

# South Park National Heritage Area Management Plan

AND CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION



OCTOBER 2012





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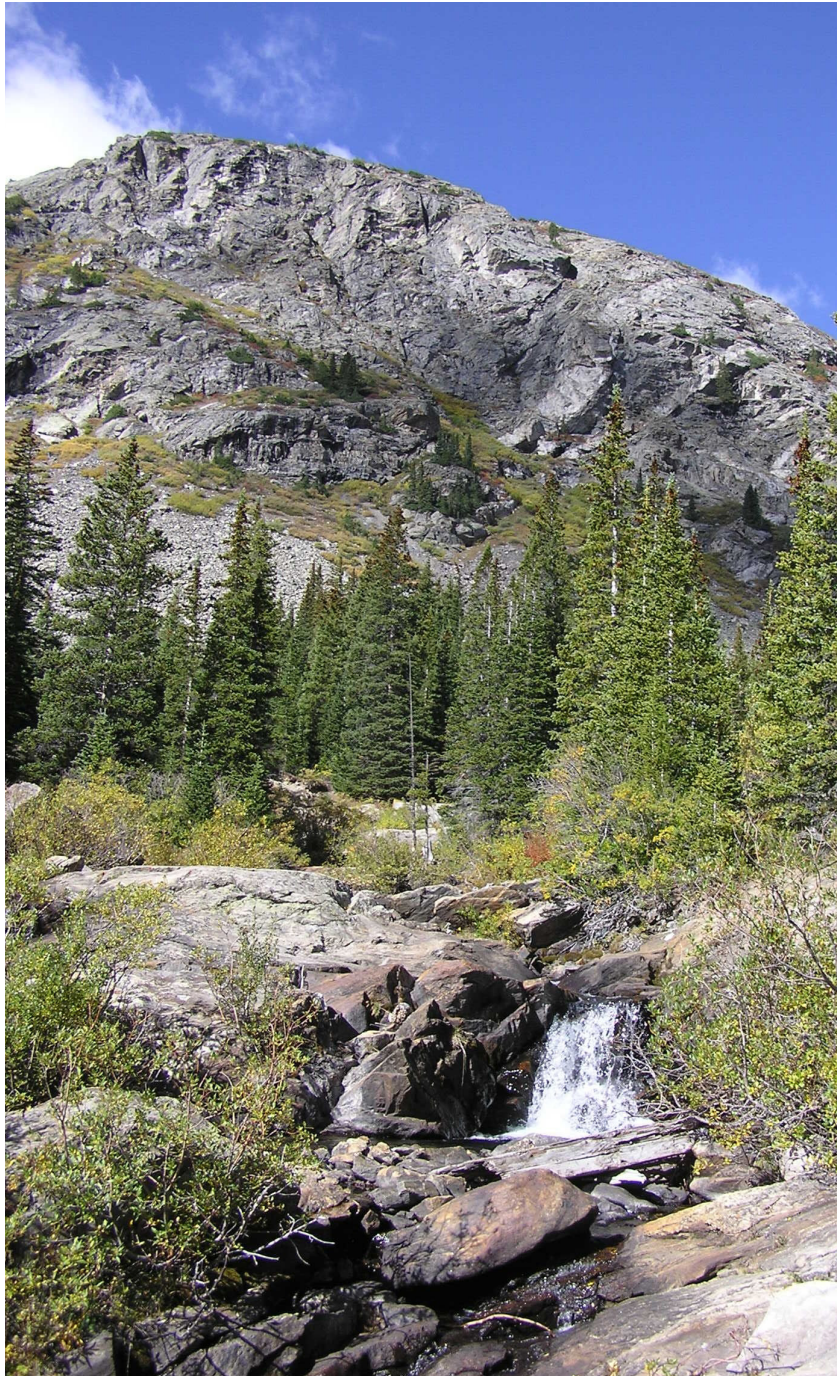
Amy Unger

*“I jot these lines literally at Kenosha summit, where we return, afternoon, and take a long rest,  
10,000 feet above sea-level. At this immense height the South Park stretches fifty miles before  
me. Mountainous chains and peaks in every variety of perspective, every hue of vista, fringe the  
view...so the whole Western world is, in a sense, but an expansion of these mountains.”*

*—Walt Whitman*







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### MANAGEMENT PLAN PLANNING TEAM

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# SOUTH PARK NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



*Winter settles on the South Park as early as October, inviting exploration of the quiet wilderness or challenging ice-covered cliffs. Photo courtesy Linda Balough.*

*South Park is a high mountain basin, rich in significant natural resources and abounding in western history. This place, where buffalo still roam and antelope still play on both private ranches and public lands; where mountain streams offer gold medal fishing in the valley; and where mountains soaring to over 14,000 feet host rare alpine plants, is located only an hour and a half from the bustling Front Range cities of Denver and Colorado Springs. Miners, ranchers, outdoor recreationists, heritage tourists, and residents all answer the call of these towering mountains and vast rangelands that still represent the West as it was over 10,000 years ago.*





## THE HISTORY

SOUTH PARK'S STUNNING LANDSCAPE IS MATCHED only by its compelling stories that place it squarely in the history of the American West. Here, native peoples, particularly the Ute, returned year after year to favorite camping spots, hunted, and cut stone for projectile points. In December of 1806, Zebulon Pike reported in his expedition journal of finding evidence of many Native American encampments along the Platte River. The Spanish called the place Valle Salado (Salt Valley) for the salt springs used by the Native Americans, while French explorers and fur trappers used the word parc in reference to the valley's vast herds of wildlife. Other American explorers, such as John C. Fremont, passed through South Park and American mountain men, including Kit Carson, trapped here in the early nineteenth century. It wasn't, however, until the Pikes Peak Gold Rush of 1859 that the population mushroomed as gold camps sprang up overnight. Within a dozen years, gold valued at \$2.5 million had been extracted in Park County.



On the heels of the gold rush came a silver boom, though the West's boom and bust economy would turn many a mining camp into a ghost town. To feed miners, ranchers brought cattle up from Texas and soon discovered that livestock grew fat on South Park's protein rich grasses. With the wealth of minerals, cattle, and hay, railroads laid track through South Park: the narrow gauge Denver, South

Park & Pacific (DSP&P) and the standard gauge Colorado Midland. The railroads not only created new towns, but served to increase an already prospering line of business—tourism. Some of the first recreational visitors came to South Park when the Colorado Territorial Governor hosted a number of dignitaries from the East, taking them on an adventurous wagon tour in 1868. Even in the earliest days of homesteading, ranches played host to travelers as they ventured into the heart of Colorado to fish, hunt, and experience the grandeur of the Central Rockies. With the advent of the railroads, visitors from the Front Range and beyond came to soak in South



### THE VISION

South Park is a premier heritage tourism destination in Colorado that emphasizes its unique, livable, rural lifestyle through excellent stewardship, educational resources, and well preserved, enhanced, and interpreted natural, prehistoric, cultural and historic resources that also play an active role in the local economy.

Park's hot springs and to explore its meadows blooming with wildflowers. Today, South Park remains a magnet for visitors who come to fish, hunt, hike, pan for gold, horseback ride, and climb mountains. Others come to explore South Park's authentic Western heritage or to simply revel in its natural beauty.





## THE GOALS

1. Protect and conserve South Park's natural, cultural, and recreational resources.
2. Facilitate partnerships between local, regional, and national organizations that will benefit South Park.
3. Provide responsible interpretation, access, and education of South Park's resources to the public.
4. Promote South Park's resources to generate sustainable economies.

## THE MISSION

PROVIDING AN ACTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT for residents and visitors that conveys South Park's western heritage, unique community identity, and inspires and supports the creation of new local heritage products and services is the mission of the South Park National Heritage Area. The Heritage Area will play an active and sustainable role in the local economy and will work to bolster it through heritage tourism.

Park County and its heritage partners have long recognized South Park for the special place that it is. For nearly two decades they have been working to ensure that the county's rural character and heritage resources are conserved. Those efforts received a big boost in 1997, when Park County was recognized by then-Governor Bill Owens as a Colorado Heritage Resource Area. The mission of this early effort was to conserve the county's "most unique resources and use them to generate new, sustainable economies." Owens proclaimed South Park to be "one of the finest resource areas of Colorado and the West."



Unlike many surrounding counties, and despite its close proximity to the urbanized Front Range of the Rocky Mountains, Park County has changed little over time. Its concentrated assemblage of sites, resources, and activities retains a high degree of integrity to support conservation, interpretation, recreation, and tourism opportunities. South Park, which comprises over 1,700 square miles, retains its rich, natural resources and authentic Western ambiance. It is a rural area that includes six surviving communities: Alma, Como, Hartsel, Jefferson, Lake George, and the largest town, Fairplay, the county seat with a 2010 population of 679.



## DISTINCTIVE RESOURCES

THE SOUTH PARK NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA Management Plan features South Park's rich assemblage of historic sites and natural resources and highlights ways to improve interpretation, conservation, and opportunities for recreation and heritage tourism. Based on historic themes and key resources, the Management Plan approaches the Heritage Area through its natural, scenic, and recreational resources on one hand, and its historic and cultural resources on the other. Natural, scenic, and recreational resources focus on South Park's wealth of flora and fauna, its mineral resources, and its breathtaking landscape, which creates a haven for the outdoor recreationist or casual visitor. Historic and cultural resources focus on opportunities to promote conservation, heritage tourism, sustainable economic development, and interpretation of South Park's history.



*Hikers who climb the 14,000-foot peaks may share the trails with the local wildlife. Photo courtesy Jim Mills.*



*South Park City Museum offers an opportunity to experience life in an 1880s mining town. Photo courtesy Linda Balough.*

## South Park National Heritage Area Goals Matrix

Ongoing Objectives	Short Term Objectives	Long Term Objectives
Goal One: Conserve and enhance South Park’s natural, cultural, and recreational resources.		
Collect and conserve historic documents, oral histories, and artifacts.	Develop a program for the stabilization and treatment of historic properties.	Develop and adopt a Trails Master Plan (TMP) for South Park.
Preserve historic cemeteries.	Develop a programmatic agreement among the Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission, Park County Office of Historic Preservation, State Historic Preservation Office, and the Heritage Area that will forward shared goals.	Identify and protect a mineral resource area and use it to educate.
Preserve historic ranches.	Demonstrate the connection between preservation and environmental sustainability.	Develop a field research facility.
Support and provide technical assistance for the stabilization and rehabilitation of important historic railroad structures.		
Support and provide technical assistance for the preservation and interpretation of mining-related sites and structures.		
In close partnership with Park County Land and Water Trust Board, work to increase the acres of restored aquatic and riparian habitat.		
Maintain and develop access to recreational assets.		
Protect rare plant communities.		
Goal Two: Facilitate partnerships between local, regional, and national organizations that will benefit South Park.		
Develop a network of volunteers to support and implement Heritage Area programs and projects.	Establish a relationship with the descendants of the Taveewach (Tabeguache and Uncompahgre) Ute band and other tribes associated with the Heritage Area.	
Assist towns and communities in preserving the historic character of each community.	Support the expansion and enhancement of the Mountain Man Rendezvous and establish a permanent or long-term site to hold events.	

Ongoing Objectives	Short Term Objectives	Long Term Objectives
Goal Three: Provide responsible interpretation of, access to, and education of South Park's resources to the public.		
Enhance and expand water education programs.	Develop an open air artists access program.	Develop a vehicular wayfinding system for South Park.
Interpret mining and processing history at Paris Mill and other appropriate sites.	Provide interpretation of important Native American and archaeological sites.	Develop an Archaeology and Native People's Cultural Center.
Enhance and expand existing interpretation of South Park's railroad heritage.	Support and provide technical assistance to the private development of a "tourist mine."	Assist in the development of a stagecoach interpretive tour.
Develop heritage-related internships.	Work with the South Park City Museum (SPCM) to enhance interpretive offerings and heritage programming at the museum.	Make accessible a former town site and develop interpretation.
	Develop an Outlaw Tour of significant "Wild West" sites in South Park.	Restore and/or interpret stagecoach stops in South Park.
	Identify appropriate funding sources and assist with the development of new environmental interpretation at key locations.	Encourage exploration of scenic corridors.
		Develop a commercial recreational access program.
Goal Four: Promote South Park's resources to generate sustainable economies.		
Provide grant funding for eligible heritage businesses, projects, and programs.	Provide adequate gateway signage for the Heritage Area.	Enhance the World Championship Pack Burro Race by reinstating additional mining competitions.
Develop consistent Heritage programs on private ranches.	Develop a headquarters for South Park National Heritage Area.	Develop more sporting events throughout South Park and coordinate with other regional events.
Improve specific trails and access throughout South Park and assist in the development of other trails based on the Trails Master Plan.	Support the development of entities offering tour packaging in South Park and provide limited services through the Heritage Area.	Support the establishment of a Lodging Network.
Increase the number of recreational opportunities in South Park.	Provide training for local businesses in customer service and familiarize them with scheduled events and local amenities for tourists.	
Demonstrate and promote the linkage between preservation and the economy.		
Develop an annual calendar of events.		

	Cultural Resources
	Natural Resources
	Recreation



## THE THEMES

*Interpretive themes are the overarching stories of national importance that the Heritage Area would like to tell.*

### **The High, Fertile Basin of Colorado's South Park**

South Park is rich with wildlife, rare alkaline fens, globally rare plant species, and protein rich and endemic high altitude grasslands, while the landscape itself—a broad valley surrounded by towering mountain peaks—is awe inspiring.



### **The Discovery & Settlement of the South Park**

Because discovery leads to new forms of settlement, South Park continues to face pressure wrought from discovery—be it for its abundant wildlife, its rich minerals, its fertile grasslands, or its majestic beauty.



### **Harvesting the Bounty of the South Park**

Since its first use by man some 12,000 years ago, South Park has been an important source of resources, from its wildlife and flora to its mineral deposits, livestock, and opportunities for recreation.





## THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

SOUTH PARK IS A HIGH ALTITUDE GRASSLAND situated amid panoramic views of the Continental Divide; Puma Hills; and Tarryall, Kenosha, and Mosquito Mountain ranges, where peaks rise above 14,000 feet in elevation. South Park has a widely varied landscape, which includes portions of two nationally designated Wilderness Areas—Lost Creek (130,000 acres) and Buffalo Peaks (170,000 acres). Together, they support natural resources of national significance, including unique geologic formations; excellent trout streams; ancient Bristlecone pine trees; globally rare plants; and endangered species such as the lynx and boreal toad. South Park contains an estimated 50,000 acres of wetlands, including fens, which are rare and unusual wetlands characterized by peat soils and calcium carbonate-rich groundwater. In 1996, a portion of the Lost Creek Wilderness Area was designated as the Lost Creek National Natural Landmark, recognized for its remarkable rock formations and the disappearance and reappearance of Lost Creek. The natural landmark illustrates how the land was structured through weathering along joint planes. The Heritage Area's environmental goals include restoring aquatic and riparian habitat, expanding water-related education programs, and developing a field research facility devoted to high altitude research.



*In 1925, legislation made it the responsibility of all Coloradans to protect the state flower, the white and lavender columbine (*Aquilegia caerulea*). Photo courtesy Gary Nichols.*



*Craggy peaks surround the South Park Basin and present habitat for both flora and fauna and recreation for outdoor enthusiasts. Photo courtesy Jim Mills.*





*Habitat restoration projects have helped assure great fishing. Photo courtesy Gary Nichols.*



*Hiking in South Park is both challenging and awe inspiring. Photo courtesy Gary Nichols.*

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION

EVERY YEAR, RECREATION-BASED TOURISM BRINGS thousands of visitors to South Park, many of whom spend the night, eat at local restaurants, and buy gasoline at local stations. Recreationists come to South Park to fish, camp, and hunt, particularly for elk. A formal shooting range is also in the process of development on a small portion of the recently acquired Cline Ranch. With more than 50 miles of gold medal trout water, South Park is an excellent place for anglers, and ample camp sites exist on public land throughout the Heritage Area. The Mosquito Range and the two Wilderness areas (Buffalo Peaks and Lost Creek) are popular mountaineering destinations. Hiking, mountain biking, ice climbing, snowshoeing, and back country/cross country skiing are popular in South Park and the surrounding mountains, as are bicycle touring and four-wheeling. Heritage Area goals for recreation include developing a Trails Master Plan and strengthening the ranch recreation program, as well as improving access to recreational sites and increasing the number of sporting events in the area.





## THE CULTURAL RESOURCES

SOUTH PARK HAS BEEN A HISTORICAL LIFELINE for a variety of peoples from prehistoric times to the present. Residents still depend on the land for their livelihood and quality of life, as they have for thousands of years. South Park's historic and cultural resources are significant, reflecting not only the history of our nation as it moved westward in the nineteenth century, but also of the ongoing heritage of the American West. The story of American fur trappers and miners, for instance, finds expression in South Park's annual Mountain Man Rendezvous and World Championship Pack Burro Race. Among the goals of the Heritage Area is to develop, in coop-



eration with affiliated tribes, a South Park Archaeology and Native People's Cultural Center, which would interpret the hundreds of relatively intact archaeological sites in South Park, as well as sites important to native people today. South Park's ranching heritage resonates along the Tarryall River corridor, where 32 historic sites associated with

frontier ranching can be found. Working ranches, including the Salt Works Ranch, which has been continuously operated by the same family for five generations, are an integral part of the South Park landscape. The Heritage Area is working not only to help preserve, rehabilitate, and restore historic ranches but to develop programs where visitors can participate in ranch life.

Dozens of extant mining structures remain in South Park, such as the 1894 Paris Mill and the Colorado Salt Works, which dates to 1866 and is the nation's only surviving 1860s kettle and pan salt production facility. More recently, the Snowstorm Dredge, Colorado's largest dragline dredge and in use from 1941 to the 1960s, did the work of several hundred men as it dug and processed ore in the gold fields between Alma and Fairplay. Such resources offer superb opportunities for interpreting the West's mining history. The heyday of railroading in South Park is evident at the National Register-listed roundhouse, depot, and hotel at Como, where the narrow-gauge

Denver, South Park & Pacific once stopped before climbing the steep grade over Boreas Pass. A visit to the outdoor South Park City Museum in Fairplay, where a collection of historic buildings and artifacts re-create the feel of a frontier town of the 1880s, recalls the pioneer spirit of the American West. The Heritage Area proposes to work with the Park County community to enhance the area's interpretive offerings and heritage programming, which could include something as authentic as a stagecoach ride.



