the Dolores River, note that this region is home to abundant and diverse wildlife. In fact, some of the best and most diverse habitats in Colorado are found here.

From the dense thickets of the plateau, to the transition and winter ranges around the fringe, and into the canyon, the Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic Byway has it all

Take time to explore!

**Wildlife Viewing Tips**

- Slow down and look closely into the landscape.
- Take side roads to access more remote terrain.
- Use binoculars and spotting scopes for a closer look.
- Look during the optimal hours around dawn and dusk.
- Come back again and again to learn the area and it's wildlife.

AMERICA'S BYWAYS

Scenic Byway

WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

▲Byway Interpretive Site: Unaweep/Tabeguache Byway – Wildlife Viewing Sign at Interpretive Site

## Project #21: Byway: West Elk Loop Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panels at the Museum in Carbondale and at Chamber of Commerce in Crested Butte

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
2820.00 to Prism Interpretive Services	06/24/04	DOW through Byway Grant	
720.00 to Prism Interpretive Services	10/12/04	Byway Partners	
500.00 to Prism Interpretive Services	11/15/05	DOW W Region Operating	

### **Project Costs:**

**Total DOW contribution: \$5,380 (DOW: 500; grant: 4,880)**

The West Elk Scenic and Historic Byway project consists of four low-profile watchable wildlife panels installed at the Museum in Carbondale and the Chamber of Commerce in Crested Butte on the byway. Sign bases provided by byway - \$1600 fabrication by local craftsman.

### **In-kind:**

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at approximately 16 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$320 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings to plan, design, develop and fabricate the signs along the West Elk Loop byway.
- The USFS provided a small in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review, graphics and layout design and text writing as well as providing meeting, office and work space. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the USFS to be \$500.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and Technicians and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 8 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$240.

### **Project Description:**

This project includes the planning, development, design, fabrication and installation of low-profile interpretive signs at the museum in Carbondale and the Chamber of Commerce in Crested Butte, located along the Byway Route. The final products for this project include:

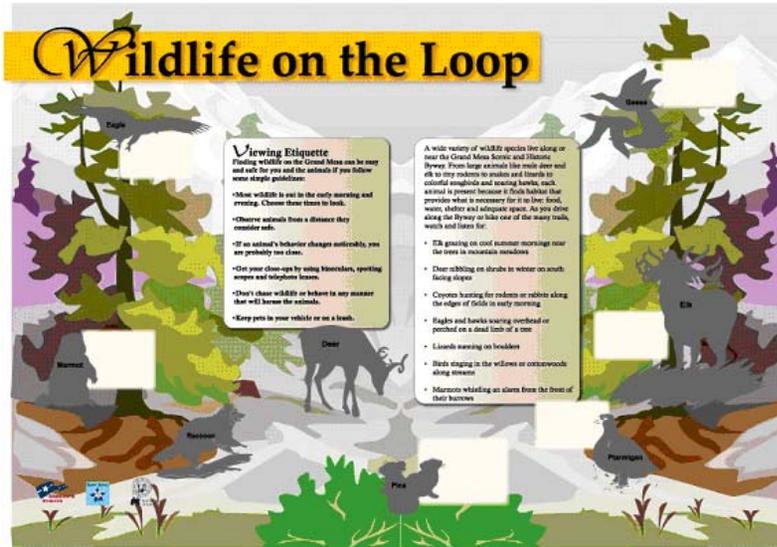
- Two interpretive signs featuring interpretation about wildlife found along the byway at the Mount Sopris Historical Museum in Carbondale and at the Chamber of Commerce in Crested Butte  
Sign #1 "Wildlife on the Loop" Sign deals with wildlife found along the West Elk Loop Scenic Byway  
Sign #2 "West Elk Loop" Sign is an orientation panel for visitors

