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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.

Preserving The Past

Holding fast to the cliffs high above the San Miguel River, the Hanging Flume is a structure that is a marvel of engineering. It is a statement etched in stone – a monument to an era of innovation and ‘can-do’ attitude that began in the 1880’s. The Flume, a log-spike water flume, was used to transfer up to ten million gallons of water per day from the San Miguel River through an arch of wooden flumes and wooden ditches to the northern-most Research Claims for placer mining, located just four miles downstream from the confluence of the San Miguel and the Dolores Rivers.

Reconstruction efforts and interpretive signage for the Hanging Flume Construction Project were made possible through the generous donation from J.M. Kaplan Fund and Hendricks Family Foundation. This project was supported by BLM Montrose Uncompahgre Field Office, Colorado Department of Transportation, and Montrose Technical, Scientific and Historical Society, Montrose, Colorado.

Interpretive Association of Western Colorado and a team of experts with the support of BLM Montrose Uncompahgre Field Office proceeded with plans to reconstruct a 40-foot section of the historic Hanging Flume located across from Y-1 Road Chutes on the River Road and the San Miguel River in Montrose County. The project was an extension of the initial investigation of the flume in October 2011 with support from a History Colorado, State Historical Fund grant.

Teams of historic preservation experts for over a decade have been trying to find the answer to ‘how did they do that?’. The effort culminated in the spring of 2012 with the reconstruction of a 40-foot section of the Hanging Flume. The project was completed in the days with the first rain of the season and on schedule.

A short video ‘Flume Fever’ was produced showing the reconstruction process.

For more information visit: www.hangingflume.org

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 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.

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

New Websites:

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



Greg Gnesios Photo

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 season!

IAWC
Board Meeting
June 20 2014
Barlow
Archeologic
Site
Uncompahgre
Plateau

Fort Uncompahgre 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 go to 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.

More information is on the website www.oldspanishtrail.org



Fort Uncompahgre

Proposed Interpretive Site and Old Spanish Trailhead project

Fort Uncompahgre will come alive as William Bailey and a group of professional interpreters will spend Saturday and Sunday, May 17 & 18 at Fort Uncompahgre reenacting the day in the life at Fort Uncompahgre. 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.

Unawep-Tabeguache Scenic Byway Plan Complete

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.

Visit us on the web
www.utbyway.com

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



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Website: www.interpcolorado.org

Because people and places matter, IAWC is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich stories, legacies, and landscapes 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