*Many private property owners work hard to preserve their historic buildings such as the former Catholic Church in Como. Photo courtesy Amy Unger.*



## MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

THE HERITAGE AREA'S MANAGEMENT ENTITY is a partnership between the nonprofit Board of Directors and Park County, a governmental unit that has played a key leadership role in conserving and interpreting South Park's resources since the area was designated a Colorado Heritage Resource Area in 1997. Essentially, the Board of Directors—which represents a broad cross-section of the Park County community—works in conjunction with Park County, of which South Park is a part. The relationship sets the Heritage Area on a firm foundation because Park County provides a source of base funding that matches the Federal funds allocated to the Heritage Area. The county, for example, provides office space and equipment for the Heritage Area, pays the utility bills, and covers the salary of the Executive Director. Because the National Park Service is in the process of developing a tiered funding formula for Heritage Areas dependent on the availability of Federal funds, the South Park National Heritage Area stands to receive approximately \$400,000 a year in base funding once this Management Plan is approved and other performance standards are met.

Since its designation in 2009, the Heritage Area has been involved in numerous early action projects that demonstrate its vitality and focus on conservation, preservation, and heritage tourism. It has, for example, provided funding and/or technical assistance to many projects, including restoration of the Como Depot and interpretation of the Paris Mill through nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The Heritage Area has participated in an archaeological survey of Salt Works Ranch, supported a survey of rare plants in the Mosquito Range, and played host to a Youth Summit on historic preservation. Heritage Area partners, such as the Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative; Colorado Preservation, Inc.; and the Denver, South Park & Pacific Historical Society, have been integral to the success of early action projects. Other key partners range from town governments and community associations to the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and the Rocky Mountain Land Library.

Because legislation requires the Heritage Area to match Federal funding on a 1-to-1 basis, future projects will depend on assistance and funding from key partners. Thus, the Heritage Area has established short- and long-term objectives to phase its overall goals. Its priorities for the coming five-year period include, for example, providing adequate gateway signage for the

Heritage Area, establishing a permanent or long-term site to hold the annual Mountain Man Rendezvous, developing an open-air artists program, and assisting in the private development of a “tourist mine.” Long-term projects include preserving the Snowstorm Dredge, developing a Trails Master Plan, and creating the South Park Archaeology and Native People's Cultural Center.



*The 1874 Park County Courthouse still serves the county and the community.  
Photo courtesy Gary Nichols.*





## South Park National Heritage Area Budget Matrix

Focus Area	Potential Match	2013		2014		2015		2016	
		SPNHA	Match	SPNHA	Match	SPNHA	Match	SPNHA	Match
Administration & Operating Costs	Park County	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Historic Preservation Projects	State Historical Fund, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Community Organizations, Private Funders	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Heritage Tourism	State Historical Fund, Great Outdoors Colorado, Colorado Office of Heritage Tourism, US Department of Agriculture	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Education	Park County RE-2 School District, Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative, Coalition for the Upper South Platte, Rocky Mountain Land Library, University of Colorado, Colorado Mountain College	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000
Economic Development	South Park Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Small Business Administration, Colorado Small Business Development Center Network, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Private Businesses	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Community Programs	Alma Foundation, Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative, Coalition for the Upper South Platte, Colorado Department of Local Affairs, South Park Recreation District	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000
Conservation & Recreation	U.S. Forest Service, Coalition for the Upper South Platte, Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative, Park County Land and Water Trust Fund, Great Outdoors Colorado, South Park Recreation District	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Interpretation	State Historical Fund, U.S. Forest Service, Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative, Coalition for the Upper South Platte	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>		\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million

2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		Total
SPNHA	Match	SPNHA	Match	SPNHA	Match	SPNHA	Match	SPNHA	Match	SPNHA	Match	
\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$3 million
\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$3 million
\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$3 million
\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$2.5 million
\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$2 million
\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$2.5 million
\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$3 million
\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$1 million
\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$20 million





## CHAPTER 1

# Introduction



*The windswept Bristlecone pines high on the surrounding mountain ranges have become the symbol of the South Park National Heritage Area, representing tenacity, endurance and agelessness of both the natural wonders and the very spirit of the people who choose to live here. Photo courtesy N. Logan.*

### Purpose

On March 30, 2009, Congress authorized the South Park National Heritage Area through Public Law 111-11 Section 8003. This management plan, prepared in accordance with the enabling legislation, reviews the inventory of natural and cultural resources in South Park, the role those resources have played in the area's history, identity, and development, and the ways in which the Heritage Area will protect and preserve its resources while also initiating actions to tell its nationally important story.

### Where is South Park?

South Park is a high mountain valley in central Colorado. Situated some 75 miles southwest of Denver, the South Park valley is surrounded by towering ranges of the Rocky Mountains. South Park is the largest of Colorado's three *parcs*—so named by French fur trappers and mountain men who found it to be a favorite grazing area for game. Wildlife still abounds here, from pronghorn antelope and vast herds of elk to black bears, mountain lions, lynx, and a variety of birds, from pelicans to bald eagles. South Park is also rich in plant life, including one of the largest stands of Bristlecone pines in the world. These gnarled trees, some more than 1,500 years old, still battle the fierce winds atop 14,000-foot Mount Bross, in the Mosquito Range, on South Park's western border. The Mosquito Range hosts 15 globally imperiled plant species, three of which are found nowhere else in the world, while an extreme rich fen complex within South Park offers more rare plant species than any other known wetland in Colorado.

South Park has drawn people to its riches for thousands of years, and



hundreds of relatively intact archaeological sites have been recorded. As they have for centuries, residents still depend on the land for their livelihood, recreation, and quality of life. South Park is remarkable not only for its wealth of natural and cultural resources, but for its authenticity. It is a place that still embodies the soul of the Western frontier.

Native people, including the Arapaho, Cheyenne, Comanche, Kiowa, and particularly the Ute, frequented South Park. Here, the Ute lived in-season and hunted and gathered materials such as chert and petrified wood for tools. While South Park was known to the Spanish, and to French and American explorers and fur trappers, it wasn't until the Pikes Peak Gold Rush of 1859 that the population mushroomed as gold camps sprang up overnight. Following the prospectors came entrepreneurial businessmen and ranchers who brought cattle up from Texas and soon discovered that livestock grew fat on South Park's rich grasses. So high in protein is South Park hay that it once was shipped to the Queen of England for the royal horses. Active ranching homesteads dating to the 1860s are still to be found in South Park, as are historic mining structures such as the Paris Mill, which dates to 1894. The railroads came, creating towns and bringing tourists to soak in South Park's mineral springs or explore its meadows, blooming with wildflowers. But South Park's mining economy was boom and bust, ultimately leaving more ghost towns than thriving centers.

Today, South Park's few towns remain tiny and continue to bespeak their authentic, Western heritage. Some residents still occupy buildings constructed in the 19th century, while others live off-the-grid. But all, it seems, relish the outdoor, mountain lifestyle that defines South Park, a fact evident in recreational activities that center on hiking, biking, horseback riding, hunting, and fishing. The landscape and the climate, so inviting in summer but harsh in winter, have always shaped South Park's history and culture.

### **What is a National Heritage Area?**

National Heritage Areas are designated by Congress as places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape. Through their resources, Heritage Areas tell nationally important stories that celebrate our nation's diverse heritage. Heritage Areas are lived-in landscapes. Therefore, Heritage Area entities collaborate with communities to determine how to make heritage relevant to local interests and needs. They are a grassroots, community-driven approach to natural and cultural heritage conservation and economic development.

National Heritage Areas expand the mission of the National Park Ser-

vice by fostering community stewardship of our nation's heritage. The program, which currently includes 49 Heritage Areas, expands on traditional approaches to resource stewardship by supporting community-driven initiatives that connect local citizens to heritage planning and implementation. National Heritage Areas are not a unit of the National Park Service. The National Park Service serves an advisory role by providing technical, planning, and limited financial assistance to National Heritage Areas. Decision-making authority remains in the hands of local people and organizations. The enabling legislation for the South Park National Heritage Area prohibits the use of any Heritage Area federal funding to acquire real property or an interest in real property (P.L. 111-11, Sec. 8003, (c)(1)). The legislation explicitly requires that within the South Park National Heritage Area all participation is voluntary and all public access is provided voluntarily by the property owner. The designation cannot be used to alter land use regulation or be used to regulate land. It does not alter water rights, does not alter the state's ability to manage fish and wildlife, and cannot create a liability or alter existing liability for injury on any private property (P.L. 111-11, Sec. 8003, (f)(1)-(6)).

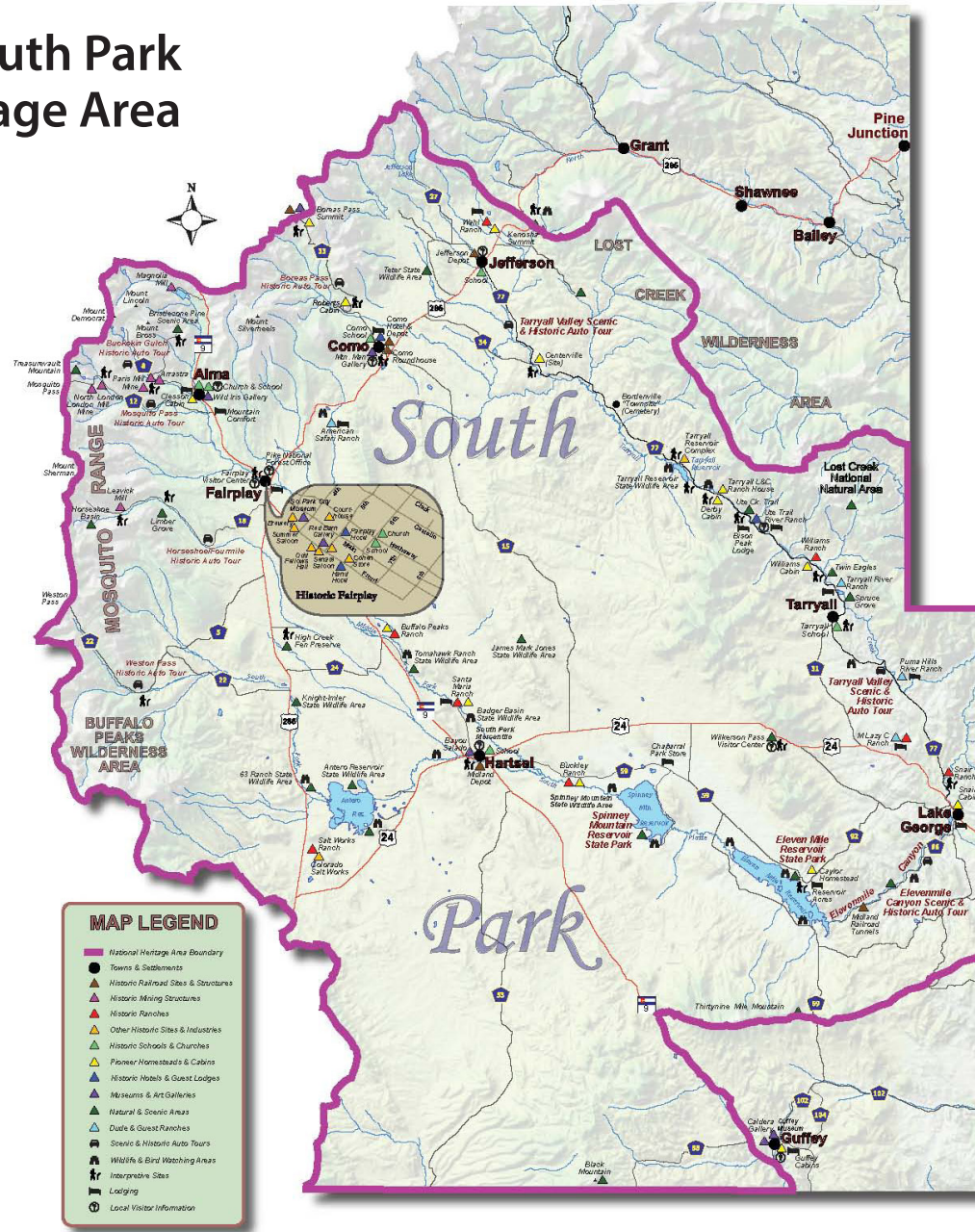
Communities benefit from Heritage Area designation in tangible as well as intangible ways. Because heritage conservation efforts are grounded in a community's pride in its history and traditions, designation offers a collaborative approach to conservation that does not compromise local control over and use of the landscape. Designation also comes with limited financial and technical assistance from the National Park Service. The South Park National Heritage Area is authorized to receive an appropriation of \$10 million in federal matching funds over the course of fifteen years.

### **What Led to Designation of the South Park National Heritage Area?**

While 95 percent of Colorado is classified as rural and agriculture provides 13.2 percent of the state's employment, land continues to be taken out of production and developed for housing and commercial purposes. Colorado, in fact, ranks third in the nation for the rate at which it is losing agricultural land. From 1997 to 2002, Colorado lost 1.26 million acres of agricultural land, or 690 acres per day. Although statewide there has been an increase in the amount of land placed in land trusts (from 25,000 acres to 340,000 acres), it is predicted that Colorado will lose 3.1 million more acres of agricultural land by 2022.

In Park County, ranching and agricultural production remain substantial contributors to the local economy and are deeply rooted in the re-

# South Park National Heritage Area





*Alma, Colorado. Photo courtesy Dean V. Butler.*

gion's heritage and identity. Tourism, however, now constitutes the largest part of the local economy, while Colorado's State Demography Office estimates that population will continue to increase by more than 3 percent a year. As agricultural land is lost to development, a way of life that defines the character and culture of places like South Park is also lost. However, over 30,000 acres in Park County, primarily ranchland, have been placed in land easement by conscientious citizens who want to preserve the area for present and future generations.

In 1997, following the work of a group of volunteers consisting of ranchers, recreationists, preservationists, and the Park County Office of Tourism and Community Development, the South Park portion of Park County was recognized by then-Governor Bill Owens as a Colorado Heritage Resource Area. The mission of this early effort was to "conserve our most unique resources and utilize them to generate new sustainable economies" and build up the tourism sector of the economy based on South Park's heritage. Building on this effort, the South Park National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was completed in early 2006, followed in 2009 by designation as a National Heritage Area.

The area designated as the South Park National Heritage Area is generally limited to the watershed of the South Platte River confined within Park County, Colorado. The South Park National Heritage Area comprises about 1,800 square miles and includes the communities of Alma, Como, Fairplay, Hartsel, Jefferson, and Lake George.

## Public Involvement

The South Park National Heritage Area sought extensive public participation in development of its Management Plan. The planning process included six open houses, one in each of South Park's primary communities. Meeting notices were posted in post offices and general stores, published in the local newspaper, and delivered to each post office box holder in each community. During the meetings, held in March, April, and May 2011, PowerPoint presentations, poster displays, and discussions were conducted with generous and positive feedback from attendees. Heritage Area Executive Director Linda Balough and consultant Matthew Spriggs conducted the meetings.

Stakeholder meetings with a wide variety of individuals, nonprofit organizations, and local, state, and federal government entities also were held in March, April, and May of 2011. Stakeholders included the U.S. Forest Service, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, the Coalition for the Upper South Platte, the Teller/Park Conservation District, the South Park Archaeology Project, Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative, South Park Recreation District, Pikes Peak Historical Society, Colorado Mountain Club, Colorado Fourteeners Initiative, and Colorado Open Lands.

A scoping letter was mailed to 15 affiliated tribal contacts, requesting comments and input for the proposed interpretive plan. The letter also offered the opportunity for tribal representatives to meet to talk about the interpretive plan. As of date, three comments have been received from tribal representatives. The Cheyenne and Arapahoe of Oklahoma have interest in the area and hope to gather and provide any information they might find that pertain to the South Park. The Comanche have some stories about the area and further talks will be pursued to gather those stories for interpretation. The Hopi want to be consulted in regard to protection and preservation if Paleoindian, Archaic, or Ancestral Pueblo sites are identified.

In October 2011, a public workshop for elected officials from Park County, Alma, and Fairplay was held to discuss the final form and content of the Management Plan, which was made available to the public and Native American groups for review and comment for 60 days, from April 19 to June 17, 2012. Additional info on the planning process can be found in Appendix E.



## **Accomplishments Since 1997**

Public and governmental support for South Park’s natural and cultural resources has continued to grow since its designation as a Colorado Heritage Resource Area in 1997. Many historic properties have been preserved, heritage tourism programs and facilities established, and a variety of educational and promotional media developed. Conservation easements have been secured on 30,000 acres of agricultural land and 13 miles of impaired stream and riparian habitat restored. The South Park National Heritage Area has built upon these accomplishments to preserve, protect, and promote the area’s resources. Among Heritage Area accomplishments since designation in 2009 are:

### **Historic Rehabilitations and Restorations**

- Provided technical assistance to the Alma Foundation to rehabilitate the Clesson Cabin
- Provided technical assistance and grant management to the Denver, South Park & Pacific Historical Society and to Colorado Preservation, Inc. for restoration of the Como Depot
- Provided technical assistance and grant management for the first phase of Como Hotel rehabilitation and restoration
- Provided technical assistance and grant management for stabilization and restoration work at the Santa Maria Ranch

### **Historic Structure Assessments**

- Provided funding and technical assistance for Hartsel Depot
- Provided funding and project management for Cline Ranch
- Provided funding and project management for Paris Mill
- Provided grant management for two phases at Trout Creek Ranch
- Provided funding and project management for the Fairplay Hotel

### **Natural, Historic, and Archaeological Resource Surveys**

- Supported Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative’s survey of rare plants in the Mosquito Range
- Updated Tarryall intensive survey
- Participated in reconnaissance survey of Fairplay
- Participated in archaeological survey of Three Mile Gulch
- Participated in archaeological survey of Salt Works Ranch
- Participated in archaeological survey of King Mine

## **National Register of Historic Places Nominations**

- Completed nomination for Three Mile Gulch Archaeological District
- Completed nomination for Paris Mill
- Completed nomination for Tarryall Rural Historic Landscape District
- Completed nomination for South Park City Museum

## **Educational Programs**

- Hosted Agritourism workshop
- Hosted Colorado Preservation, Inc. Youth Summit
- Hosted On the Road weekend
- Conducted geological group tour
- Conducted archaeological group tour
- Gave presentation on the history of Alma Mining District
- Hosted numerous presentations about the South Park National Heritage Area
- Produced a broadcast-quality documentary on South Park history
- Assisted local students in conducting biological and botanical assessment of High Creek Fen
- Developed multiple walking tours for smart phone applications
- Provided funding and technical assistance to the South Park Archaeology Project
- Developed Colorado’s first official geocaching “geotour”

## **Community Outreach**

- Provided support to South Park Chamber of Commerce Visitor’s Guide
- Provided support to Artisans Trail guide
- Provided support to Alma Festival in the Clouds
- Provided support to Boreas Pass Railroad Day
- Provided support to South Park Plein Air Arts Celebration
- Provided support to Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative’s Outdoor Adventure Series program

## Categorical Exclusion

The South Park National Heritage Area Management Plan qualifies for Categorical Exclusion 3.3 R under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (NEPA). There are no extraordinary circumstances that may cause a significant environmental effect. Categorical Exclusions under NEPA and National Park Service Director's Order #12, *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making*, apply to listed actions that have no potential for measurable effects to the human environment. As it applies to the South Park National Heritage Area Management Plan, Categorical Exclusion 3.3 R is for the "adoption or approval of surveys, studies, reports, plans and similar documents which will result in recommendations or proposed actions which would cause no or only minimal environmental impacts."