*See photos of signs on the next page.*

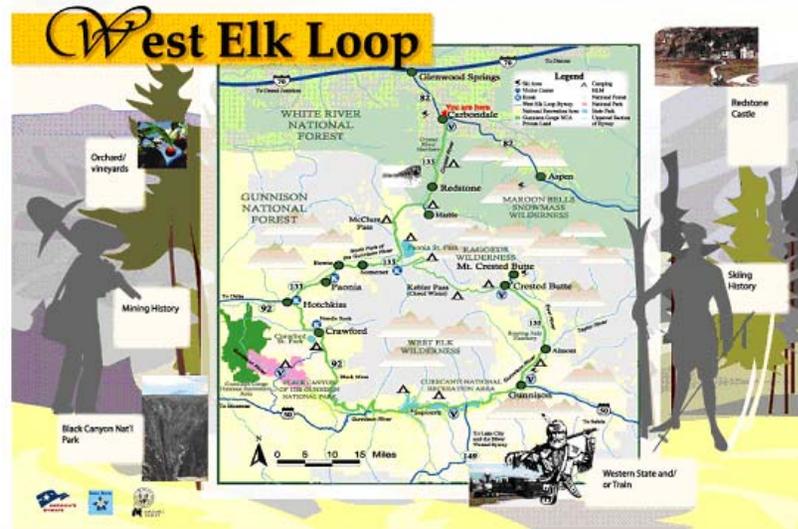
### **Follow up:**

As a major partner with the West Elk Loop Byway since its dedication, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the byway route.

# Project #21: Byway: West Elk Loop Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panels at the Museum in Carbondale and at Chamber of Commerce in Crested Butte



▲ Byway Interpretive Site: West Elk Loop Byway – Wildlife Viewing Tips Interpretive Sign



▲ Byway Interpretive Site: West Elk Loop Byway – Orientation Sign at Interpretive Site

## Project #22: Byway: Collegiate Peaks Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panels at Granite State Wildlife Area site

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
2000.00 to Sherrie York	05/06/06	DOW through Byway Grant	
720.00 to Sherrie York	05/06/06	Byway Partners	
500.00 to Sherrie York	05/24/06	DOW SE Operating	

### Project Costs:

**Total DOW contribution: \$2,500 (DOW: 500; grant: 2,000)**

The Collegiate Peaks Scenic and Historic Byway project consists of two low-profile watchable wildlife panels installed at the Granite State Wildlife Area on the Arkansas River along the byway.

### In-kind:

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at approximately 30 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$600 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings to plan, design, develop and fabricate the signs at the Granite State Wildlife Area site on the byway.
- The USFS provided a small in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review, graphics and layout design and text writing as well as providing meeting, office and work space. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the USFS to be \$1,100.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and Technicians and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 36 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$1,080.

### Project Description:

This project includes the planning, development, design, fabrication and installation of two low-profile interpretive signs at the Granite State Wildlife Area located along the byway route. The final products for this project include:

- Two interpretive signs featuring interpretation about the riparian and upland ecosystems found along the Arkansas River.  
Sign #1 "Riparian Wonders" Sign deals with the habitat for wildlife in the riparian zone along the Arkansas River  
Sign #2 "Sheep Shapes" Sign deals with the cliff habitat found along the Arkansas River at Granite and the rocky mountain bighorn sheep that live there.

*See photos of signs on the next page.*

### Follow up:

As a major partner with the Collegiate Peaks Byway since its dedication, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the byway route, the Arkansas River and its tributaries.

Project #22: Byway: Collegiate Peaks Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panels at Granite State Wildlife Area sites-

Byway Interpretive Site: Collegiate Peaks Byway – Granite State Wildlife Area – Sheep Viewing Interpretive Site



▲ Byway Interpretive Site: Collegiate Peaks Byway – Granite State Wildlife Area – Bighorn Sheep Viewing Interpretive Site –

Project #22: Byway: Collegiate Peaks Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panels at Granite State Wildlife Area sites



▲Byway Interpretive Site: Collegiate Peaks Byway – Granite State Wildlife Area – Sheep Viewing Interpretive Site – Riparian Wonders Sign

## Project #22A: Byway: Collegiate Peaks Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panels at Tiger Lily Creek State Trust Lands site.

Payments	Date	Contributor	Notes
500.00 to Sherrie York	04/30/06	DOW SE Operating	
720.00 to Sherrie York	05/12/06	Byway Partners	
4880.00 to Sherrie York	05/24/06	DOW through Byway Grant	

### Project Costs:

**Total DOW contribution: \$5,380 (DOW: 500; grant: 4,880)**

The Collegiate Peaks Scenic and Historic Byway project consists of two low-profile watchable wildlife panels installed at the Tiger Lily Creek State Trust Lands recreational site on the Arkansas River on the byway.

### In-kind:

- Byway committee members provided in-kind at approximately 30 hours at \$20.00 per hour; approximating a value of over \$600 through their efforts to complete this project. In kind contributions included meetings to plan, design, develop and fabricate the signs at the Tiger Lily State Trust Lands Site on the byway.
- The BLM provided a small in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement in project coordination, communication, research and content review, graphics and layout design and text writing as well as providing meeting, office and work space. The approximate in-kind value for this contribution was estimated by the BLM to be \$1,000.
- DOW in-kind contribution, by way of staff involvement, communication, research and content review is also substantial; the District Wildlife Manager and Technicians and the Watchable Wildlife Coordinator provided many hours of time in meetings and providing research information and biological/ecological knowledge toward the completion of this project. The in-kind value for this contribution is estimated to be approximately 24 hours of staff time at \$30.00/hour for a total of \$720.

