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Escalante Canyon Talk and Tour Highlights Pioneer Spirit

The Ben Lowe-Cash Sampson shootout, livestock wars, the trail followed by Delta bank robbers and descriptions of homesteading life were some of the stories heard by the 140 attendees at the Pioneer Spirit of Escalante Canyon talk on March 13, 2014 and by 66 people on the tour of the Canyon Homestead sites on March 15. Co-sponsored by IAWC and Colorado Canyons Association, the talk and tour generated a lot of interest in furthering the work IAWC has begun.

At the lecture, Bernice Musser, lifelong resident of Escalante Canyon, was honored by the Association for her generosity in sharing the Canyon with others through stories and programs. Bernice has shared her stories of life in the Canyon and its history. The tour visited the Walker Homestead and Captain Smith cabins. The cabins, along with

the Gunnison River water wheel, were listed on Colorado Preservation Inc.'s 2013 Most Endangered Places. All three sites are unique to the Canyon area and are resources in which local citizens can relate to their history. The 1924 school house at Escalante Forks was the last stop on the tour.

IAWC Executive Director Chris Miller is seeking permission from the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife to allow IAWC to submit a grant application for state historic funds for historic structure assessments on the two homes and list the Gunnison River water wheel on the Delta County Historic Landmark Register and seek funds to stabilize and restore the homes.

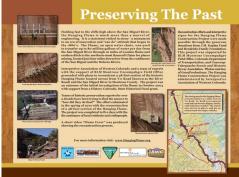


To learn more, contact Chris Miller at 907 874-6695.

Touring Captain
Smith Cabin in
Escalante Canyon

Hanging Flume Work Receives 2014 History Colorado Award

The 2014 Stephen H. Hart award was given to IAWC, Anthony & Associates and the Bureau of Land Management by History Colorado on February 5, 2014 for the ambitious project to rebuild a portion of the historic flume above the San Miguel River. The award recognized an innovative effort at reconstructing history.



The project to rebuild the Flume was done over five days in April, 2012. The project was an effort to answer the question, "How did they DO that?" In its day, the flume was used to transfer 80 million gallons of water in a 24 hour period for gold placer mining. Funding for the project was made possible by the J.M. Kaplan Fund and the John Hendricks Family Foundation.

"The Hanging Flume is much more than a marvel of engineering. It is a statement driven in stone – a monument to an era of innovation and 'can-do' attitude in the 1880's" according to the team that has worked on the Flume project for the last decade. The Flume is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the longest historic structure in the state at nearly 10 miles in length. It is also the most intact flume left in North America. In 2006 The Montrose Placer Mining Company Flume was listed as one of the "100 Most Endangered Sites in the World" by the World Monuments Fund

More information is available on the new website www.hangingflume.org.

IAWC Book Store located in the Delta **Forest Service Office** 970-874-6600

IAWC Updates

Need OHV permits, maps, nature books? IAWC retail stores are located for your convenience at the US Forest Service Offices in Delta and Gunnison, CO.

Open Monday-Friday 8-5 pm.

Or check us out on-line at www.interpcolorado.org.

New Websites:

www.wcinterp.org www.hangingflume.org www.utbyway.com



The April 22 'Visitor Information Workshop' in Delta, CO is hosted by USFS, BLM and the **IAWC**

This very informative workshop will provide all with a "tool box of information." Designed for those who work/volunteer for a Chamber, Visitor Information Center, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, USFS Service, BLM, NPS or other business where you answer public land questions, this workshop will provide attendees current information and resources to get ready for the upcoming summer

IAWC Board Meeting June 20 2014 **Barlow** Archeologic Site Uncompangre Plateau

Fort Uncompangre is a replica of the 1828 Fort built for trade along the Old Spanish Trail. Pictured below is the blacksmith shop



Membership News

Join IAWC

Interpretive Association

of Western Colorado

You can make a lasting difference in the future of special places deserving protection by joining the Interpretive Association of Western Colorado today. With your membership dues, you will receive our

periodic email newsletter, annual report, invitations to special events, and your donation is tax deductible!

For on-line membership and information www.interpcolorado.org



The annual meeting drew over 80 people to learn about the Old Spanish Trail.

Old Spanish Trail Talk Highlights Annual Meeting

Jon Horn of Alpine Archeology in Montrose presented new information on the north fork of the Old Spanish Trail at IAWC's annual meeting March 20. Contracted by BLM, Horn researched and found physical evidence of 76 miles of trail in Colorado and over 200 miles in Utah.