Actions categorically excluded under NEPA and Director's Order #12 must still be reviewed for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Therefore, the draft Management Plan will be sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer along with an Assessment of Effect. The concurrence letter from the State Historic Preservation Officer will be included as an appendix in the final South Park Management Plan.

Given that the Management Plan for South Park does not propose the construction of new facilities such as parking lots or visitor centers, and given that the focus of the Management Plan is on interpretation of South Park's history, its importance and environment, there will be no impacts to stream flows or associated wetlands. Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is planned.

## Guiding Principles

Three key principles will guide the South Park National Heritage Area and are considered essential to achieving the vision and mission of the Heritage Area:

- 1) Respect the rights and desires of private property owners.
- 2) Support the individual goals of all participants.
- 3) "Examine each question in terms of what is ethically and esthetically right, as well as what is economically expedient. A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

—Aldo Leopold



*Fishing at Fairplay Beach. Photo courtesy Linda Balough.*

## The Vision

South Park is a premier heritage tourism destination in Colorado that emphasizes its unique, livable, rural lifestyle through excellent stewardship, educational resources, and well preserved, enhanced, and interpreted natural, prehistoric, cultural, and historic resources that also play an active role in the local economy.

## The Mission

South Park National Heritage Area's mission is to provide an active learning environment for residents and visitors that conveys South Park's western heritage, unique community identity, and inspires and supports the creation of new local heritage products and services that play an active and sustainable role in the local economy.

## The Purpose

The purpose of the South Park National Heritage Area is to conserve South Park's heritage resources and use them to generate new economies.

## The Goals

Goals and objectives are critical for any successful organization. Those established by the South Park National Heritage Area aim to protect and conserve South Park's resources while also using them to generate new economies. Each year the South Park National Heritage Area will develop a work plan that prioritizes goals and incorporates specific options and actions to achieve them.

**Goal One:** Protect and conserve South Park's natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

**Goal Two:** Facilitate partnerships between local, regional, and national organizations that will benefit South Park.

**Goal Three:** Provide responsible interpretation, access, and education of South Park's resources to the public.

**Goal Four:** Promote South Park's resources to generate sustainable economies.



Barns at the D&M Ranch. Photo courtesy Gary Nichols.

## The Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are the overarching stories of national importance that the Heritage Area would like to tell. Themes are an organizing framework that provides context for the interpretation of individual resources. The overarching stories of South Park center on its breathtaking landscape, its Western history, and the importance of its natural and recreational resources.

### **Theme One:** *The High, Fertile Basin of Colorado's South Park*

South Park is rich with wildlife, rare alkaline fens, globally rare plant species, and protein rich and endemic high altitude grasslands, while the landscape itself—a broad valley surrounded by towering mountain peaks—is awe inspiring.

### **Theme Two:** *The Discovery & Settlement of the South Park*

Because discovery leads to new forms of settlement, South Park continues to face pressure wrought from discovery—be it for its abundant wildlife, its rich minerals, its fertile grasslands, or its majestic beauty.

### **Theme Three:** *Harvesting the Bounty of the South Park*

Since its first use by man some 12,000 years ago, South Park has been an important source of resources, from its wildlife and flora to its mineral deposits, livestock, and opportunities for recreation.



## South Park National Heritage Area Interpretive Theme Matrix

### Theme One The High, Fertile Basin of Colorado's South Park

Few places in the United States have the unique qualities of South Park, Colorado—rich with rare alkaline fens, wildlife, globally rare plant species, and protein rich and endemic high altitude grasslands.

#### Concepts and Ideas

- Describe the geologic and geomorphic forces that created South Park and why it is unique.
- Describe the uniqueness of the biodiversity of South Park and how it relates to other high altitude and cold climate areas around the world.
- Describe mineral qualities of South Park, its relationship to the Colorado Mineral Belt.
- Introduce the range and variety of species that were and are supported in the South Park, including the discoveries in Porcupine Cave and Cave Creek.
- Explore the effect of altitude and harsh weather conditions and the potential extremes.
- Describe the prehistoric conditions and explore prehistoric uses of South Park.

### Theme Two The Discovery & Settlement of South Park

South Park is under the continuous pressure of discovery—be it for the abundant wildlife, rich minerals, fertile grasslands or its simple beauty—and each discovery has led to a new form of settlement.

#### Concepts and Ideas

- Describe the discovery and seasonal use of South Park by Native Americans.
- Describe the discovery of South Park by Mountain Men and their seasonal use.
- Describe the discovery of South Park by known explorers and the removal of the Utes during westward expansion.
- Describe the early mining camps and their transition to permanent settlements and eventual decline.
- Explore the development of homesteads into permanent settlements.
- Explore the effect of the transportation on the development of communities.
- Explore modern “discovery” and the effects of tourism.
- Explore and describe the independent spirit of South Park.

### Theme Three Harvesting the Bounty of South Park

Since its discovery by early Man, as early as 10,000 BCE, South Park has been a source of many important resources from food to minerals to recreation.

#### Concepts and Ideas

- Explore the sustainable uses of South Park.
- Explore the effect of the discovery of gold.
- Describe and explore the booms and busts of South Park.
- Explore the effect of transportation improvements on commerce and on South Park as a place.
- Describe and explore the effect of the commoditization of water.
- Explore and describe entrepreneurialism in South Park from 1859 to today.
- Describe and explore ranching in South Park.

## CHAPTER 2

# The Management Entity



*Jack trains were a staple of transportation in the mining towns like Alma.  
Photo courtesy South Park Historical Foundation.*

Public Law 111-11, Sec. 8003, which created South Park National Heritage Area, authorized local management of the Heritage Area through a partnership between the Heritage Area Board of Directors and the Park County Tourism & Community Development Office, a governmental unit that has played a key leadership role in conservation and interpretation of South Park's resources since the area was designated a Colorado Heritage Resource Area in 1997. The legislation essentially means that Park County, of which South Park is a part, is the Heritage Area management entity—in conjunction with a Board of Directors comprising a broad range of individuals, agencies, organizations, and governments. This arrangement differs from many Heritage Area management entities, which often constitute a newly formed, private, nonprofit organization.

The structure of South Park's management entity is based on sound reasoning that speaks to the special nature of South Park and Park County as *place*. Though large in size, comprising more than 2,200 square miles, Park County is sparsely populated. The 2010 U.S. Census recorded a population of only 16,206. The town of Fairplay, with 679 people, is the most densely populated area and serves as the county seat. While the sparse population has helped to preserve the pristine nature of South Park and its resources, a lack of large employers makes it difficult for the private sector to provide the matching and operational funds necessary for the Heritage Area to thrive. Thus, the enabling legislation provides that the management entity for the Heritage Area "shall be the Park County Tourism & Community Development Office, in conjunction with the South Park National Heritage Area Board of Directors." (P.L. 111-11, Sec. 8003, (b)(4) (A). To enable this relationship, the Park County Board of County Com-

missioners approved a resolution establishing the Heritage Area Board of Directors and authorizing its membership, powers, and duties. The Board of Directors then filed Articles of Incorporation with the State of Colorado to register the South Park National Heritage Area nonprofit corporation.

### **Board Composition and Structure**

The Board of Directors for the South Park National Heritage Area consists of at least seven voting members, at least five of whom must be full-time residents or property owners in Park County. The current Board of Directors comprises representatives of:

- Town of Fairplay
- Town of Alma
- Como Community
- Hartsel Community
- Jefferson Community
- Tarryall/Lake George communities
- Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission
- Coalition of the Upper South Platte
- Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative
- Denver, South Park & Pacific Historical Society

Voting members are appointed by the Park County Board of County Commissioners, which also may appoint non-voting, *ex officio* members to represent interested organizations and agencies. Members of the Board serve three-year terms, although to stagger the terms of the first Board, three of the original seven members were appointed to serve two-year terms and one member to serve a one-year term. Any Board member may be appointed to a full three-year term upon completion of his or her initial term. Members may be appointed to successive terms without limitation. When there is a vacancy, official public notice must be made. The Board meets at least twice a year and may meet more often as the interests of the Heritage Area require. All members serve without compensation.

### **Duties**

The Heritage Area's enabling legislation requires the management entity to perform specific duties to carry out the goals of the legislation (P.L. 111-11, Sec. 8003, (c)(3)(A-F)). First and foremost is the preparation and submittal of a management plan to the Secretary of the Interior. Once the management plan has been approved, the management entity is charged to assist

units of local government, local property owners, businesses, and nonprofit organizations in carrying out the management plan. The Heritage Area will accomplish this by:

#### **1. Establishing and Maintaining Interpretive Exhibits**

Interpretive projects are among the primary goals of the Heritage Area and already are under way in South Park. New interpretive opportunities will develop as this Management Plan is implemented. For each interpretive exhibit established, a regular schedule of monitoring and maintenance will also be established depending upon its location and construction.

#### **2. Developing Economic, Recreational, and Educational Opportunities**

By providing a pool of grant funding, the Heritage Area will support the development of a variety of opportunities for expanded recreational, educational, and economic opportunities within South Park. The Heritage Area will actively seek out partnerships to make opportunities available, thus expanding the reach of the Heritage Area and the depth of its impact.

#### **3. Increasing Public Awareness of and Appreciation for Heritage Resources**

The Heritage Area will leverage as much public appreciation and awareness of the Heritage Area, its assets, and value as possible. The marketing and promotion plan contained within this management plan forms a key part of this effort and will serve not only to entice economic activity but to educate potential visitors about the Heritage Area and its significance.

#### **4. Protecting and Restoring Heritage Sites, Structures, and Buildings**

Given the sheer volume and variety of heritage sites and structures within South Park, the Heritage Area cannot hope to restore and protect even a majority of them on its own. Thus, the Heritage Area will look for opportunities to forge partnerships with private and public property owners and supply technical or other non-financial assistance to those restoring and/or protecting their heritage site or structure. SPNHA will also provide gap funding to owners of historic resources if funding is available. The Heritage Area, in partnership

with the Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission and the Park County Office of Historic Preservation, will also provide assistance in the listing of properties on the local, state, or national registers. Listings on any register require the consent of the property owner.

#### **5. Ensuring Clear, Consistent Signage for Public Access and Identification of Points of Interest**

Many significant resources in the South Park National Heritage Area are situated on private property. It is crucial to encourage the acceptance and expansion of public access by establishing a system of signage or signals to convey easily, clearly, and consistently when it is appropriate for the public to access private property and when it is not. Vehicular wayfinding is needed to assist visitors in locating heritage resources and appropriate access points. Similarly, the development of an interconnected trail system throughout South Park is sorely needed and a Trails Master Plan is critical to defining public access. The Heritage Area sees its role in these major undertakings as limited to facilitation, participation, and support. Of particular importance is the development of gateway signs on major highway passes into South Park to define the Heritage Area for visitors. Informational signs in previously identified important viewsheds should also mark major points of interest.

#### **6. Promoting a Wide Range of Partnerships**

The successful business model for National Heritage Areas is based on partnerships. This model is crucial to the success of the South Park National Heritage Area because a combination of resources make it possible to complete projects and programs that otherwise would be impossible. Without exception, every goal outlined and to be adopted by the Heritage Area through approval of this Management Plan relies on the participation of a minimum of one partner and in most cases three or more partners. The Heritage Area will also facilitate new partnerships that create fresh possibilities by bringing together groups and agencies that are attempting to reach the same goal but have previously never combined efforts.

#### **7. Planning and Developing New Heritage Attractions, Products, and Services**

To augment economic opportunities for the private sector, the Heritage Area will provide seed grants to businesses and entrepreneurs who undertake the start-up or expansion of a heritage related business. As a promotional tool, the Heritage Area may encourage the development of a line of heritage products, the most significant to be the creation of a series of South Park Heritage Guidebooks. An annual calendar of events and development of ambassador and site steward programs also are planned.

#### **Additional Duties**

The enabling legislation for South Park National Heritage Area requires other duties of the management entity under P.L. 111-11, Sec. 8003, (c)(3)(C-F). These duties, which center on the need to be inclusive and to be objective in evaluations and accountability, require the management entity to:

##### **1. Consider Diverse Interests in Preparing and Implementing the Management Plan**

Since its inception, the South Park National Heritage Area has included a wide range of interests in its planning efforts. Focus groups, public open houses, and public hearings have been held in preparation of this Management Plan. Ongoing coordination with diverse partners will allow for increased communication and participation and will be an expression of consensus among the many interests within South Park.

##### **2. Conduct Meetings Open to the Public At Least Semiannually Regarding the Development and Implementation of this Management Plan**

The Heritage Area must be accountable to the public and provide a minimum of two open public meetings each year that address any changes or additions to the Management Plan and the progress or lack thereof in its implementation.

##### **3. Submit an Annual Report to the Secretary of the Interior**

Each year that Congress appropriates funds for the South Park National Heritage Area, the Heritage Area is required to submit a report to the Secretary of the Interior that details the activities, expenses, and income of the management entity, including any grants provided



to another entity by the Heritage Area. The annual report should be cumulative and include how the Heritage Area has met the specific benchmarks and performance standards established in the annual task agreement executed with the National Park Service.

#### **4. Provide an Annual Record of All Federal and Matching Funds Expended**

Each year the Heritage Area must make all of its financial records available to the Secretary of the Interior for audit. To prevent adding excessive additional costs, Park County will include an audit of the Heritage Area records as a part of its own annual audit and ensure that the audit can be sufficiently separated. The additional expense in extending the county's audit to include the Heritage Area can be covered with Heritage Area funds or, preferably, provided as part of the local match.

#### **5. Require All Sub-grantees to Provide Records of All Federal Expenditure**

In each sub-grant provided by the South Park National Heritage Area, the contract must contain a requirement that the recipient provide a record of its expenditure of federal funds. This should be done annually and be included in the audit performed by Park County.

#### **6. Encourage Economic Viability Consistent with the Heritage Area**

In determining whether an economic development project is appropriate for South Park, the Heritage Area must determine whether the project will retain the area's distinctive character and appeal, and maintain and enhance the local quality of life. For example, infill development in Fairplay's Historic Business District, if it met the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, would be supported by the Heritage Area, whereas an intensive commercial or industrial development outside of the existing rural development centers would most likely not be supported. In deciding on seed grants, the Heritage Area will apply the "but for" test, which simply substantiates that a private entity could not undertake the project and be profitable without the assistance of the Heritage Area. Seed grants should be carefully limited in terms of amounts and should be a one-time grant and not a continuous subsidy.

### **Relationship of the Heritage Area to Other Federal Agencies**

The enabling legislation for the South Park National Heritage Area also includes statements intended to more clearly define the relationship between federal agencies and the Heritage Area. (P.L. 111-11, Sec. 8003, (e)(1-2)). The statements are:

- 1) In General: Nothing in this section affects the authority of a federal agency to provide technical or financial assistance under any other law.
- 2) The head of any federal agency planning to conduct activities that may have an impact on the Heritage Area is encouraged to consult and coordinate the activities with the Secretary and the management entity to the maximum extent practicable.

Thus, while the Heritage Area is not a federal agency, the clear expectation is that federal agencies will, to the extent permitted by law, coordinate conservation and recreational programs and projects with the Heritage Area. Federal agencies, when undertaking an action, also are encouraged to consider how those actions will affect the Heritage Area and include the Heritage Area in coordinating the action.

### **Evaluation Reports**

As part of the ongoing evaluation of Heritage Areas, South Park National Heritage Area, through the Secretary of the Interior, is required to evaluate accomplishments and provide a report to Congress not later than 2021, three years prior to the termination of authorization. (P.L. 111-11, Sec. 8003, (g)(1-2)).

The evaluation must include an assessment of the management entity's progress in accomplishing the purposes of the legislation and in achieving the goals and objectives of the Management Plan. The evaluation must also analyze the impact of investments and review the management structure, partnership relationships, and funding of the Heritage Area with respect to the long term sustainability of the Heritage Area. Based on the evaluation, the Secretary of the Interior shall prepare a report that includes recommendations for the future role of the National Park Service, if any, in the Heritage Area. If the report recommends that federal funding for the Heritage Area be reauthorized, the report shall include an analysis of ways to reduce or eliminate federal funding for the Heritage Area, and the appropriate time necessary to implement the reduction or elimination. (P.L. 111-11, Sec. 8003, (g)(3)(A-B)).

## Goals, Policies, and Implementation Strategies

The South Park National Heritage Area is required by its authorizing legislation to provide “comprehensive policies, strategies, and recommendations for conservation, funding, management, development, and promotion of the Heritage Area.” (P.L. 111-11, Sec. 8003, (d)(2)(C)(ii)) To address this requirement, this Management Plan outlines a framework, organized around four primary goals—to meet the purpose and vision of the Heritage Area.

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### Goal One Conserve and Enhance South Park’s Natural, Cultural, Recreational, and Scenic Resources

South Park National Heritage Area’s accepted definition of conservation, as defined in the earliest planning efforts, is the “wise use of lands and resources in such a way that their value and integrity are maintained over time.” Conservation for South Park includes not only natural resources, but also cultural, recreational, and scenic resources.

#### Policies

The Heritage Area has developed policies to guide decisions related to conservation of its resources, as follows:

**Sensitive Sites:** Because some sites, such as unexcavated archaeological and paleontological sites, are extremely sensitive, the Heritage Area will protect them by using off-site interpretation that does not reveal their location. To determine the level of sensitivity, the Heritage Area will rate sites as needed for condition and accessibility.

Condition ratings are:

- 1) Sensitive: providing access will cause damage to the resource and should not be promoted.
- 2) Mildly sensitive: The site should only be accessed with trained guides and should be promoted only by qualified guiding services.
- 3) Stable: The site can withstand moderate public access and should be promoted in a limited fashion.
- 4) Robust: The site is stable and can withstand open public access and should be openly promoted.

