



*Celebrating 25 years of educational
interpretation and preservation of resources
on our public lands*

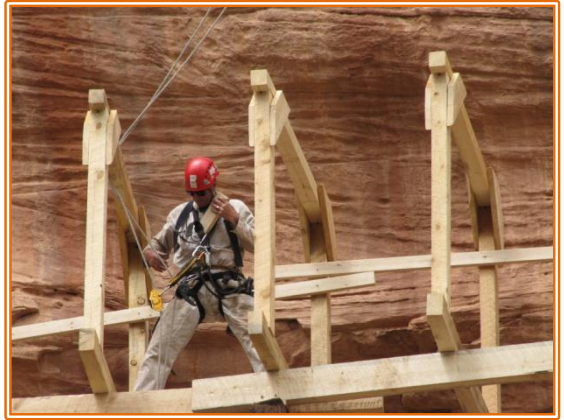
FY 2011 – 2012

Annual Report and Meeting

March 14, 2013

Hanging Flume Restoration

Holding fast to the cliffs high above the San Miguel River, the Hanging Flume is a statement driven in stone – a monument to an era of innovation and “can-do” attitude in the 1880’s. The flume, an open water chute, was used to transfer 80



million gallons of water per day from the San Miguel River through to the northernmost Brancroft placer mining claim, four miles from the confluence of the San Miguel and the Dolores River.

During initial investigation of the flume in 2004 by Robert Silman Associates P.C., teams of experts asked “*How did they do that?*”



In cooperation with BLM Montrose Field Office and through the support of private funders JM Kaplan Fund and the John Hendricks Family Foundation, 48 feet of flume was reconstructed on existing flume

supports to try to answer that question. IAWC administered funds and managed the overall construction project. Led by Ron Anthony, the firms of Anthony and Associates, Wood Specialist and Vertical Access applied their theory to construction during five days in the spring of 2012. For more information:

www.hangingflume.org

Alpine Tunnel Historic District Restoration and Interpretive Signing

During the 1880s rush to build routes, the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad chose the shortest route, but underestimated the extreme weather. Hundreds of men shoveled snow off the tracks until the 1/3 mile “Alpine Tunnel” was constructed to ensure passage year-round.



IAWC partnered with the US Forest Service – Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison National Forest, to refresh and design new interpretive signs for the Alpine Tunnel Historic District. The District is located 35 miles from Gunnison at the western edge of the highest

altitude U.S. train tunnel elevation 11,612 feet.

Built by the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad (DSP&PRR), referred to as the 'Darn Sure Pokey and Pretty Rough Riding' by residents of the high alpine valleys the train served, the station operated until 1910 when the nearby mines played out and the region was abandoned.



New wayside exhibits and publication of a brochure were created during this project. Twenty-four sites are highlighted along the 13-mile tour. Ten include new wayside exhibits and 14 are interpreted through the brochure. Dedication ceremonies will occur in Spring, 2013. For more information: www.narrowgauge.org/alpine-tunnel

Silver Thread Scenic Byway Signing

Interpretation along the new Silver Thread Byway will help to shed light on several facets of Western Colorado's history and tell a tale

THE HIGH BRIDGE

Gold was discovered in the San Juan Mountains in the late 1860s and sizable ore deposits were found in the Lake City area in 1875. Full development of the mines, however, was dependent on cheap transportation. The Denver & Rio Grande surveyed a branch to Lake City in 1881 but work stopped due to financial difficulties. It was not until 1889 that the track was completed. The first official train entered Lake City on August 15, 1889.

The Lake City Branch had the highest trestles on the entire Denver & Rio Grande narrow gauge line. Bridge 141A — the High Bridge at Devil's Creek, spanned the Lake Fork of the Gunnison and was 800 feet in length and 124 feet above the river. The trestle had a wooden deck that was ballasted with rock in 1890 to reduce the risk of fire.

Full development of nearby mines was dependent on the availability of cheap transportation of ore. The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad — Lake City Branch arrived in 1889 to transport gold and silver ore.

With the decline in viable ore the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad ceased to operate in the early 1910s and the High Bridge was dismantled in 1913.

Today, Hinsdale County is the least populated county in the state and Lake City remains one of the most isolated communities in Colorado.

Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Hall, Lake City, 1900

millions of years in the making, focusing on how the landscape has changed over time from the birth of a mountain range, through years of hard rock mining, to the years of agriculture

and development of infrastructure. The theme of "Progress" is repeated at each location to tie the original portion of the byway in with the new portion.

IAWC partnered with the BLM, Gunnison Field Office. The new Silver Thread extension begins at Lake City and runs

THE SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM

Native sagebrush ecosystems encompass over 100 million acres in North America, together covering more than half the land in the western United States.

"We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a commodity to which we belong, we begin to use it with love and respect."
— Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

A sagebrush steppe ecosystem supports unique varieties of birds, mammals, reptiles, and insects that are dependent upon sagebrush during all or a portion of their lives.

The importance of a healthy sagebrush ecosystem is that it stabilizes the soil, retains moisture, aids in seed germination, oxygenates the soil, reduces water evaporation, and provides refuge and cover for wildlife. In addition, sagebrush habitat provides valuable range for bison and countless hours of recreation.

north approximately 55 miles to Blue Mesa Reservoir to U.S

Highway 50, intersecting the West Elk Loop Byway at Blue Mesa Reservoir. The project includes 9 interpretive stops along the Silver Thread Scenic Byway with up to 3 interpretive panels per location.