"Delta County has some of the best examples of trail that we saw anywhere in Colorado and Utah," Horn said. Highway 50 essentially follows the route of the Old Spanish Trail. What began as a trail was varied a bit for wagons. Wagons gave way to automobiles and roads were built to accommodate growing traffic.

The north branch was a trade route for early explorers, trappers and traders. From 1829-1848 men and mules traveled the Old Spanish Trail transporting woolen goods from Santa Fe to Los Angeles, where clothing was traded for horses and mules.

information www.oldspanishtrail.org



the website

Fort Uncompangre

Proposed Interpretive Site and Old Spanish Trailhead project



Fort Uncompalgre will come alive as William Bailey and a group of professional interpreters will spend Saturday and Sunday, May 17 & 18 at Fort Uncompalgre reenacting the day in the life at Fort Uncompalgre. The two day event will feature excellent fur trade interpreters living at the fort carrying out their daily tasks in the year 1840. The invited guests and public will meet the historical characters

and experience blacksmithing, adobe work, cooking, games, and hear the hammer strike the anvil, and learn how a flintlock rifle works. Step back in time with us as we explore the first trading post on the North Branch of The Old Spanish Trail and learn about life 160 years ago.

Fort Uncompahgre Living History Museum is a re-creation of Antoine Roubidoux's 1828-1844 fur trapping and trading post, the first permanent American settlement in western Colorado. It was, for Natives in the area, that life-altering moment of the first contact with Anglo-Americans. The original post was situated about two miles down from the confluence of the Gunnison River and the Uncompahgre River. Its design was more to secure goods and livestock than to be defensive, and was abandoned in 1844 when hostilities broke out between Utes and Mexicans.

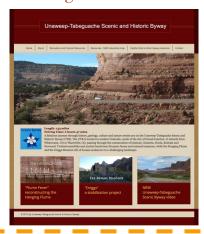
Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic Byway Plan Complete

Visit us on the web www.utbyway.com

High Priority Recommendations:

- Install State Scenic Byway signs.
- Identify, sanction and sign key pullouts.
- Include spurs/loops in maps and materials.
- Create UTB portals in Whitewater, Placerville and the Paradox Valley.
- Maintain and update the Byway website.
- Focus marketing efforts on the region and Colorado's Western Slope.
- Change the name of the Byway.
- Develop a Byway brand.
- Update and print the Byway brochure.
- Support efforts to enhance the visitor experience in each Byway community.
- Develop design standards for interpretive signs and materials.

Key Stakeholders Provide Insight to Travelers



Who We Are...Interpretive Association of Western Colorado

In 1988, the Western Colorado Interpretive Association (WCIA) was organized to chronicle stories of the resources on public lands, operating book stores and providing programs to enhance the visitor experience.

In 1992 WCIA took on new roles to

collaborate in the identification, administration, funding, restoration and interpretation of projects of significance in Western Colorado. Partners included governmental agencies and a broad range of community organizations and individuals.

In 2013, WCIA updated its name to Interpretive Association

of Western Colorado (IAWC), creating a new logo and new website.



History Colorado Survey/Planning Grant For More Hanging Flume Work

IAWC will be administering a grant this fall awarded by History Colorado for additional work on the Hanging Flume. The total project amount is \$161,686.

The project will focus on addressing unknown aspects of the Hanging Flume construction so that future preservation opportunities for the site and structure can be developed within the 2005 SHF-master plan parameters. Additionally, preservationists and the public will benefit from better understanding of the level of innovation and ingenuity used to extract gold by hydraulic mining. The proposed project will get underway sometime in September 2014 and will include construction investigation, archaeological survey work and public outreach and presentations.





Hanging Flume construction photo by Gen9Productions



located in the

U.S. Forest Service Supervisors Office

2250 U.S. Hwy 50

Phone: 970-874-6695 Fax: 970-874-6698

E-mail: info@interpcolorado.org
Website: www.interpcolorado.org

Because people and places matter, IAWC is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich stories, legacies, and land-scapes of Western Colorado. At the heart of our projects is the preservation of Western Colorado's cultural heritage and landscapes. Interpretive materials enhance people's experience and understanding and result in increased tourism, jobs and civic enrichment.

Visit us on the web www.interpcolorado.org