Accessibility ratings are:

- 1) Not accessible.
- 2) Accessible by pedestrians.
- 3) Accessible by mountain bike.
- 4) Accessible by off-highway vehicles (OHV)/4-wheel drive.
- 5) Accessible by vehicle.

For example, if a site has a condition rating of 1 (sensitive) and an accessibility rating of 5 (accessible by vehicle), the location should not be promoted. On the other hand, if a site has a condition rating of 4 (robust) and an accessibility rating of 1 (not accessible), it may be reasonable to improve accessibility to the site. If the condition of a site is rated 3 (stable) and accessibility also is rated 3 (mountain bike) then limited promotion would be acceptable.

**Conservation/Preservation Easements/Real Property:** The Heritage Area is precluded by law from using federal funding to acquire any real property. Therefore, the Heritage Area may only acquire real property, including conservation easements, through donation or purchase using non-federal funding. In each of these instances, the acquisition must be from a willing seller or donor.

**Habitat Restoration Projects:** While the Heritage Area will continue to work with partners to restore riparian, aquatic, and wildlife habitats. Projects that provide a level of low impact recreational accessibility will be given a higher priority for funding and assistance than projects that do not.

**Historic Sites and Buildings:** South Park has a large number of unlisted historic sites. The Heritage Area can assist Park County’s Office of Historic Preservation in protecting historic sites and buildings through local, state, and national register listings and by providing information to property owners and local decision makers regarding the treatment of historic properties. The single greatest tool available to South Park for both outreach and protection is to work with willing property owners to list their historic properties on the local, state, and/or national register of historic places. Listing a historic property on the National Register of Historic Places creates no obligations on private property owners. There are no restrictions on the use, treatment, transfer, or disposition of private property, unless the owner has received federal or state funding to preserve or develop the property. The benefits of listing are many.



*Historic miner's cabin in Mosquito Gulch. Photo courtesy Dean V. Butler.*

- Eligibility for certain tax provisions. Owners of properties listed in the National Register may be eligible for a 20 percent investment tax credit for the certified rehabilitation of income-producing, certified historic structures such as commercial, industrial, or rental residential buildings. This credit can be combined with a straight-line depreciation period of 27.5 years for residential property and 31.5 years for nonresidential property for the depreciable basis of the rehabilitated building reduced by the amount of the tax credit claimed. Federal tax deductions are also available for charitable contributions for conservation purposes of partial interests in historically important land areas or structures.
- Qualification for certain federal grants for historic preservation, when funds are available.
- Increased public appreciation of the cultural importance of the historic structure.

The Heritage Area will encourage voluntary preservation efforts among property owners through outreach, education, technical assistance, and possibly gap financing. The Heritage Area appreciates the right of property owners to determine the future of their historic properties but also believes that property owners should make those decisions based on a full understanding of their property's importance. In some cases, tax credits, grants, and other resources can be brought to certain projects to make the protection of the resource feasible. Similarly, the Heritage Area acknowledges that for some properties it may not be economically feasible to retain its historic value.

It has often been said that the key to preserving a building is to make sure it is occupied. Unoccupied buildings tend to suffer from vandalism and deterioration. In order for vacant buildings to be brought back into service, they must be repaired and made habitable. How that repair is accomplished depends on the function and integrity of the building as well as its cultural significance. For the purpose of this plan, rehabilitation, as it is used in the legislation, is regarded as a general statement for returning a historic building to active service and not requiring a specific type of treatment. While the Heritage Area will undoubtedly recommend restoration as a treatment for some properties, it is anticipated that most private properties will be returned to service through adaptive reuse.

*The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* is the authoritative guide for work performed on historic properties. It describes four possible preservation treatments for historic structures:

- **Preservation** focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time.
- **Rehabilitation** acknowledges the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character.
- **Restoration** depicts a property at a particular period of time in its history, while removing evidence of other periods.
- **Reconstruction** re-creates vanished or non-surviving portions of a property for interpretive purposes.

Choosing the most appropriate treatment for a building requires careful decision making about a building's cultural significance, as well taking into account a number of other considerations:



*Relative importance in history:* Is the building a nationally significant resource such as a rare survivor or the work of a master architect or craftsman? Did an important event take place in it? National Historic Landmarks, designated for their “exceptional significance in American history,” or many buildings individually listed in the National Register often warrant Preservation or Restoration. Buildings that contribute to the significance of a historic district but are not individually listed in the National Register more frequently undergo Rehabilitation for a compatible use.

*Physical condition:* What is the existing condition—or degree of material integrity—of the building prior to work? Has the original form survived largely intact or has it been altered over time? Are the alterations an important part of the building’s history? Preservation may be appropriate if distinctive materials, features, and spaces are essentially intact and convey the building’s cultural significance. If the building requires more extensive repair and replacement, or if alterations or additions are necessary for a new use, then Rehabilitation is probably the most appropriate treatment. These key questions play major roles in determining what treatment is selected.

*Proposed use:* An essential, practical question to ask is: Will the building be used as it was historically or will it be given a new use? Many historic buildings can be adapted for new uses without seriously damaging their historic character, while special-use properties such as grain silos, forts, ice houses, or windmills may be extremely difficult to adapt to new uses without major intervention and a resulting loss of historic character and integrity.

*Mandated code requirements:* Regardless of the treatment, code requirements will need to be taken into consideration. But if hastily or poorly designed, a series of code-required actions may jeopardize a building’s materials as well as its historic character. Thus, if a building needs to be seismically upgraded, modifications to the historic appearance should be minimal. Abatement of lead paint and asbestos within historic buildings requires particular care if important historic finishes are not to be adversely affected. Finally, alterations and new construction needed to meet accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 should be designed to minimize material loss and visual change to a historic building.

In most cases, Rehabilitation tends to balance the importance of the structure’s history with the needs of future use and costs to the property owner. Given the condition of many of the historic structures in South Park, Rehabilitation is likely to be the preferred treatment. Many times, when the reoccupation of an important historic building is being contemplated the suggested reuse is as a museum. Unfortunately, this often is financially infeasible. For South Park, a more entrepreneurial approach is needed. The Heritage Area will highly encourage adaptive reuse of historic structures and, where possible, provide an educational and experiential component.

### **Strategies and Recommendations**

The Heritage Area has developed strategies and recommendations for increasing conservation within the Heritage Area.

**Seek Partnerships and Pursue Grants:** The Heritage Area will seek to secure partnerships with landowners who exhibit heritage values and pursue grants that further restoration and conservation for critical resources, including high-quality grazing lands, historic structures that possess unique or special qualities, and significant natural areas such as fens, major wetlands, fisheries, migration corridors, viewsheds, alpine plant regions, and important wildlife habitats, including nesting and calving areas.

**Support Efforts to Preserve and Protect Ranchlands:** The Heritage Area will support the continuation of productive and profitable ranching by providing technical and educational resources for land owners, by encouraging voluntary actions to conserve ranchlands, by offering incentives for improving rural development patterns, and through education about the importance of the ranching heritage and appropriate conservation strategies.

**Encourage Conservation Easements:** While the Heritage Area cannot purchase easements with federal funding, it should continue to encourage and provide assistance to property owners who are voluntarily pursuing easements that will preserve heritage resources. Multiple land trusts hold conservation easements in the Heritage Area including Colorado Open Lands, Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. It is possible that landowners may desire a partnership with the Heritage Area as a way to increase public appreciation of preservation efforts.

**Support Habitat Enhancement and Restoration:** In partnership with private landowners, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, and Park County's Land and Water Conservation Board, multiple stream enhancement projects have been completed within the Heritage Area. The Heritage Area will support additional habitat enhancement and restoration projects.

**Identify Funding for Land Reclamation:** Many areas in South Park have been disturbed by mining. While returning the soil, water, and/or habitat to conditions prior to the industrial activity tends to be expensive, it also can be beneficial to South Park. The Heritage Area will limit its activity to projects where the property owner has no intention of resuming mining and is actively pursuing reclamation of the land. The Heritage Area will limit its activity to facilitating partnerships and identifying funding.

**Protect the Night Skies:** The Heritage Area supports efforts by Park County to protect the night skies by reducing light pollution and glare from sources such as street lights and poles—thereby retaining South Park's rural and small town character. The Heritage Area will provide assistance to owners of historic properties on ways to protect night skies without affecting the historic and architectural character of historic districts and buildings.

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## Goal Two

**Facilitate partnerships between local, regional, and national organizations that will benefit South Park.**

### Policies

For the Heritage Area to succeed in building new and highly effective partnerships, it will strive to include interests not traditionally associated with heritage resources and involve them in projects and programs that illustrate the benefits of resource preservation, including the South Park Chamber of Commerce, Colorado Office of Economic Development, service organizations, and local planners.

### Strategies and Recommendations

**Involve the Public:** The public will be invited to the Heritage Area's biannual public meetings and encouraged to participate in decision making.

**Collaborate with Partners:** The Heritage Area will act as a clearing house of information for South Park by convening regular meetings and coordinating activities with existing and potential partners. The Heritage Area



*South Park trails invite mountain bikers of all skill levels. Photo courtesy Linda Balough.*

will create and maintain a calendar of heritage-related activities. Among the initial working groups, or subcommittees, the Heritage Area will support are:

*Ranchers' Round Table:* focus on land management; back country lodges and cabins, including sustainable energy systems; wildlife viewing areas; habitat enhancement; interpretation; recreational facilities; and a joint advertising campaign.

*Recreation Round Table:* focus on commercial access to public lands, limited public access to private property, a calendar of sporting events, and joint advertising and promotion.

*Heritage Education Opportunities Collaborative:* expand, strengthen, and support heritage education, including developing an immersive curriculum and internship program, organizing a site stewards program, speakers series and symposium, ambassador program, and educational event calendar.

*Heritage Event Coordination Working Group:* It would focus on scheduling heritage related events, expanding existing events, and supporting the creation of new events. Entities involved include, but are not limited to, Mountain Men Rendezvous groups, South Park City Museum, World Championship Pack Burro Race, Festival in the Clouds (Alma music festival), and South Park Plein Air Arts Celebration.

**Reach Out to Tribal Governments:** The Heritage Area seeks to establish formal relationships with American Indian Tribes that are culturally affiliated with South Park. The Heritage Area will continue to seek input from tribal government to update interpretation program and events.

**Facilitate Information Sharing:** The Heritage Area will strive to facilitate communication between the government agencies and nonprofit groups responsible for resource protection within the boundaries of the South Park National Heritage Area. In the area of natural resources, for example, these agencies and groups include the U.S. Forest Service (Pike National Forest), Bureau of Land Management (various federal lands), Colorado Parks & Wildlife (State Wildlife and Recreation Areas and State Land Trust properties), and multiple land trust and conservation management entities, such as The Nature Conservancy.

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### Goal Three

#### Provide responsible interpretation of and access to South Park's resources.

##### Policies

The heart of interpretation is communication and education, and is most effective when all three modalities of communication are used: visual, audio, and kinesthetic (touching or doing). The Heritage Area will give first priority to visual interpretation (preferred by 60 percent of Americans), followed by kinesthetic and audio. Though less preferred than visual and kinesthetic, the use of audio, particularly for auto tours, is critical in an area as large as South Park. Heritage Area standards will be applied to each form of interpretive media and will be used to provide a consistent link to marketing methods.

### Strategies and Recommendations

**Determine the Need for Interpretation:** In some cases, deciding whether to interpret a resource can be difficult. To help in this endeavor a set of questions should be asked to determine whether interpretation is warranted based on whether “there is a need” to:

- 1) Present an ordered sequence of information.
- 2) Tell a complex story.
- 3) Make history or the environment come alive.
- 4) Display and protect authentic artifacts.
- 5) Pace the rate of learning.
- 6) Engage people to visit real sites and participate in real experiences.

If any of the above needs are identified, then some level of interpretation is warranted. The more needs identified, the stronger the need for interpretation. Other questions can be used to evaluate the quality of an interpretation. Does it:

- 1) Challenge participants' knowledge and perceptions about South Park?
- 2) Engender a greater appreciation for our local resources and culture?
- 3) Influence the audience's behavior towards such resources?
- 4) Provide a personal connection to the land and its people?

Ideally, each interpretation will answer all four questions affirmatively but must answer at least one affirmatively to effectively interpret the resource.

**Determine the Target Market and Level of Accessibility:** The choice of media used in interpretation will be determined by the target audience and by asking which media best tells the story. Because the audience is apt to change as the reach of the Heritage Area expands, the target market should be reevaluated every five to seven years. While many interpretive applications gravitate toward the latest technologies, technology cannot replace the emotions and memories that a physical experience creates. However, because some resources are rare, sensitive, or dangerous—such as mines—remote interpretation may be preferred. More robust resources can be open to self-guided exploration and discovery.



**Determine the Best Way to Communicate:** The Heritage Area will employ a number of communication methods.

**Onsite interpreters, docents, or guides** are particularly useful when immersion is the goal of interpretation. Reenactment also is an effective form of interpretation and is used at the Mountain Man Rendezvous and Living History Day at South Park City Museum.

**Indoor interactive displays** are expensive to install but generally are less expensive in the long run than trained docents or guides. When coupled with strong visual material, recorded audio can have a great impact. To the extent feasible, the Heritage Area prefers interactive indoor displays over static panels, but static displays will be favored for remote interpretation where security is not possible.

**Lecture** will primarily be limited to events such as South Park's proposed speaker series.

**Learning weekends**, which combine skill-set instruction and hands-on use of materials, are ideal for small groups.

**Mobile applications (apps)** are popular, but network connectivity may be somewhat limited initially in South Park.

**Follow Standards for Graphics and Publications:** Many of South Park's existing interpretive panels suggest a subtle connection between past and present. The posts and frames are wood or rusted metal, for instance, thus implying the area's faded infrastructure of mining and railroading. Such sentiment will be retained when determining the suitability of a Heritage Area interpretive design. The Heritage Area will establish graphic design standards for signage and kiosk panels and require, for instance, that isolated or remote panels display a regional orientation map. To withstand South Park's harsh winters and intense sunlight, outdoor installations should be constructed of angled, heavy duty aluminum frames with color injected, UV-resistant fiberglass panels. Interpretive trail displays should connect the visitor to resources and enhance the enjoyment of the trail. A display might focus, for instance, on the experience the visitor would have had in that location at a particular point in history. At a location overlooking a former placer deposit, for example, the interpretation might describe a day in the life of a prospector. The Heritage Area will continue to work with communities to identify high traffic locations where interpretive panels can be placed.

The Heritage Area's standards for publications require that:

- All content be accurate, relevant, and interesting to a broad spectrum of readers.
- Language be drafted by knowledgeable professionals.
- Copy be edited for organization, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and grammar.
- Graphic design and layout be assigned to a graphic artist.
- All graphics be of the highest possible quality.
- Printing and stock materials be of the highest quality that the project can afford.

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## **Goal Four**

### **Promote South Park's resources to generate a sustainable economy.**

The Heritage Area's concept of development centers on the ways in which it will help stimulate the local economy and heritage tourism.

## **Policies**

The Heritage Area supports economic development that expands and supports the development of key heritage tourism businesses, including but not limited to high quality historic sites, high quality festivals and events, high quality accommodations and restaurants, and the packaging of heritage themed itineraries that include meals, lodging, transportation, guides, activities, and goods. The Heritage Area also supports the development of high quality shops and museums that exhibit and sell heritage products and services.

## **Strategies and Recommendations**

**Create a Heritage Area Brand:** South Park National Heritage Area will develop a "South Park Heritage" brand to promote quality heritage businesses, products, services, and events. To be considered a member of the brand and use its taglines, logo, and other brand identifiers, the business, product, service, or event must meet established standards that include customer service standards, standards for sustainable lodging and business practices, and the willingness to share customer feedback and demographic information. The Heritage Area will ask members of its South Park

Heritage brand to pool funding and then will augment the pooled funding with Heritage Area funding to increase visibility of the South Park area. The Heritage Area envisions placing an announcement in the Official State Visitors Guide, on the Colorado.com website, and in print media such as the AAA travel magazine. In the initial stages of development, the Heritage Area will market its brand to communities on the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains.

**Create Collaborative Marketing:** The Heritage Area will strive to convene a collaborative group, ideally comprising multiple businesses and entities to market South Park. At a minimum, the Heritage Area will propose that Fairplay, Alma, and Park County pool funding to engage a professional marketing firm.

**Connect to Local Businesses:** The Heritage Area can play an important role in the development of a strong heritage tourism economy by fostering a relationship between heritage product manufacturers and local lodging, retailers, and restaurants. For example, a local hotelier and the local manufacturer of a personal care product could work together to place the local product in the local hotel.

**Provide Access to Business Training:** The Heritage Area will develop a means for local businesses to acquire skills training and best practices for business. The most likely means is through a partnership with an academic institution that could regularly send staff to South Park. The Heritage Area endorses the development of a peer-to-peer entrepreneurial network in which business owners meet to provide advice, discuss problems, and perhaps procure or exchange services with fellow businesses. It may be possible to develop or gain access to a chapter of SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) and develop a business mentorship system.



*Panning instructions at South Park City Museum's Living History Day. Photo courtesy Linda Balough.*

## South Park National Heritage Area Goals Matrix

Ongoing Objectives	Short Term Objectives	Long Term Objectives
Goal One: Conserve and enhance South Park’s natural, cultural, and recreational resources.		
Collect and conserve historic documents, oral histories, and artifacts.	Develop a program for the stabilization and treatment of historic properties.	Develop and adopt a Trails Master Plan (TMP) for South Park.
Preserve historic cemeteries.	Develop a programmatic agreement among the Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission, Park County Office of Historic Preservation, State Historic Preservation Office, and the Heritage Area that will forward shared goals.	Identify and protect a mineral resource area and use it to educate.
Preserve historic ranches.	Demonstrate the connection between preservation and environmental sustainability.	Develop a field research facility.
Support and provide technical assistance for the stabilization and rehabilitation of important historic railroad structures.		
Support and provide technical assistance for the preservation and interpretation of mining-related sites and structures.		
In close partnership with Park County Land and Water Trust Board, work to increase the acres of restored aquatic and riparian habitat.		
Maintain and develop access to recreational assets.		
Protect rare plant communities.		
Goal Two: Facilitate partnerships between local, regional, and national organizations that will benefit South Park.		
Develop a network of volunteers to support and implement Heritage Area programs and projects.	Establish a relationship with the descendants of the Taveewach (Tabeguache and Uncompahgre) Ute band and other tribes associated with the Heritage Area.	
Assist towns and communities in preserving the historic character of each community.	Support the expansion and enhancement of the Mountain Man Rendezvous and establish a permanent or long-term site to hold events.	