### Project Description:

This project includes the planning, development, design, fabrication and installation of two low-profile interpretive signs at the Granite State Wildlife Area located along the Byway Route. The final products for this project include:

- Two interpretive signs featuring interpretation about the riparian and upland ecosystems found along the Arkansas River.  
Sign #1 "Helping Sheep" Sign deals with sheep biology and management by the CDOW and the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society  
Sign #2 "Cliff Hangers" Sign deals with the cliff habitat found along the Arkansas River at near Granite and the many other wildlife species found there.

*See photos of signs on the next page.*

### Follow up:

As a major partner with the Collegiate Peaks Byway since its dedication, the CDOW will continue to work with the byway to establish additional viewing sites and wildlife interpretive sites along the byway route, the Arkansas River and its tributaries.

Project #22A: Byway: Collegiate Peaks Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panels at Tiger Lily Creek State Trust Lands site



▲Byway Interpretive Site: Collegiate Peaks Byway – Granite State Wildlife Area – Sheep Viewing Interpretive Site

Project #22A: Byway: Collegiate Peaks Scenic and Historic Byway: Interpretive Sign Panels at Granite State Wildlife Area sites



▲ Byway Interpretive Site: Collegiate Peaks Byway – Granite State Wildlife Area Sheep Viewing Interpretive Site – Helping Sheep Sign



Byway Interpretive Site: Collegiate Peaks Byway – Granite State Wildlife Area – Sheep Viewing Interpretive Site – Cliff Hangers Sign

**Conclusion:****What are byways?**

Byways are an opportunity to drive down the “road less traveled” for those who wish to really experience the area they are traveling through. They are not the fastest way from point A to point B. They are not interstate highways. They are specifically designated routes that “steer motorists to areas of natural beauty where scenic views include state and local parks or other public lands, historic, recreational or archaeological areas.” In Colorado, our byways are marked with distinctive highway signs featuring a blue columbine. The Colorado byways are considered to have exceptional scenic, historic, recreational, ecological, and/or cultural value.

They are usually dedicated to preservation of the unique features, both natural and cultural/historical, of an area and tend to come about through grassroots efforts and support of the local community or communities, involved. Their mission generally is to educate the public, and in so doing, protect the valuable resources that are found along the byway route. They are usually managed cooperatively, with Memoranda of Understanding between small communities, larger communities, counties, state and federal land managers, other government agencies, non-profits, and the state Dept. of Transportation. They are a cooperative effort among private citizens, local groups, local governments and state and federal government agencies.

**What are the benefits of cooperating with a Scenic Byway?**

Scenic byways provide convenient access to areas with outstanding natural scenery, wildlife resources, recreational areas, parks, historic sites and communities. One of the key benefits of byway designation is increased/controlled tourism. Statewide promotional programs advertise the byways through maps and other literature, expanding the number of visitors to an area, which can generate economic growth, and increases community recognition.

Byways have access to available grants, as well. These monies can be used to fund a variety of different byway programs and facilities from studies, management plans, administration, staffing, educational exhibits and displays, visitor centers, interpretation, etc. Most byways strive, through their efforts, to provide a richer more varied experience for their byway travelers and also foster visitors who understand, appreciate and respect the uniqueness of the local community. So, they become “greener” travelers, who are looking for a special experience – “a time warp” – where they can truly experience an area “the way it used to be.” Attracting visitors who leave the area better than they found it, is the ultimate goal of many byways.

**Watching Wildlife on Byways**

In Colorado, and most other states, the routes that scenic byways follow lead through some of the best wildlife viewing around. And, it is a natural fit. Byway visitors are looking for a slower, more real, more intimate experience. They want to feel like they have “gotten something” special or extra out of their byway drives. They are more likely to stop at

overlooks, kiosks or waysides and get out of their car. They are there for the experience. They want to see wildlife and learn more about it, as well as the more commonly interpreted cultural and historical themes.

So, we are working to give the byway travelers that experience. We hope that more projects will come out of this effort, and know that there are lots of opportunities to provide outstanding Watchable experiences and interpretation on these designated roads. We know that people are traveling these routes, we are taking advantage of that and providing them with a richer – more wildlife related- experience.