PEOPLE OF THE SHINING MOUNTAINS

At one time, this was the land of the Ute. Historically, the Utes were nomadic and moved seasonally between the mountains and the valleys to hunt and gather food or to rendezvous with other Ute bands throughout what is now Colorado. With the discovery of gold in the San Juan Mountains, prospectors knowingly trespassed on Ute land. Seeing the inexorable wave of settlers, Chief Ouray negotiated the Brunot Treaty with the United States in 1873. This treaty ceded territory and centers to occupy the land and the San Juan Mountains.

In 1879, a confrontation between the Utes and Indian Agent, Nathan Meeker, at the White River Indian Agency, led to the deaths of Meeker and the taking of hostages. As a direct result of this incident, the Utes were forced to accept reservation land in northern Colorado and central Utah. With confinement to reservations, a way of life ended for the proud Ute people.

Chief Ouray and his wife, Natchez, about 1880. Chief Ouray was the last Ute to live on the San Juan Mountains. He was the last Ute to live on the San Juan Mountains. He was the last Ute to live on the San Juan Mountains.

The Utes called themselves the "People of the Shining Mountains" and at one time all of Colorado was their homeland.

Changes in Ute Homeland

Escalante Canyon Sites

IAWC successfully nominated three Escalante Canyon sites to Colorado Preservation Inc. 2013 Colorado's Most Endangered Places. All three are located in the Escalante State Wildlife Area and managed by Colorado Parks & Wildlife.

- Historic Water Wheel on the Gunnison River - circa 1920's
- Walker Homestead Cabin - circa 1911
- Captain Smith's Cabin - circa 1911.



The virtually intact Walker Cabin and the two buildings on the Smith property are the only buildings within the canyon known to survive from the period. All three tracts were purchased in the 1950's by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Enos T. Hotchkiss Barn

When a severe windstorm in 2010 damaged the roof of the historic and iconic brick barn built in 1886 by the founding family of the town of Hotchkiss, saving it became a priority. IAWC serves as the 501-C(3) sponsor and administrator for a State Historic Grant to ultimately restore the barn.

As the first major structure in the North Fork valley, the Hotchkiss Barn is historically significant as an icon to the community for more than 130 years.



Recognizing Leadership – Jon Schler

As outgoing board president, Jon Shler successfully navigated change for IAWC. When Jon joined the board in 2008, the main



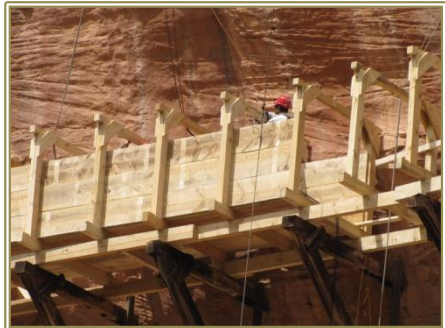
function of the organization was selling books primarily through the Grand Mesa Visitor Center. In 2010, the USFS selected another non-profit to assist in the visitor center operation. Through Jon's leadership and guidance, the organization has re-built with a new focus

on grant administration, building upon past successes and adding value to our public lands partners' ability to complete preservation and interpretive signing projects. IAWC still maintains sales outlets at the Delta and Gunnison USFS offices.

The board and staff of IAWC thanks Jon for his tireless efforts in reinvigorating our organization.

Special Thanks – Charitable Foundations

Both the John and Maureen Hendricks Charitable Foundation and the J.M. Kaplan Fund were vital partners in the Hanging Flume projects, including the recent reconstruction project. These projects would not have been possible without their contributions.



IAWC Financials

Income	Actuals 2010/2011	Actuals 2011/2012
Total Sales Income	\$23,723.29	\$26,645.54
COG OHV Permits	\$11,895.25	\$18,276.25
COG Alpine Explorer	\$403.78	\$160.00
Freight	\$96.64	\$363.45
Inventory For Sales	\$5,994.30	\$4,555.17
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$18,389.97	\$23,354.87
Gross Profit	\$5,333.32	\$3,290.67
Expense		
Accountant Fees	\$1,740.00	\$1,570.00
Bad Debt (returned checks)		
Bank & Credit Card Fees	\$813.04	\$1,168.14
Annual Meeting & Board Training		\$750.00
Conferences and Meetings	\$11.16	\$92.43
Depreciation Expense		
Donations/Grants		\$1,318.63
Dues, Fees and Licenses	\$448.42	\$420.50
Insurance (Liability & Workmans Comp)	\$924.00	\$616.50
Internet Service, Domaine Names & Web Hosting		\$447.37
Inventory Shrinkage	\$48.00	
Payroll Expense (Including taxes)	\$17,398.36	\$17,649.50
Postage/shipping fees	\$55.34	\$635.95
Printing (Business Cards)		\$61.00
Public Relations- Gen9Production video project		
Supplies	\$328.00	\$609.36
Outlet Supplies		\$260.78
Travel, Administrative and Projects	\$87.50	\$1,791.17
Total Expense	\$21,853.82	\$27,391.33
Net Ordinary Income	-\$16,520.50	-\$24,100.66
Other Income		
Administration Fees Earned	\$5,266.62	\$27,824.09
Donations Received	\$20.00	\$2,672.39
Interest	\$271.80	\$67.04
Membership	\$25.00	\$135.00
APPL Peer Review		
Total Other Income	\$5,583.42	\$30,698.52
Net Non-Restricted Income	-\$10,937.08	\$6,597.86

IAWC was founded in 1988 as a non-profit group organized to assist the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other government agencies in scientific, educational, historical and interpretive activities of the resource areas in the western portion of the State of Colorado.

Through these efforts, visitors to the public lands can better understand the area and develop a sense of value and desire to ensure their protection and sustainable use for current and future generations.

Profits from the sales of educational materials are used to fund educational and interpretive projects on the public lands in this area.



Contact Us:

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