Ongoing Objectives	Short Term Objectives	Long Term Objectives
Goal Three: Provide responsible interpretation of, access to, and education of South Park's resources to the public.		
Enhance and expand water education programs.	Develop an open air artists access program.	Develop a vehicular wayfinding system for South Park.
Interpret mining and processing history at Paris Mill and other appropriate sites.	Provide interpretation of important Native American and archaeological sites.	Develop an Archaeology and Native People's Cultural Center.
Enhance and expand existing interpretation of South Park's railroad heritage.	Support and provide technical assistance to the private development of a "tourist mine."	Assist in the development of a stagecoach interpretive tour.
Develop heritage-related internships.	Work with the South Park City Museum (SPCM) to enhance interpretive offerings and heritage programming at the museum.	Make accessible a former town site and develop interpretation.
	Develop an Outlaw Tour of significant "Wild West" sites in South Park.	Restore and/or interpret stagecoach stops in South Park.
	Identify appropriate funding sources and assist with the development of new environmental interpretation at key locations.	Encourage exploration of scenic corridors.
		Develop a commercial recreational access program.
Goal Four: Promote South Park's resources to generate sustainable economies.		
Provide grant funding for eligible heritage businesses, projects, and programs.	Provide adequate gateway signage for the Heritage Area.	Enhance the World Championship Pack Burro Race by reinstating additional mining competitions.
Develop consistent Heritage programs on private ranches.	Develop a headquarters for South Park National Heritage Area.	Develop more sporting events throughout South Park and coordinate with other regional events.
Improve specific trails and access throughout South Park and assist in the development of other trails based on the Trails Master Plan.	Support the development of entities offering tour packaging in South Park and provide limited services through the Heritage Area.	Support the establishment of a Lodging Network.
Increase the number of recreational opportunities in South Park.	Provide training for local businesses in customer service and familiarize them with scheduled events and local amenities for tourists.	
Demonstrate and promote the linkage between preservation and the economy.		
Develop an annual calendar of events.		

	Cultural Resources
	Natural Resources
	Recreation



## CHAPTER 3

# South Park's Natural Resources



*Eutrema penlandii* - Rollins (Penland alpine fen mustard) is endemic only to an area of less than 1000 acres in the Mosquito Range above 11,800 feet elevation.

Photo courtesy Sheila Lamb, Botanist, USFS, South Park Ranger District.

South Park is a vast grassland basin, 50 miles long and 35 miles wide, situated in the geographic center of Colorado. In the basin, the elevation of the National Heritage Area is about 8,500 feet, while on the surrounding mountain peaks it rises to as high as 14,286 feet. The significance of South Park's resources is directly linked to its high altitude. From canyons to grasslands to mountain summits, this landscape boasts a wealth of natural resources, some of which exist nowhere else in the world. More than 115 rare or imperiled plant and animal species have been documented in South Park, nearly 50 of which are considered globally significant.

While the arrival and settlement of European-Americans brought drastic changes, South Park's landscape looks much as it has for thousands of years. South Park is accessed by seven alpine passes, each of which has amazing vistas of the expansive grasslands below. The mineral rich Mosquito Range lines the western rim of South Park and has four peaks over 14,000 feet in elevation and many others over 13,000 feet. The Continental Divide runs along the northern edge of South Park, and the Tarryall and Kenosha mountain ranges rim the eastern edge, all providing a scenic backdrop and grand vistas.

South Park has a widely varied landscape, which includes portions of two nationally designated Wilderness Areas—Lost Creek (130,000 acres) and Buffalo Peaks (170,000 acres). Together, they support natural resources of national significance, including unique geologic formations, disappearing streams, ancient Bristlecone pine trees, globally rare plants, boreal toads, and the endangered lynx. In 1996, a portion of the Lost Creek Wilderness Area was designated as the Lost Creek National Natural Land-





*Horseshoe Mountain, a 13,898-foot mountain in the mineral-rich Mosquito Range has been described by some as the most perfect cirque in the world. Photo courtesy Jim Mills.*

mark, recognized for its remarkable rock formations and the disappearance and reappearance of Lost Creek. The landmark illustrates how the land was structured through weathering along joint planes.

### **Formation, Geology, Geomorphology, and Geography**

The geography, geology, and geomorphology of South Park tell a unique story. South Park was formed through 70 million years of upheaval (Laramide Orogeny) that created the mountains that ring the valley. They were shaped through glaciations, volcanism, erosion, and sedimentation. The area once included an inland sea. These same forces shaped the high altitude basin, which includes, on the east face of Horseshoe Mountain, one of the world's most symmetrical cirques. The glaciation of the valley also left behind rich alluvial soils, allowing rare and unusual wetlands called fens to develop and protein rich grasses to grow.

### **Minerals**

South Park is one of the richest sections of the Colorado Mineral Belt. The Colorado Mineral Belt runs through the Mosquito Range, which forms a

portion of the western boundary of South Park. Intrusions of gold, silver, lead, and other minerals are present in host rock throughout the area but are generally thought to be most densely present in the Mosquito Range. The Sweet Home Mine west of Alma is unmatched for its deposits of rhodochrosite crystals, Colorado's state mineral. The historic mining district of Alma was first known for its rich gold ore and later gained additional fame for its extremely rich silver mines.

### **Altitude and Weather**

South Park's severe weather conditions and thin, high altitude air has historically made South Park a place primarily occupied only in the cool summer season. Winters may have large amounts of snow, or the "mountain shadow" effect can result in low precipitation, sometimes as few as 8 to 9 inches a year. Heavy winds are normal through the winter and spring. Summer brings clear sunshine and temperature highs in the 70s. The short fall season is cool and generally pleasant. One resident describes South Park's "four seasons—fall, winter, spring, and three days at the end of July."

### **Visual Resources**

When one enters South Park from one of its seven alpine passes, it's hard not to be overwhelmed by the beauty and vastness of the valley below. On the valley floor, corridor views of ranch lands with historic ranch structures and the close proximity of the Mosquito Range, with few visual intrusions, are highly valued in South Park. One of the strongest assets for South Park is its unusual views of relatively untouched landscapes that appear today as they have for thousands of years.

### **Prehistoric Mammals**

Important prehistoric uses of South Park have not been limited to human activities. Porcupine Cave is a unique Pleistocene fossil site located in the southern section of South Park. Paleontologists have stated that "its wealth of animal fossils is one of the most important paleontological sites for the study of Ice Age vertebrates in the world," having yielded discoveries of at least 127 species of amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. While fossils were likely not collected until the 1980s, it is possible the Hayden Survey visited the cave in the 1870s.

## Ecosystems

### Wetlands & Fens

It is estimated that South Park contains over 50,000 acres of wetlands, including intermediate, rich, and extreme rich fens. Fens are rare and unusual wetlands characterized by peat soils and calcium carbonate-rich groundwater. Fens also exist in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado and in Wyoming. South Park's fens are typical of the sub-arctic environments found at northern latitudes. The extreme rich fens of South Park and their rare plant communities act as filtering agents to ensure high water quality for the area and constitute a natural heritage resource of global significance. First identified as extreme rich fens by David Cooper, Ph.D., in 1990, they generated excitement within the botanical and conservation communities because of their unusual nature and their extraordinary natural heritage value not only for Colorado, but for the world. (See John Sanderson and Margaret March, *Extreme Rich Fens of South Park, Colorado: Their Distribution, Identification, and Natural Heritage Significance*.) One of the finest examples of these fens is the High Creek Fen owned by The Nature Conservancy and situated about nine miles south of Fairplay off U.S. Highway 285.



Vast areas of the South Park remain much as they were in pre-historic times.  
Photo courtesy Erica Duvic.



*Ipomopsis globularis* (Brand) W.A. Weber, globe gilia is found in the Mosquito Range and along Hoosier Ridge within an area of about 110 square miles. Photo courtesy Mosquito Range Initiative.

### Forests

While the basin of South Park is covered by vast grasslands, the rising alpine edges give way to several varieties of forests, including Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, Engelmann spruce, Colorado blue spruce and Subalpine fir, as well as rare Bristlecone pines interspersed with aspen groves. The Windy Ridge area above Alma on Mount Bross is home to one of the most interesting communities of Bristlecone pines (*Pinus aristata*) in the United States. The oldest living Bristlecone pine in the Rocky Mountains—some 2,400 years old—is on Black Mountain within the Heritage Area boundaries. The presence of diverse forest species supports a wide variety of mammals that transition between the valley floor and alpine forests in the fall and spring.

### Plants

South Park's climate and geology have given rise to a number of rare plant species. Over 30 rare plants are found in the Mosquito Range and alkaline fens throughout South Park. The open valley of South Park hosts an unusual grassland of Arizona fescue (*Festuca arizonica*) and slimstem muhly (*Muhlenbergia filiculmis*), the largest documented example of its type.





*South Park provides a comfortable habitat for a wide range of Colorado wildlife including a large population of elk. Photo courtesy Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative.*

### **Fish and Wildlife**

The presence of diverse habitat types support a large variety of mammals that transition between the valley floor and subalpine forests during different seasons. Every large mammal known to Colorado is found in and around South Park. Mountain forests and riparian corridors harbor moose, mountain lions, black bears, coyotes, bobcats, foxes, mule deer, and bighorn sheep. Moreover, it is not unusual to see large herds of elk and pronghorns grazing on the valley floor.

South Park's streams are populated with brown, brook, rainbow, and cutthroat trout, with as many as 2,000 fish per mile in some sections. The creeks and rivers of South Park also serve as critical trout spawning areas. The State of Colorado has established twelve State Wildlife Areas in South Park to protect its fish and wildlife.

### **Birds, Reptiles, and Insects**

Migratory birds are found in the reservoirs, streams, drainages, and wetlands of South Park with important nesting areas around Antero Reservoir and Michigan and Tarryall creeks. Large seasonal populations of water birds, including white pelicans, can be found in the prime habitat areas of the six major reservoirs in the Heritage Area. Raptors are found throughout the area. Montane habitats up to 12,000 feet support populations of the boreal toad, Colorado's only alpine species of toad. The boreal toad is listed by the state as endangered and is a candidate for listing on the Federal Endangered Species List. South Park also is home to the Polixenes Arctic Butterfly, ranked as "vulnerable" in Colorado.

### **Water**

Water is critical to the environmental health of South Park, as well as its agricultural industries and its ability to accommodate even moderate growth in population or industry. Numerous meandering streams and tributaries of the South Platte River, including the Middle and South Forks, traverse South Park. Creeks include Tarryall, Michigan, Mosquito, Fourmile, Sacramento, Buckskin, and Jefferson.

Pressure from population growth along the Front Range led to the commoditization of water in South Park when it became possible to pur-



*Speckled trout. Photo courtesy Gary Nichols.*





*Water captured and stored in South Park reservoirs such as the Montgomery Reservoir supplies much of the water for the Front Range cities. Photo courtesy Linda Balough.*

chase rights to South Park water, remove it from local productive use, and convert it to consumptive use in another community. Over 80 percent of the water in South Park is now owned by Denver, Aurora, and other cities along the Front Range. This practice has greatly curtailed agriculture in the South Park and influenced development patterns throughout the area. The construction of Antero Reservoir Dam by Denver Water in 1909 involved one of the earliest water purchases and transfers in the West.

## **Objectives for South Park's Natural Resources**

Education about the value of water and conservation are critical to South Park's future. In the American West there is a saying: "Whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting;" South Park is no exception. It was one of the first places to have water rights created and was among the first in Colorado to then have those rights purchased and exported to distant Front Range communities.

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### **Goal One**

#### **Conserve and Enhance South Park's Natural, Cultural, Recreational, and Scenic Resources**

#### **Objectives**

##### **Develop a field research facility.**

This facility would be devoted to high altitude and archaeological research. The Heritage Area will assist with programming and in identifying funding. The Heritage Area will also assist in attracting and planning other research facilities that capitalize on the unique attributes and challenges of the high altitude of this area.

##### **Identify a mineral resource area and use it to educate.**

There is local interest in identifying a mineral resource area in South Park, using it for educational purposes, and protecting it from development. The Heritage Area will assist in locating funding, managing grants upon award, and assisting in the development and, potentially, the funding of any education programs or materials that may be developed.

##### **In close partnership with Park County Land and Water Trust Board, work to increase the acres of restored aquatic and riparian habitat.**

Park County has a fund dedicated to the improvement and protection of land and water resources. This fund has secured conservation easements and funded multiple habitat restoration projects. The Heritage Area will assist in finding additional funding, managing grants from the initial application through administration, and possibly providing programming and oversight of areas that allow for limited recreational access.



*High alpine plants flourish in the Mosquito Range. Photo courtesy Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative.*

### **Protect rare plant communities.**

A number of local and regional conservation groups and the U.S. Forest Service have an interest in identifying rare plant communities in South Park in need of protective measures. The Heritage Area will assist in locating funding for such undertakings and manage grants upon award. The Heritage Area can also assist in the development and, potentially, the funding of any education programs or materials that may be developed.

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### **Goal Three**

**Provide responsible interpretation of, access to, and education of South Park's resources to the public.**

#### **Objectives**

#### **Enhance and expand water education programs.**

Support existing programs offered by a number of conservation organizations including the Coalition for the Upper South Platte, Wetlands Focus Group, The Nature Conservancy, Park/Teller Conservation District, and the Denver Water Authority.

#### **Identify appropriate funding sources and assist with the development of new environmental interpretation at key locations.**

Environmental interpretation is provided in a number of locations by the U.S. Forest Service, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, and The Nature Conservancy. Interpretation is limited, however, and could be enhanced with additional funding. The Heritage Area will identify appropriate funding sources and may be able to assist with the development of new interpretation at key locations.



## CHAPTER 4

# Recreation in the South Park



*Summer skiing in mining country. Photo courtesy D. Dyc.*

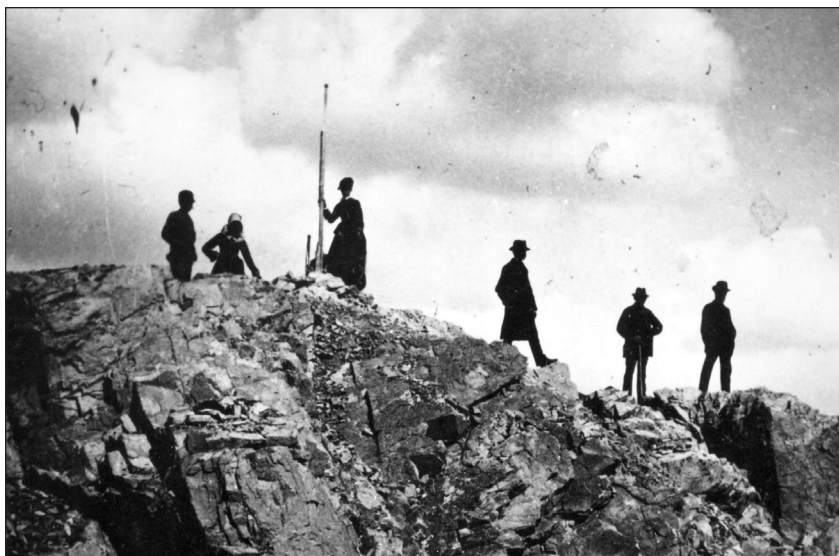
Tourism in South Park is deeply connected to recreation, which in turn is driven by the existence of healthy resources. The beginning of modern recreational use of South Park is said to have begun in 1868 when Colorado Territorial Governor A.C. Hunt invited a group of dignitaries to recreate in Colorado, including South Park. Today, recreation based tourism is big business for South Park. Every year it brings thousands of visitors who often spend the night, eat at local restaurants, and buy gasoline at local stations.

### Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor recreation, commonly thought of as fishing, camping, hunting, and target shooting, has been a form of recreation in South Park for generations. As the West was settled and communities developed, these skills, which often had been a matter of survival, became a form of occasional free-time pleasure and relaxation. Early stagecoaches brought fishermen and hunters from Denver and Colorado Springs to South Park, and later the railroads also catered to the recreationist. The Colorado Midland railroad was well known for tacking on a hunter's or fishermen's caboose to its freight trains. At Hartsel, the railroad dropped the caboose, which provided a base camp and limited shelter for the outdoorsmen.

Today, outdoor recreation is a major part of the tourism segment of the local economy and brings substantial income to the communities of South Park. South Park continues to provide excellent hunting, particularly for elk. With more than 50 miles of gold medal trout water, South Park is also an excellent place for anglers. Camping is available throughout South





*After the death of President Lincoln in 1865, the 14,286 foot mountain that bore his name brought climbers from all over the country to scale its heights. Photo courtesy Park County Local History Archives.*



*Recreationists can enjoy both the Mosquito Range mountains all year 'round. Trails that attract hikers in summer can be a winter delight for cross-country skiers. Photo courtesy Mosquito Ranger Heritage Initiative.*

Park on public land, and a formal shooting range is in the process of development on a small portion of the recently acquired Cline Ranch.

## Mountaineering

Many early miners of South Park were also avid mountaineers who, as a pastime, summited the peaks of Bross, Lincoln, Democrat, or Sherman. Mount Lincoln, which offers from its summit a view of more than 50 peaks of over 13,000 feet in elevation, was a favorite. After the assassination of Abraham Lincoln in 1864, the summit of Mount Lincoln became a popular pilgrimage destination for those wanting to pay homage to the slain president. In 1868, Colorado Territorial Governor A.C. Hunt invited several prominent people to recreate in the mountains of South Park. Among them were journalist Samuel Bowles, future Vice President Schuyler Colfax, and Lt. Governor William Bross of Illinois, who was so moved by the view atop Mount Lincoln that he began singing the Doxology. The party was so impressed by his devotion and quality of song that they named an adjoining 14,000-foot mountain after him. Today, the Mosquito Range and the two Wilderness areas (Buffalo Peaks and Lost Creek) are popular mountaineering destinations. Hiking, ice climbing, snowshoeing, and back country/cross country skiing are also popular in the mountains that surround South Park.

## Naturalists and Artists

The abundance of rare plants and wildlife has brought many naturalists to South Park. Idlewild, located in Eleven Mile Canyon, was a popular stop on the Colorado Midland railroad for wildflower excursions. Today, South Park has a high density of rare plants; abundant wildlife, including herds of elk that number into the hundreds; many migratory birds; diverse and concentrated minerals; and unique areas for ecological study such as the Bristlecone pine forests. The natural landscape, historic locations, wildlife, and colorful people who make South Park their home are magnets for artists, film makers, and photographers.