### **Planning to fit each Byway's interpretive story**

These were the questions considered when projects were evaluated with the byways for their inclusion in this grant project:

1. *How will byway travelers benefit from the proposed project?*

Projects should improve the quality of the visitors' experience, which is essential to attracting more visitors and/or enticing them to stay longer.

2. *What part of the byway's story will the proposed project help tell or enhance?*

Managing the intrinsic qualities which shape a byway's story and interpreting the story for visitors are important to improve the quality of the visitors' experience.

3. *How will the proposed project help strengthen the byway organization?*

The vitality of a byway is only as strong as its leadership. Scenic byway funds can be used to strengthen a byway organization's capacity to implement a corridor management plan for a National Scenic Byway or All-American Road.

4. *To what extent is the project part of a grander vision for the byway?*

Successful projects reflect multi-year priorities; coordinated efforts among state, local, and private entities; leveraging of alternative funding sources; and the objectives listed in a corridor management plan.

### **A good project shows direct benefits to byway travelers and visitors.**

It is important for the CDOW to continue to be involved with each byway and get to know the individuals and committees that administer them. Partnering with WW programs is a natural fit, for most of these groups, but you may find it very interesting in just how the relationship becomes established and how wildlife viewing and wildlife interpretation may fit in to the byways plans and needs.

Being flexible and working within each byway's parameters should allow the development of WW projects along most byways. Providing their visitors with a richer and more diverse experience is the pay-off for these byways, and taking advantage of the opportunities that present themselves to attract byway travelers for a longer stay is the economic benefit to the communities along the byway and the local business that service these byway travelers.

**The Watchable Wildlife on Byways Project: Facts and Figures****22 Byways****27 Projects****20,000+ Watchable Wildlife Guide Brochures****30,000 Visitor Guides****58 Interpretive Sign Panels****14 Waysides****8 Visitor Center Interpretation Projects****3 Colorado Welcome Center Interpretation Projects****1 Nature Center Interpretation Project****1 Visitor Information Radio Network****1 Riverwalk Interpretation Project****1 Wildlife Trading Card****1 Museum Interpretation Project****1 Chamber of Commerce Interpretation Project****1 Wildlife Diorama****1 DVD Project**

**Additional Products that were created via Byway/CDOW partnerships, but not paid for with this grant:**



▲ Hayden Ranch Recreation Area – Top of the Rockies



▲ Chattanooga – San Juan Skyway

Hayden Ranch Recreation Area – Top of the Rockies ▼



▼ Pueblo State Wildlife Area – Frontier Pathways

**CROSSROADS** on Frontier Pathways Scenic & Historic Byway  
 BIOLOGICAL • ECOLOGICAL • CULTURAL

THE PATHS OF MANY DIFFERENT CULTURES HAVE CROSSED THIS FRONTIER:

- The Ute, Kiowa, Comanche, Cheyenne, Arapaho, and the Apache Indians traveled over the east exposure of the high plains.
- John Burrows de Anza crossed this way in 1776 looking for the fabled Comanche Chief Cuerno Verde.
- Scholar Pike followed along the Arkansas River in 1806 looking for the Indians in the 1820s Migration.
- French fur trappers crossed this way in search of beaver pelts in the early 1800s.
- Miners oriented through these foothills in search of silver and other minerals after gold was found in Colorado in 1858.
- The Goodnight-Living Trail traveled north and south across the plains. Charles Goodnight's team, built in 1862, ran several miles east of here along Highway 96.
- Settlers established by the Homestead Act of 1862 carved out pieces of land for farming and ranching.
- Railroads connecting the high plains with the river towns significantly changed this region and the American West.
- Young men from the area worked this land as part of the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s.
- The Pueblo Dam was built as part of the historic Fryer-Gunn-Arkansas Project. President Kennedy signed the project into law in 1962.
- Four Canyon Mountains Park sits immediately north of this location and currently provides training to troops from the 6th Cavalry to Special Forces.
- Each year along the high plains and foothills, more old ranches are divided into 15-acre ranchettes for new housing developments.

**CHECKLIST: Can you find?**

**MAMMALS:**  
 Prairie Dog  
 American Badger  
 Black-tailed Prairie Dog

**BIRDS:**  
 Scissor-tail Kite  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet

**REPTILES:**  
 Western Hognose Snake  
 Spotted Tail Snake

**INSECTS:**  
 Grasshopper  
 Prairie Dog

**PLANTS:**  
 Sage  
 Prairie Dog  
 Prairie Dog  
 Prairie Dog

**NOTES:**

High Dog National Monument  
 10000 N. 100th St.  
 Pueblo, CO 81001  
 719.545.1234