## Equestrians

Horses have long been a part of life in South Park—as tools of the cattle trade, for transportation and cartage, for exploration, and for sheer enjoyment. Rodeo has been a part of South Park since the early ranch days, giving a platform for cowboys to compete using their practical skills. Guest ranches have been popular as retreats and recreation since the early 1900s,





*It's all good, no matter how you get there. Photo courtesy Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative.*

and trail riding is ever popular. Horseback riding opportunities abound in the South Park.

### **Cyclists and Four-Wheelers**

Bicycle touring and camping in South Park continues to grow in popularity and often connects South Park with neighboring communities. Mountain biking is relatively new but attracts many riders because of the high quality of trails in South Park. While some use conflicts can occur between hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians, there is a desire to expand opportunities for each form of recreation. Off-highway vehicles and four-wheeling, snowmobiling, and hot air ballooning have found avid followings in South Park. There is a need to reduce the negative impact of these activities on South Park's natural resources while also providing for more recreational opportunities and improved maintenance of existing roads and trails.



*Mountain biking in the South Park National Heritage Area can be challenging, exhilarating, and very satisfying, as well as a means to gather an understanding of the natural and historical riches of the area. Photo courtesy Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative.*



*The start of the 29-mile World Championship Pack Burro Race. Photo courtesy Jeff Holeman.*





*Fees for fishing on South Park heritage ranches provide extra income for ranchers and help pay for stream and habitat restoration and maintenance. Photo courtesy Gary Nichols.*

## **Objectives for Recreation in South Park**

Working from the success of the South Park Fly Fishers program, the Heritage Area, in partnership with the Park County Recreation District, private property owners, and interested parties, will develop limited access recreation programs including, but not limited to, ranch recreation, hiking, photography, horseback riding, mountain biking, tour cycling, and wildlife viewing. These opportunities may or may not require guides, but guided access could both provide a level of care not afforded by solely limiting access and could provide a business development opportunity.

### **Goal One**

**Conserve and enhance South Park's natural, cultural, and recreational resources.**

### **Objectives**

#### **Develop and adopt a Trails Master Plan.**

South Park has a large inventory of trails and roads that provide access for horses, bicycles, off-highway vehicles, and pedestrians, but a clear map has not been produced. The Heritage Area will apply for assistance to work with the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program to help develop a Trails Master Plan. The Heritage Area is most interested in supporting the development of trails that connect historic communities and resources. Existing trails such as the paved bike trail from Fairplay to Alma, and trails under consideration, such as the planned Alma River Walk Trail, could provide opportunities for interpretation.

#### **Maintain and develop access to recreational assets.**

The Heritage Area supports efforts already underway to map access points and provide information on recreational sites in the Mosquito Range and would like to see these efforts applied to the entire Heritage Area. A database should be created that lists the entity responsible for maintaining access, as well as records of the condition of the access point. The Heritage Area proposes to facilitate a formal relationship between the U.S. Forest Service and private property owners that will help ensure the continued recreational use by climbers of five privately owned peaks in the Mosquito Range. Additionally, the Heritage Area will assist private ranches and the Park County Offices of Tourism and Community Development in expanding ranch recreation programs throughout the Heritage Area.



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### **Goal Three**

**Provide responsible interpretation of, access to, and education of South Park's resources to the public.**

#### **Objectives**

##### **Encourage exploration of scenic corridors.**

The Heritage Area will work with the U.S. and Colorado departments of transportation to designate South Park's scenic corridors. A number of roadways present exceptional views that enhance the traveler's experience of the western landscape. The South Park National Heritage Area is considering establishing a scenic corridor classification program for both paved and non-paved roadways.

##### **Develop a year-round open air artists program.**

The Heritage Area will work with the town of Fairplay to expand its annual plein air festival, which allows artists access to prime historical and natural locations in South Park, and create a year-round access program. Painters, photographers, and other artists will be invited to participate.

##### **Develop a commercial recreational access program.**

The Heritage Area will work with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Colorado Parks & Wildlife to develop a commercial access program for public lands in South Park. Using qualified guides often is preferable to unsupervised open access to public lands because guides not only help enforce rules and regulations that deter damage, but also because they teach the public about the proper treatment of resources. The Heritage Area will encourage the hiring of local guides and outfitters and work with local agencies to streamline permitting processes.

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### **Goal Four**

**Promote South Park's resources to generate sustainable economies.**

#### **Objectives**

##### **Develop more sporting events in South Park and coordinate with other regional events.**

There is local interest in developing more sporting events throughout South Park and connecting to adjacent communities. The Heritage Area would provide technical support and possibly limited funding for sporting events, such as a rodeo, that incorporate heritage elements or are developed as a part of a heritage event. It will be important to coordinate such events with events occurring in the region on an annual basis.

##### **Improve specific trails and access throughout South Park and assist in the development of other trails based on the Trails Master Plan.**

The Heritage Area is most interested in supporting the development of trails that connect historic communities and resources. Existing trails, such as the Fairplay to Alma paved bike trail, could provide opportunities for increased bicycle recreation and interpretation. The Heritage Area can work with the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program to develop these and other trails throughout the Heritage Area.



## CHAPTER 5

# South Park's Cultural Resources



*The 1894 Paris Mill is a high priority for rehabilitation and restoration as an excellent location for interpretation of the mining industry in the South Park.  
Photo courtesy Linda Balough.*

Throughout history, people have come to South Park in search of its abundant natural resources. From native peoples of prehistoric times to the era of American exploration and settlement, the story of South Park is a “pageant of history” replete with the myths and realities of the Western frontier. For here, survival and prosperity often required fortitude and ingenuity.

### **Prehistory and Native American Settlement in South Park**

Most of our knowledge of Native American presence in South Park derives from the archaeological record, and we are fortunate in the extent of that record. Hundreds of relatively intact archaeological sites remain in South Park, and they record a 12,000-year record of Native occupation. Much of this record has been revealed by intensive research undertaken over the past 11 years by the South Park Archaeology Project. When the project began its investigations in 2001, a state database listed 180 prehistoric sites in Park County. By July 2012, that number had mushroomed to 1,460.

Research reveals that sites tend to cluster on specific landforms within South Park, creating high site densities that indicate intensive reoccupation by Native American populations for millennia. One such area, Threemile Gulch, has been listed as an Archaeological District on the National Register of Historic Places, and work is underway to list a similar area on the Salt Works Ranch. Archaeological sites in South Park have revealed and will continue to yield important evidence of the use of the Heritage Area by the region's Native American occupants. Despite the success of recent archaeological work in South Park, vast tracts of land remain to be sur-



veyed; the number of sites left to be discovered within the South Park is likely very large.

South Park's first residents probably arrived 12,000 years ago, as suggested by the presence of typologically distinct Clovis points. This date coincides with the earliest human occupation of the Plains. Later Paleoindian occupations, lasting until about 7,500 years ago, are also present in South Park, again identified almost entirely by the discovery of distinctive projectile point styles on the surface of exposed archaeological sites. Throughout the Paleoindian period, South Park's climate would have been cooler and wetter than today and the area's fauna would have contained a number of now extinct species, including mammoth and a very large form of bison. It is likely that South Park's first occupants focused much of their subsistence activity on hunting and that the area's population density would have been relatively low.

Beginning about 7,500 years ago, as the area's climate began to warm, new aboriginal life ways, projectile point styles, and migration patterns were introduced into South Park. These changes mark the beginning of the Archaic period, a long and relatively stable era of Native presence in South Park, lasting until about A.D. 150 (roughly 1,850 years ago). Though direct evidence of seasonality is lacking, there are indications that Archaic hunters and gatherers made their way to the Park in late summer/early fall and remained there for a few weeks at a time. Some favored locales were reoccupied as camp sites repeatedly, and both radiocarbon dates and diagnostic projectile point styles tell us that these repeated occupations occurred over several thousands of years. Archaic people made use of local quarries to make their stone tools and differences in these technologies within the Park suggest that groups with different sociocultural identities probably lived in South Park at the same time. It appears that one group migrated into the eastern reaches from the adjacent foothills of the Front Range, while another probably came to the southwestern reaches of the South Park out of the Arkansas River drainage, likely traveling through Trout Creek Pass.

A.D. 150 marks the introduction of bow and arrow technology into the Colorado mountains, including in South Park, where small corner- and side-notched projectile points have been found. These are the artifact signifiers of the Late Prehistoric period (A.D. 150-1540). On the Plains (and other areas of the Rocky Mountains), these diagnostics are frequently associated with the introduction of ceramics, but ceramic sherds are very rare in archaeological assemblages in South Park. Only three have been discovered, and these all come from the same area, South Park's Tomahawk State Wildlife Area. Late Prehistoric site components are numerous

in South Park, reflecting the general trend of an increased number of sites dating to this period for the Platte River Basin. In general, however, there is little evidence for clear changes in how South Park's Native populations lived within the landscape and met their subsistence needs during this time period. They remained hunters and gatherers, camped in locales that had been in use for millennia, and procured tool stone from the same sources as their Archaic predecessors.

Scholars place the arrival of Numic speakers on the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains around A.D. 1000. However, Ute oral tradition asserts a much older and deeper association with territory in today's Colorado. The Ute, historically, were not highly organized but lived in loosely affiliated bands. The band that regularly occupied and hunted in South Park was the Taveewach, referred to today as Taviwach or Tabeguache, and now a part of the Northern or Uintah Ute. Ute camps were primarily concentrated on the western edge of South Park, particularly along the forest drainages of the Mosquito Range, the edges of the grasslands, high mountain passes, and in the Buffalo Peaks area. In addition to being a fertile hunting ground for the Ute, South Park was an important "gathering" location for chert, used for arrowheads/spear points, and mica, used primarily for making signal mirrors.

The Arapaho, Comanche, Kiowa, and Cheyenne are also known to have frequented South Park. The Spanish, in about 1630, were the first Europeans to have contact with the Ute, who soon acquired horses through trade or capture. Adoption of the horse significantly changed Ute culture because the tribe gained added mobility and increased contact with Plains Indians. Horses became an integral part of tribal status, wealth, and power.

### **The Bayou Salado—A Salt Valley**

Spaniards called South Park *Valle Salado* (Salt Valley) for the salt springs used by the Ute and other tribes. The French, who were in the area as early as the 1700s, used the Creole name *Bayou Salade* (Salt Marshes). American trappers, or mountain men, who began filtering into South Park in the first decade of the nineteenth century, used a mix of the French and Spanish and titled the valley *Bayou Salado* for the salt springs and the salty, standing water that grew rich, high protein grasses favored by big game. The name *South Park* was taken from the French *parc*, meaning game preserve and referring to the area's vast herds of wildlife. The name South Park was first used in the 1840s, historian Virginia McConnell writes, when a chain of mountain valleys—North Park, Middle Park, and South Park—were becoming a popular hunting ground for American hunters.



*South Park still celebrates the lifestyle of the mountain men through annual rendezvous gatherings of reenactors. Photo courtesy Linda Balough.*

At the peak of the fur trapping era between 1820 and 1840, some 3,000 mountain men are thought to have been in the Rocky Mountains. Among those known to have trapped in South Park were Kit Carson, Joseph Meek, John Smith, and Dick Wootton, who is said to have gathered 1,000 pounds of skins during one season. By 1840, with the beaver population decimated and changing tastes in fashion, the fur trade waned.

The mountain man experience in South Park was generally one of the independent trapper, who was not bound to a fur company. Many were men more interested in exploring the West than in making a profit, and some married Native American women. Free trappers often teamed up in groups of three to five men; only the hearty few trapped or hunted on their own. Company men, on the other hand, were employed by fur companies. Typically, they were in debt to the company for the cost of gear or items purchased on credit. Company men were obligated to trade only with their company and were often under the direct command of company representatives. Fur companies usually hired twenty or more men to “trap out” a drainage basin. Early on, companies were so competitive that it was not uncommon for one company to follow another into a drainage basin and try

to beat the other to the abundant resources. Company men, who typically traded with Indians to get skins, were considered to be shrewd businessmen primarily motivated by profit.

In the spring, fur companies sponsored an annual trading fair known as a *rendezvous* where mountain men sold and traded their wares, re-equipped, and socialized. Unlike other economies, value at the rendezvous was not monetary but practical—a knife or skin was more valuable for what it could do than a sizable nugget of gold. Although the annual rendezvous was held in locations other than South Park, the rendezvous was a commercial gathering and rich social event rolled into one.

### **Population Booms with the Gold Rush**

As early as the spring of 1839 an overland party bound for Oregon crossed South Park as the American nation began to expand westward. It was the 1859 Pikes Peak Gold Rush, however, that led to an explosion of population. In 1860, Park County’s approximately 10,000 residents made up a third of the population of Colorado Territory. In 1863, the United States government began to forcibly push the Ute out of their ancestral land and onto reservations in Colorado and Utah. The final removal occurred in 1881, leaving no Native American population in South Park. To hasten removal, the slaughter of bison was encouraged and in 1897 South Park’s last wild bison were killed. Over the last century, bison have been gradually reintroduced to Colorado. During the mid-1980s, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve reintroduced bison and, more recently, the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge reintroduced a small, genetically pure herd. Several ranches within South Park are also successfully raising bison in response to the growing demand for bison steak and burgers.

The rush of prospectors and mining activity during what became known as the Pikes Peak Gold Rush (later called the Colorado Gold Rush) changed the social fabric of South Park. Gold was reportedly discovered in South Park as early as 1803 by a Kentuckian named James Pursley, who had gone west to trap and explore. He apparently had little interest in mining, however, and more than half a century passed before the discovery of gold along Tarryall Creek brought a flood of prospectors to South Park. Merchants and others followed, quickly turning mining camps into communities including Fairplay and Alma. The Fair Play Diggings was established in 1859 by late arrivals to the gold rush. When they were shut out of the twin mining camps of Tarryall and Hamilton, they established a new mining camp. The tone of the new camp was to accept any newcomers to the area with the philosophy of “Fair Play,” and the community flourished.





*The 1874 Sheldon Jackson Chapel is one of several buildings in Fairplay listed on the National Register of Historic Places and, like most of the town's historic buildings, is still in use. One of the goals of the South Park National Heritage Area is to continue to survey and designate districts or individual properties all over the Heritage Area. Photo courtesy Linda Balough.*



*Buckskin Joe became a roaring mining camp in the early 1860s, but just as quickly was abandoned by 1865. Photo courtesy Park County Local History Archives.*

While Tarryall had the distinction of being the first county seat of Park County, the county seat soon was transferred to Buckskin Joe (Laurett), where a miner's court was established in 1859 and a log courthouse built in 1864. In Buckskin Joe, future U.S. Senator and Leadville "Silver King" Horace Tabor briefly operated a store. In 1866, the log courthouse and county seat were moved to Fairplay, which became the commercial and governmental center of the region and the first (1869) of two incorporated communities in South Park. Today, Fairplay is home to the red sandstone Park County Courthouse, the Carpenter Gothic style Sheldon Jackson Memorial Chapel, and the 1880 Fairplay School (now serving as the Park County Re-2 Administration building), as well as a wealth of other historic buildings. The original log Courthouse, South Park Brewery, and the Summer Saloon still stand as part of South Park City Museum.

The cycles of demand and valuation of minerals created an unstable economy with tremendous booms and busts, building and destroying many of the communities in South Park. Montgomery, Tarryall, Hamilton, Dudley, Buckskin Joe, Mullenville, Red Hill, Howbert, Leavick, and many others were short-lived. Today, only six of the estimated 46 communities



that were formed in the 1800s survive. Living on because their economy, for the most part, did not rely solely on mineral wealth, they are: Alma, Como, Fairplay, Hartsel, Jefferson, and Lake George.

Initially, gold was found in stream beds or on the ground, along the banks, where it had settled after being carried downhill from the erosion of uphill parent deposits. “Placer” mining, the word derived from Spanish terms for sand deposits, was the earliest form of mining in South Park. It involved basic methods such as panning and sluicing and evolved into more complex methods, such as hydraulic mining and dredging, to reach mineral deposits. Around 1865, the concentration of gold in placer deposits dwindled, and miners either left South Park or turned to the more expensive method of hard rock mining. By early 1860, the rich Phillips Lode’s vein, ranging from 25 to 60 feet wide, was being worked almost like a placer, but other mines required hand excavation to wrest the ores from their underground veins. Silver mining got underway in earnest in 1871 when a Captain Plummer discovered an outcropping especially high in silver on Mount Bross. Hard rock mining required tunneling into the mountain and consisted of adits (horizontal excavations), stopes (vertical shafts), and drifts (horizontal shafts that follow the vein).

To claim a mine, one physically staked the area to be mined, then filed paperwork with the county clerk and received an unpatented claim. To receive a full patent or deed to a mine, the miner has to meet specific requirements, including proof of the existence of “locatable minerals” such as gold, silver, lead, zinc, or tungsten. If the mineral value exceeded the public value of the land, a patent could be issued. Once a patent was received, the property could be used for any legal purpose.

Several legal precedents, including Western water rights, are derived from the bylaws of mining districts such as the Independent Mining District around Alma. The Independent Mining District Bylaws, adopted on July 4, 1861, included 14 articles adopted by the miners “for the purposes of securing peace, harmony, justice and security to our property.” These laws and bylaws remained in place until state laws were enacted in 1879 and are considered influential in early state legislation. In 1866, Congress passed legislation formalizing the system of lode or hard rock mining claims and did the same for placer mining claims in 1870. In 1872, the General Mining Act combined these laws and today, with some amendments, this law continues to govern mining claims in the United States. In 1873, Congress passed the Coinage Act, which established a gold standard. In the West, where silver was thought to be in sizable deposits, miners wanted silver to continue to be monetized and called the Coinage Act the “Crime of ’73.”



*The once-active Hilltop Mine supplied rich ore for the Leavick Mill in the Horseshoe District. Photo courtesy Park County Local History Archives.*

In 1878, Congress passed the Bland-Allison Act, which required the U.S. Treasury to mint silver coins alongside the existing gold coins.

Silver mining claims blanketed the mountains of the Mosquito Range and, over time, the range would also yield rich deposits of zinc, lead, molybdenum, uranium, rhodochrosite, and semi-precious stones, as well as oil and gas, rare earths, gravel, and boulders. Although short-lived, coal mining also played an important role in South Park during the 1880s. Just a few miles east of Como, the King Coal Mine and community of King were established. At the height of production, about 350 miners representing as many as 13 nationalities, including Italian, Austrian, Swedish, English, and Chinese, worked the coal deposits. However, by the mid-1890s the coal mining industry had collapsed in South Park.

Initially, extracted ore was carried out of the mountains by burros. More than a means of transportation, these hardy animals often became companions to the miners, who valued them for their toughness and ability to navigate rough terrain. Burros are still highly valued by the communities of South Park and are celebrated each year during Burro Days and the World Championship Pack Burro Race. Over time, tramways were built to mechanically move ore from mountain to valley where it could be



*Burros were the only reliable means of transporting materials and ore to and from the South Park mining sites—some well above 14,000 feet above sea level. Photo courtesy South Park Local History Archives.*



*Some nineteen burro-powered arrastras once crushed promising-looking rocks and gravel to release gold from the ore. This one near the Paris Mill is interpreted and easily accessed. Photo courtesy Linda Balough.*

processed. Initially, burro trains and then freight haulers carried the raw ore to a distant processor who bought it in bulk. Many miners developed ways to reduce costs by milling the ore on-site or nearby at places like the Paris and Magnolia Mills, prior to shipping the ore to market. Eventually, a number of smelters developed near Alma, which became the refining center for South Park ore. Alma was incorporated in 1873 during the silver boom, when the Boston and Colorado Smelting Company built a smelting operation there, and others soon followed. The town served as the supplier for mines and processing facilities around Mount Bross and provided housing and entertainment for the miners. Alma saw significant growth in 1879 with the arrival of the railroad and the construction of additional ore processing facilities.

An early and well-known settler during the mining boom was John Lewis Dyer (1812-1901), a Methodist minister who became a fixture in the Colorado mining camps as he walked or skied on his rounds. Father Dyer preached to any congregation he could find and in any building that was available, including saloons and dance halls. To supplement his meager income from church donations, he also carried the mail in winter to and from Leadville over 13,000-foot Mosquito Pass on nine-foot skis he called “snowshoes.” Eventually, Dyer was able to procure an abandoned hotel from the town of Montgomery and, in true South Park fashion, hauled it across 20 miles of difficult terrain to Fairplay, where it served as his church. Dyer is commemorated in a stained glass window in the Colorado State Capitol’s rotunda.

### **Railroads Transform South Park**

South Park’s wealth of minerals, cattle, and hay resulted in the construction of two railroads through South Park: the Denver, South Park & Pacific (DSP&P), a narrow gauge railway operating from 1879 to 1937 and connecting Denver to Leadville and south toward Gunnison; and the Colorado Midland, a standard gauge railway that operated from 1885 to 1908 and connected Colorado Springs to Grand Junction. Although the two railroads never connected, they did meet at Trout Creek Pass, where the DSP&P headed south and the Colorado Midland headed north. DSP&P was the first railroad to arrive in the central Colorado mining districts, its main line running from Denver to the South Park town of Como via Platte Canyon. DSP&P tracks reached the summit of Kenosha Pass on May 19, 1879, and by June had reached Como. By November tracks crossed the entirety of the valley and by August of 1880 had extended to the summit of Trout Creek Pass. The DSP&P primarily moved ore out of South Park,



although some cattle and hay were loaded at Jefferson, and inbound trains carried building materials, tools, and finished goods.

The Colorado Midland Railway arrived in South Park in June 1885, bringing processed foods; furniture; building materials; sawmill equipment; mining machinery; and mining, farm, and ranch supplies. Outbound, it carried South Park hay and so much livestock that it became known as the stockman's railroad. Livestock was handled primarily through Hartsel and Rifle, Colorado. Originally, the Colorado Midland was intended to connect Colorado Springs, Leadville, and Salt Lake City, but it only made it as far west as Grand Junction, Colorado.

The arrival of the DSP&P created the town of Como, which served as the main hub for railroad traffic. Como became a bustling place with mercantile shops, a depot, large engine roundhouse, and multiple railroad lines and spurs connecting to local mines and area communities, including Fairplay, Breckenridge, and Leadville. Immigrants, mostly from Italy and Great Britain, built the railroad although as many as 13 nationalities were represented in nearby King, the town site of the major coal mining opera-

tion in the county. The Italian settlers named Como in honor of the city of Como in northern Italy.

The arrival of the railroad transformed South Park from a frontier area to a place of bustling commerce, sophistication, and culture. Mail and newspapers now arrived faster and the telegraph, which followed the railroad right of way, increased the speed of business transactions. In January 1881, a hotel opened in Como and four years later, Union Pacific's hotel division purchased and expanded the hotel, calling it the Pacific Hotel. The hotel served meals to passengers and crew on arrival and was replaced with the Como Hotel after the Pacific burned in 1896. In 1909, Como suffered a series of disasters including a fire that destroyed many of the railroad shops. By 1911, two-thirds of the population had left and when the Colorado and Southern Railway (successor of the DSP&P) ceased operations, most businesses closed. The Colorado and Southern Railway operated its final train on the Denver South Park & Pacific line on April 25, 1937, between Denver and Como.

The arrival of the DSP&P also created the town of Jefferson, founded in



*The arrival of railroads provided a huge leap for the economy of South Park, providing for quicker and easier means to haul mining ore out of the area and bringing in supplies and passengers. Photo courtesy Park County Local History Archives.*



*King was only a short distance from Como, yet little remains to mark the existence of this once prosperous and multi-national coal mining town. The Fairplay Flume newspaper noted that in 1885, as many as thirteen nationalities were represented in the town, but also remarking that the former Chinese workers had left. Photo courtesy Park County Local History Archives.*



1879 when the rancher Willard Head subdivided a portion of his property to create the town and build a depot. Because Jefferson was near substantial timber resources, lumber mills appeared. Much of the wood was used by the railroad for rail ties, but lumber also went into ancillary buildings and new homes and businesses in South Park. Jefferson became a primary loading stop for cattle and hay on the DSP&P line, particularly for the extensive Wahl and Head ranches. Dairy farming was also important in the Jefferson area and a cheese factory operated there for several years in the 1890s. The railroad also had a big impact on mining and ranching. Because the presence of the railroad lowered shipping costs, it became far less expensive to ship processed ore, thus spurring the construction of smelters. Additionally, ore deposits that were once worth less than their transportation costs now became valuable. Lower costs also allowed ranchers to ship cattle and hay to distant communities.

When the Colorado Midland reached South Park it sparked the development of a popular hot springs resort and hotel in Hartsel, which began in 1863 as a 160-acre homestead filed by Sam Hartsel. By 1875, a post office had been established on the ranch and Hartsel subdivided portions of his property to create a commercial center that included a ranch supply business and blacksmith's shop. The Colorado Midland carried a robust tourist



*The Hartsel Hot Springs were a favorite destination for travelers eager to escape the Front Range Cities for the clean air and recreation of the South Park. Photo courtesy Park County Local History Archives.*



*The Como Hotel and Eating House replaced the burned Pacific Hotel in the late 1890s and now it and the adjacent Como Depot are being carefully restored. Photo courtesy Linda Balough.*

traffic, which included specialized hunting and fishing trains and wild-flower excursions that brought people from Colorado Springs into South Park. The railroad also made Hartsel an important cattle and hay shipping location.

With completion of the Colorado Midland railroad depot, entrepreneur George Frost turned a small stage stop into the town of Lake George, where he created a man-made lake and used its ice to keep the railroad's perishable products cold. Frost owned a nearby ranch and had a large home, which later became a tourist hotel. When the Colorado Midland ceased operations in 1908, Lake George suffered. A shift to producing potatoes helped the community survive, as did the continued influx of visitors from Colorado Springs who came to recreate, hunt, and fish in the area.

### **Ranchers Discover South Park's Fertility**

Ranching started in South Park in 1860 when some intrepid entrepreneurs discovered that they could make more money by feeding miners than by doing the mining. Due to the high altitude and prolonged cold that makes the growing season exceptionally short, ranching is the dominant agricultural use in South Park. Prominent ranchers included Sam Hartsel, the original homesteader of Hartsel Springs Ranch, and the Hall family, which home-



*The Salt Works Ranch is one of the earliest homesteaded properties in the South Park and is still owned by the same family. Its salt creek has attracted both human and animal for thousands of years, and help establish one of the first industries in the Colorado Territory. Photo courtesy Gary Nichols.*

steaded and has owned and operated the Salt Works Ranch since 1861. Other early ranches were the Prince, Rose, and Guiraud ranches. Other long-time ranching families include the Arthurs and Chalmers. [insert 3-23] In the days before the coming of the railroad, the South Park experienced fall cattle drives as the ranchers preferred to send their livestock to market than to try to provide for them during the long and blustery winters.

In South Park a rancher could not rely on just any stock. Hardy animals that could tolerate the colder climate and high altitude were essential for success. Realizing the difficulty of raising cattle in South Park, several ranchers converted mostly or entirely to sheep. At one point there were more sheep raised in South Park than cattle.

Despite altitude and weather, the basin is relatively fertile and historically supported short-stemmed native grasses that were exceptionally protein rich. South Park became well known for its high quality hay that contained unusually high concentrations of protein (up to 23 percent in some cases). With the arrival of the Denver, South Park & Pacific railroad at Jefferson in the north and the Colorado Midland railroad at Hartsel in the south, hay production became a significant agricultural product. The repu-



*Many ranchers selected livestock breeds best suited to the climate and conditions of the South Park, such as these Highland Cattle on the Highplains Ranch. Photo courtesy Abby Carrington.*

tation of the quality of the hay spread as far as Europe and was purchased to feed the horses of British royalty and the stallions of the Russian Czar. The introduction of non-native seed and the purchase of water by Front Range communities has reduced the ability to grow hay in South Park for export. Today, hay generally is produced only to feed stock on local ranches.

Although all of the ranches in South Park were started by independent ranchers, a division between company ranches and independent ranches eventually developed. Hartsel Springs Ranch, for instance, turned into a company ranch when owner Sam Hartsel sold the ranch in 1916 to Swift and Company, a meat packing firm. Swift operated the ranch until its sale in 1944 to a Texas-based company, MacDonald, which acquired more land, growing the ranch to its ultimate size of more than 200,000 acres. Hartsel Springs Ranch was perhaps the first and certainly the largest company ranch in South Park. Salt Works Ranch, on the other hand, has remained an independent ranch, continuously owned and operated by members of the Hall family. In addition to raising cattle, the Halls produced salt, one of the first industries in the state, by boiling away the water of the ranch's salt creek. Charles Hall was less of a rancher than a businessman and the success of the ranch as a cattle operation came from the hands of his son-in-law, Thomas McQuaid. McQuaid is credited with growing the ranch to





*The Tarryall River Ranch was one of the first to see the profit in hosting visitors while still operating as a working ranch. Over the years many other ranches in the South Park followed suit, with a number of guest ranches offering “real” ranch life experiences. Photo courtesy Park County Local History Archives.*



*Eleven Mile Reservoir stores water from the South Park mountain snowmelt for use by the thirsty Front Range cities, but also offers recreational activities and habitat for fish and birds alike. Photo courtesy Erica Duvic.*

more than 80,000 acres, equivalent in size to Hartsel Springs Ranch under Sam Hartsel. Although the operation has decreased in modern times, the Salt Works Ranch still produces cattle and is one of the few ranches in Colorado to be owned and operated by five generations of the same family.

The prime period for homesteading in South Park ran from the first arrival of ranchers in 1861 until around 1910, although the Stock-Raising Act of 1916 expanded existing homestead ranches. As some of the first established year-round residents, ranchers found themselves responding to the needs of travelers and hosting people on a ranch became a frequent event early on in South Park. Today, ranches continue as centers of hospitality, with some hosting hunters and fishermen and those seeking to experience the lifestyle of the plainsman through guest ranching. Hospitality became a small revenue stream for ranchers and connected them to the outside world. Ranches offered room, board, and stables for travelers long before more formal lodging was available in the surrounding communities.

### **The Value of Water**

The success of ranching, like all agricultural pursuits, is directly related to the amount of available water. The ranchers of South Park were among the first in Colorado to be given the right to divert water for agricultural use. One of the first irrigation water rights in South Park was awarded in 1861. With the ability to award and purchase water rights for agricultural use came the ability to also purchase water rights for domestic consumption. Fairplay claimed water rights for the town in December 1860. As more and more water rights were established, they became increasingly valuable to those who needed but didn't own enough water to expand their cities or towns. One of the earliest purchases of consumptive water rights in Colorado was the 1907 purchase by the City of Denver and the resulting construction of Antero Reservoir and its dam, the first on the South Platte River. Antero Reservoir alone encompassed 45 percent of the original water rights in South Park.

### **Silver Heels and the Importance of Folklore**

The legends that a community hands down provide much insight into the personality and character of its inhabitants—indicating what values they hold in high regard.

Folklore continues to be a valued part of South Park and no story has been revered more than that of “Miss Silver Heels,” a dance hall beauty who stayed in the mining camps during a smallpox epidemic and nursed many miners back to health. This mysterious woman, wearing shoes with silver



heels, arrived in Buckskin in 1861 and quickly got a job dancing in one of the many dance halls. After a pair of sheepherders passed through, a smallpox epidemic broke out in South Park. As miner after miner became ill, Silver Heels stayed and nursed as many as she could until she, too, became ill. When the epidemic passed and the surviving miners recovered, they took up a collection to present to her as a gesture of gratitude. They found her cabin deserted, and there was no trace of her whereabouts. Unable to express their gratitude directly, the miners named a solitary peak north of Fairplay “Silverheels.” It is thought that she left to live in anonymity after being disfigured by the disease. On occasion a shadowy figure in a veil is said to be seen visiting the graves of the miners who lost their lives. The reverence for Silver Heels is not surprising considering that the 1860 census counted 10,610 residents in South Park—only 91 of whom were women.



*From the earliest days of settlement of the South Park, women took their place as business partners and owners of property as well as wives and mothers. Photo courtesy Park County Local History Archives.*

## **Objectives for South Park’s Cultural Resources**

South Park has been working towards the conservation of its cultural resources for over two decades. The Heritage Area will continue this endeavor through strong partnerships with the Park County Office of Historic Preservation and the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Providing extensive interpretation of the area’s cultural resources and supporting the development of responsible heritage tourism opportunities will further enhance the Heritage Area’s efforts.

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### **Goal One**

**Conserve and enhance South Park’s natural, cultural, and recreational resources.**

#### **Objectives**

##### **Develop a program for the stabilization and treatment of historic properties.**

Working closely with the Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission and Office of Historic Preservation, the Heritage Area will develop a program for providing technical assistance and possible gap financing for the stabilization, preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of historic structures.

##### **Preserve historic cemeteries.**

The Heritage Area will provide technical assistance and limited gap funding to preserve and interpret historic cemeteries and gravesites in South Park.



*Historic cemeteries tell the stories of life in South Park. Photo courtesy Linda Balough.*



*Listed on Colorado Preservation, Inc.'s Endangered Places List, the Snowstorm Dredge awaits funding for acquisition, rehabilitation, and interpretation. Photo courtesy Linda Balough.*

### **Support and provide technical assistance for the preservation and interpretation of mining related sites and structures.**

The Paris Mill, Magnolia Mill, and Snowstorm Dredge have been identified as the top priorities for preservation and interpretation in South Park. Numerous other mining resources exist throughout the South Park National Heritage Area and the Heritage Area will work to preserve and interpret these sites. The Mosquito Range holds hundreds of historic mining resources, some of which are sufficiently intact to be eligible for listing. The Heritage Area will assist the Park County Office of Historic Preservation in developing listings for important sites.

### **Support and provide technical assistance for the stabilization and rehabilitation of important historic railroad structures.**

The Heritage Area will continue to provide technical assistance to property owners interested in the rehabilitation of their historic railroad structures and will provide assistance with locating and securing funding for such projects. Gap funding may be available on a case by case basis with priority given to those projects that adaptively reuse the structure and make it open to the public.

### **Preserve historic ranches.**

Many historic ranches in South Park continue as active businesses. Some of the most valuable historic ranches have already taken steps toward preservation, rehabilitation, and/or restoration of their heritage resources. The Heritage Area will remain open to opportunities to partner, fund, and assist ranches.

### **Develop a programmatic agreement among the Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission, Park County Office of Historic Preservation, State Historic Preservation Office, and the Heritage Area that will forward shared goals.**

### **Collect and conserve historic documents, oral histories, and artifacts.**

The Heritage Area is committed to providing assistance to the Park County Local History Archives, which is a valuable central repository for historic photographs, oral histories, and artifacts. Additionally, the Heritage Area will work with and encourage the development of the Rocky Mountain Land Library, which is devoted to maintaining a residential research library relating to the Rocky Mountains.

### **Demonstrate the connection between preservation and environmental sustainability.**

The continued use of a building is far more environmentally friendly than building a new structure. The Heritage Area will promote heritage preservation as a part of its environmental sustainability message.



*Local interest is high in preserving important railroad structures throughout the South Park National Heritage Area. Photo courtesy Linda Balough.*



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### **Goal Two**

**Facilitate partnerships between local, regional, and national organizations that will benefit South Park.**

#### **Objectives**

**Assist towns and communities in preserving the historic character of each community.**

In partnership with town and community associations, Park County, and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, the Heritage Area will explore revitalizing Main Streets and redeveloping historic town cores.

**Support the expansion and enhancement of the Mountain Man Rendezvous and establish a permanent or long-term site to hold events.**

Until recently, South Park had held three annual Mountain Man Rendezvous, but only the Como Rendezvous remains. The Heritage Area will encourage the expansion of the Rendezvous and associated interpretive activities.

**Develop a network of volunteers to support and implement Heritage Area programs and projects.**

Volunteers can provide interpretive services and monitor the condition of heritage sites.

**Establish a relationship with the descendants of the Taveewach (Tabeguache and Uncompahgre) Ute Band and other tribes associated with the Heritage Area.**

There is deep and rich history of the Taveewach Ute Band's sacred tie to the South Park that was brought to a sudden close with the forced relocation of the Utes from South Park and surrounding areas. The Heritage Area recognizes that assisting the Ute tribe in healing this wound and again making a connection to South Park is culturally important and imperative to the preservation of the Ute heritage in South Park. The Heritage Area will also continue to seek interaction with other tribes to increase our understanding of traditional accounts of occupations within the South Park.

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### **Goal Three**

**Provide responsible interpretation of, access to, and education of South Park's resources to the public.**

#### **Objectives**

**Restore and/or interpret stagecoach stops in South Park.**

The Heritage Area will work with partners to identify, document, and potentially restore a former stagecoach stop within South Park. Stagecoaches regularly stopped at many ranches in South Park.

**Develop an Archaeology and Native People's Cultural Center.**

For more than fifteen years, additional archival space for archaeological materials has been a top priority of the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Because South Park is situated in the middle of the state and has a large number of undocumented archaeological resources, South Park is an ideal location for this type of facility. The Heritage Area will work with known affiliated tribes to accomplish this goal. In addition, the cultural center might include an outdoor space where visitors could see flora important to native people, as well as structures, tools, and other items used by Native Americans as well as mountain men of the 19th century.

**Develop heritage-related internships.**

Of great interest to the South Park National Heritage Area is collaborating with institutions of higher learning to develop heritage-related internships and to provide practical field experience for students. For example, South Park could provide the physical structures for a post-secondary program that offers training in traditional building trades. Post-graduate training for contractors and professionals in the historic preservation field could also be carried out in South Park. Internships could also be offered in marketing, museum studies, archival studies, and historic preservation.

**Work with the South Park City Museum (SPCM) to enhance interpretive offerings and heritage programming at the museum.**

One of the strongest resources for meaningful interpretation of life in South Park is South Park City Museum. This outdoor museum, which was first organized in 1957, is a collection of historic buildings, most of which were moved to the museum site in Fairplay from throughout South Park. The buildings and artifacts placed within preserve the feeling of a Western





*Established in 1959, South Park City Museum was placed in a part of Fairplay once destroyed by fire with buildings rescued from surrounding abandoned mining camps or ghost towns. It represents a typical 1880s mining town. (In the 1880s, the town of Fair Play became South Park City for a few years before being renamed Fairplay, so it was logical to give the recreated town the same name it had in the 1880s.) Photo courtesy Bernie Nagy.*

frontier town of the 1880s. The Heritage Area will work with the museum to enhance interpretation and upkeep of the site.

### **Provide interpretation of important Native American and archaeological sites.**

With assistance from associated tribes, the Heritage Area will help property owners who want to interpret key Native American landscapes. The Heritage Area recognizes that off-site interpretation will generally be the most appropriate method of interpretation for these resources. Although many archaeological sites are considered sensitive, it is important to provide some form of public access, which could be accomplished through remote interpretation.

### **Interpret mining and processing history at Paris Mill and other appropriate sites.**

Park County purchased the Paris Mill from Chiwawa Mines Inc. in 2009. A historic structure assessment has been completed and remediation of the heavy metals associated with the mill was completed in 2010. The Park County Office of Historic Preservation and the South Park National Heritage Area have partnered with the Certified Local Government grants program of the State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to nominate the Paris Mill to the National Register of Historic Places. Opportunities to interpret other mining and processing sites will depend on the entities that control the mines and processing remnants.

### **Enhance and expand existing interpretation of South Park's railroad heritage.**

Boreas Pass Railroad Day, conducted by the U.S. Forest Service and the community of Como, is an annual event that celebrates the railroad history of South Park. The Heritage Area can support this event by providing matching funds to market the event and to organizations that provide activities. The Heritage Area also will assist with the development of interpretation of historic railroad structures in Como, Jefferson, and Hartsel.

### **Assist in the development of a stagecoach interpretive tour.**

The Heritage Area will provide technical assistance and possibly seed funding should an entrepreneur desire to create an interpretive tour via stagecoach.

### **Make accessible a former town site and develop interpretation.**

The Heritage Area will work with Park County, the Park County Historical Society, the South Park Archaeology Project, the Park County Office of Historic Preservation, and the State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to identify, map, and interpret abandoned towns within South Park. If possible, a town site will be made accessible to the public.

### **Develop a vehicular way-finding system for South Park.**

The majority of visitor traffic to and through South Park is by vehicle, so a vehicle way-finding system is essential to ensure that visitors to the Heritage Area have a fulfilling and positive experience.

### **Support and provide technical assistance to the private development of “tourist mines.”**

Entrepreneurial interest has been expressed in establishing a “tourist mine,” which would include interpretive programming, demonstrations, and mining workshops. The Heritage Area may be able to provide limited funding and other technical assistance.

### **Develop an “Outlaw Tour” of significant Wild West sites.**

Outlaws played a role in the story of South Park settlement. Because the geographic area covered by outlaw sites is large, the tour would be limited to mobile phone and brochure formats rather than traditional signage.

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## **Goal Four**

### **Promote South Park’s resources to generate sustainable economies.**

#### **Objectives**

### **Provide grant funding for eligible heritage businesses, projects, and programs.**

Heritage grants will be awarded to heritage-related businesses, projects, and programs. Because experiential offerings are of such importance to the Heritage Area, the Heritage Area intends to commit to a dedicated annual fund for service-based, heritage businesses. Preference may be given to existing businesses that are trying to expand. Funding may also be awarded to start-up businesses. These seed grants are intended as gap funding for businesses and each applicant is required to provide match. A qualifying local business might, for example, produce personal care products that local lodging could purchase and supply to their guests. Great care should be taken to ensure that these funds are awarded as a way to reduce a barrier to product entry, and not simply to increase the producer’s bottom line.

### **Enhance the World Championship Pack Burro Race by reinstating additional competitions.**

The World Championship Pack Burro Race, held every July as part of Fair-play’s Burro Days celebration, was once part of a more elaborate mining competition. With the closure of the larger commercial mining operations in South Park, competitions faded as the equipment needed for the competitions left the area. The Heritage Area will work with adjacent mining

communities, strive to secure the necessary equipment on a short-term basis, and expand the annual celebration.

### **Support the development of entities offering tour packaging in South Park and provide limited services through the Heritage Area.**

The vastness of South Park precludes most visitors from planning their own trip or identifying all that there is to offer. For this reason, the Heritage Area supports the development of entities that can offer tour packaging services. Additionally, the Heritage Area will provide tour planning services on its website and work with private entities to augment their efforts.

### **Support the establishment of a lodging network.**

Most lodges in South Park have a presence on the Internet, but few allow for reservations to be made electronically, which deters modern tourists. The Heritage Area supports the establishment of a lodging network in South Park as a part of providing packaged trips.



*The South Park’s World Champion Pack Burro Race is a favorite event among visitors and locals. Racers run on a 29-mile course from 10,000 to over 13,000 feet above sea level. Photo courtesy Gary Nichols.*





*South Park City Museum is a keystone in the economy of Fairplay and the surrounding area as it captures the imagination of visitors who want to experience life in an old mining town. Photo courtesy Linda Balough.*

### **Demonstrate and promote the linkage between preservation and the economy.**

The link between heritage preservation and the local economy and quality of life is not always readily apparent. The Heritage Area will demonstrate the connection by striving to track the impact of its projects and programs.

### **Increase the number of recreational opportunities in South Park.**

Working from the success of the South Park Fly Fishers program as a model, the Heritage Area, in partnership with the Park County Recreation District, private property owners, and interested parties would like to develop limited access recreation programs including, but not limited to, ranch recreation, hiking, photography, horseback riding, mountain biking, tour cycling, and wildlife viewing. These opportunities may or may not require guides but guided access could both provide a level of care not afforded by solely limiting access and could provide a business development opportunity.

### **Develop consistent heritage programs on private ranches.**

The Park County Office of Community Development created a website that lists ranch recreation programs offered in South Park but further development is needed. The Heritage Area would like to provide assistance to the ranches and the Office of Community Development to fully develop ranch recreation throughout the Heritage Area.

### **Develop a headquarters for South Park National Heritage Area.**

With a visitor center/office, tourists could find information about South Park and the Heritage Area would have space for meetings with partners. One possibility is Park County's historic courthouse in Fairplay. If the county agreed to lease the old courthouse or another appropriate building to the Heritage Area, the building would make an ideal headquarters while also providing a significant source of matching funds for the Heritage Area without dipping into the county budget.

### **Provide adequate gateway signage for the Heritage Area.**

Early efforts should center on the summits of Kenosha, Hoosier, Currant Creek, and Trout Creek passes as well as important highway entrances, including Highway 24 near Lake George and Highway 9 near Guffey.

### **Provide training for local businesses in customer service and familiarize them with scheduled events and local amenities for tourists.**

### **Develop an annual calendar of events.**

The calendar will be made available electronically on the South Park National Heritage Area website and made available for downloading.



## CHAPTER 6

# Business Plan



*The Heritage Area plans to build the economic health of the South Park through partnerships with local businesses and organizations to capitalize on the rich heritage of the area to attract more visitors, students, researchers and recreationists who can appreciate the natural attributes and cultural authenticity of the area. Photo courtesy Gary Nichols*

The authorizing legislation for South Park National Heritage Area requires the management entity to develop a business plan. Understanding the market, the relative competitive position within that market, the business model to be used, realistic financial expectations, and other organizational needs is important for any organization, including a National Heritage Area. As the South Park National Heritage Area matures, its ability to achieve sustainability will strengthen as the community realizes the increased benefits it brings to the local economy, quality of life, and tax rolls. The South Park National Heritage Area expects continued strong support from Park County beyond the fifteen-year period of federal funding and believes that the following programs and strategies will help maintain the Heritage Area as a leader in the development of continuing partnerships and funding streams.

### Funding Sources

The National Park Service is in the process of developing a tiered funding formula for Heritage Areas. Assuming that federal funding remains at the same level it has been over the past two years, the South Park National Heritage Area, under the plan's second tier, stands to receive about \$400,000 a year once this Management Plan is approved and other performance standards are met. That represents an annual increase of \$250,000 over the initial, first tier of funding, which the Heritage Area currently receives. The Heritage Area plans to use federal dollars to leverage more money from non-National Park Service sources.

The Heritage Area's relationship with Park County provides another source of base funding. The county, for example, provides office space and equipment for the Heritage Area, pays the utility bills, and covers the salary of the Executive Director.

The Heritage Area believes that five years should be sufficient time for its initial projects and programs to become a visible, progressive, and positive force in the community. During that time, the Heritage Area will rely on its base of county funding along with federal appropriations and the additional match it can leverage. It is critical that the Heritage Area undertake multiple, highly visible projects during this period. In order to maximize its effectiveness and breadth of involvement, the Heritage Area will generally refrain from providing more than seed or gap funding for any one project or program. The exception may be critical items that the Heritage Area must accomplish for its own capacity and advancement and for projects that, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, will have such high visibility and impact that its benefits will outweigh the cost of not participating.

*The following are potential funding sources for the Heritage Area, supplemented by a more comprehensive list located in the Appendices.*

**Heritage Activity Program Fees:** The South Park Fly Fishers program, created by Park County's Office of Tourism and Community Development, is a prime example of a heritage activity funding source. Under the program, fly fishers make a reservation, pay an upfront fee, and have access to leased ranchland. The majority of each rod fee goes directly to the participating rancher. The balance is used to manage and enhance each property contained in the program. A tremendous success, this self-sustaining program has led to important aquatic and riparian habitat restoration and increased recreational access to private property. Opportunities to develop similar programs are numerous and include ranch recreation, recreational mining, guided hiking, ranch recreation, and access for artists to the outdoors. The Heritage Area could organize and manage such future activities and return a portion of the fees to the Heritage Area.

**Grant Programs:** Colorado's State Historical Fund, which receives a portion of tax revenues from legalized gambling in Colorado, is an excellent source of funding for historic preservation. Since 1996, for example, 54 projects in Park County received grants totaling nearly \$1.9 million. Since 2009, the South Park National Heritage Area/Park County has received a portion of these and Certified Local Government funds to provide



*Established in 1959, South Park City Museum was placed in a part of Fairplay once destroyed by fire with buildings rescued from surrounding abandoned mining camps or ghost towns. It represents a typical 1880s mining town. (In the 1880s, the town of Fair Play became South Park City for a few years before being re-named Fairplay, so it was logical to give the recreated town the same name it had in the 1880s.) Photo courtesy Bernie Nagy.*

technical and management assistance to projects totaling approximately \$500,000 to rehabilitate the Como Hotel, the Como Depot, provide historic structure assessments for six properties, and to nominate a large prehistoric site to the National Register of Historic Places. The Heritage Area might also explore funding through groups such as the Colorado Tourism Office, Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

**Tax Increment Financing:** Tax increment financing (TIF) is available in Colorado but is normally focused on more urbanized areas. TIF is a major source of infrastructure financing. Costly infrastructure projects such as sewage treatment plants, roadway improvements, and infrastructure enhancements may be significant enough to warrant use of TIF.

**Business Improvement Districts:** A business improvement district (BID) may be one of the more viable methods of providing consistent baseline funding for the Heritage Area. BIDs are self-imposed assessments that sup-

plement existing services provided by the public sector. BIDs are accountable to those who pay into them through a BID board of directors composed of property and business owners within the district. Services financed by a BID are usually provided by a private sector organization, thereby creating local jobs. Controls and safeguards can include a cap on assessments and a periodic review to ensure that BID services are effective.

Colorado state statutes list a wide variety of services that a BID can provide, including marketing, maintenance, economic development, public safety, planning, events, and parking management. To enact a BID, owners of a minimum 50 percent of assessed value and acreage of the BID must demonstrate support for the formation of the BID, and the BID must be approved by a majority vote of owners of real and personal property as well as lessees and residents of commercial property within the proposed district. It would be possible to enact a BID that would encompass the entire Heritage Area if support could be generated.

**Countywide Lodger's Tax:** The approval of a countywide lodger's tax would allow voters to support the Heritage Area by collecting funds from out-of-town visitors, thereby shifting the tax burden away from the local population. Currently, Fairplay is the only town in Park County to have a lodging tax. Colorado statutes require that municipalities with a lodging tax be excluded from a countywide lodging tax. Municipalities can, however, voluntarily rescind control over their lodging tax in favor of a uniform, countywide lodging tax. To effectively market the Heritage Area, the South Park National Heritage Area recommends that the town of Fairplay consider rescinding its tax in favor of the countywide tax. A lodging tax can be levied up to a maximum value of 2 percent of the transaction. A lodging establishment is considered to be any accommodation for fee for a period of thirty days or less. Thus, guest ranches, vacation home rentals, bed and breakfast establishments, and conventional hotel/motel lodging qualify.

**Heritage Contractual Surcharge:** A contractual surcharge is a voluntary mechanism through which heritage-related businesses would agree to collect a surcharge or fee from customers and use the fee to support the Heritage Area. The surcharge would be a set amount established between the business and the Heritage Area and dedicated as specified in each agreement.

**Heritage Products and Services:** The Heritage Area can produce and sell heritage-related products such as souvenir mugs and T-shirts, in addition to guidebooks and maps. The Heritage Area could produce these through a third party and sell them exclusively or they can license the use of heritage images, logo, and other intellectual property to a local retailer or manufacturer. With Park County acting as fiscal agent, the Heritage Area could also provide administrative grant services for a fee.

**Donations:** Fundraising campaigns may be developed by the Heritage Area and also with heritage partners. For example, the Heritage Area might partner with South Park City Museum to raise funds to enhance the museum's interpretation. The majority of funds raised would go to the museum, but the Heritage Area could retain up to 20 percent of the money to cover operational costs and to fund additional interpretive exhibits in South Park. Because a number of projects the Heritage Area intends to pursue are capital intensive, it is important that campaigns target specific donors and directly benefit the capital projects.

**Community Development Corporation:** While community development corporations (CDC) are most often involved in the development and provision of affordable housing, CDCs are not limited to housing. CDCs can also play a role in improving the quality of life through economic development, education, nonprofit incubation, youth and leadership development, and advocacy. Certain CDCs are able to access Community Development Financial Institution Funds provided by the U.S. Department of the Treasury in areas as diverse as small business loan programs and the Healthy Food Financing Initiative, which brings grocery stores and other healthy food retailers to underserved urban and rural communities.



## South Park National Heritage Area Budget Matrix

Focus Area	Potential Match	2013		2014		2015		2016	
		SPNHA	Match	SPNHA	Match	SPNHA	Match	SPNHA	Match
Administration & Operating Costs	Park County	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Historic Preservation Projects	State Historical Fund, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Community Organizations, Private Funders	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Heritage Tourism	State Historical Fund, Great Outdoors Colorado, Colorado Office of Heritage Tourism, US Department of Agriculture	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Education	Park County RE-2 School District, Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative, Coalition for the Upper South Platte, Rocky Mountain Land Library, University of Colorado, Colorado Mountain College	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000
Economic Development	South Park Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Small Business Administration, Colorado Small Business Development Center Network, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Private Businesses	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Community Programs	Alma Foundation, Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative, Coalition for the Upper South Platte, Colorado Department of Local Affairs, South Park Recreation District	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000
Conservation & Recreation	U.S. Forest Service, Coalition for the Upper South Platte, Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative, Park County Land and Water Trust Fund, Great Outdoors Colorado, South Park Recreation District	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Interpretation	State Historical Fund, U.S. Forest Service, Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative, Coalition for the Upper South Platte	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>		\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million

2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		Total
SPNHA	Match	SPNHA	Match	SPNHA	Match	SPNHA	Match	SPNHA	Match	SPNHA	Match	
\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$3 million
\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$3 million
\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$3 million
\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$2.5 million
\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$2 million
\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$2.5 million
\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$3 million
\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$1 million
\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$20 million

## Partnerships

The Heritage Area business model is one of partnership and collaboration, using mutual interests and goals to leverage funding and accomplish projects that would otherwise be infeasible. The use of partnerships is mandated by the South Park National Heritage Area enabling legislation, which states that the Heritage Area must “incorporate an integrated and cooperative approach for the protection, enhancement, interpretation, development, and promotion of the historical, cultural, scenic, recreational, agricultural, and natural resources of the Heritage Area (P.L. 111-11, Sec. 8003, (d)(2)(A)). The legislation defines a partner as “a Federal, State, or local governmental entity, organization, private industry, educational institution, or individual involved in the conservation, preservation, interpretation, development or promotion of heritage sites or resources of the Heritage Area.” (P.L. 111-11, Sec. 8003, (a)(6))

The partnership business model employed by Heritage Areas is not based on generating local competition but on making local businesses better able to compete with other regions. The business model allows Heritage Areas to be catalysts for mutual local economic success. The South Park National Heritage Area has the advantage of having extensive partnerships developed from its beginnings in 1997 as a county and state initiative. Partners have varied areas of expertise and interest and, working together, can move a mutual goal forward.

Partnerships require that the partners on projects and programs communicate and collaborate on their progress, successes, and failures. A key function of the Heritage Area will be to serve as a clearing house for organization, information, technical assistance, marketing, and promotion. Annually, the Heritage Area will convene groups with similar interests so they can benefit from their mutual experience.

## Active and Potential Partners

The Heritage Area’s active and potential partners:

### General

#### *Active partners:*

- Alma Town Government
- Alma Foundation
- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

- Colorado Preservation, Inc.
- Colorado State Historical Fund
- Como Civic Association
- Fairplay Town Government
- Hartsel Community Association
- History Colorado
- Jefferson Community Civic Association
- Lake George Community Association
- Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative
- Park County Board of County Commissioners
- Park County Environmental Health Department
- Park County Extension Office
- Park County Historical Society
- Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission
- Park County Local History Archives
- Park County Office of Historic Preservation
- Park County Office of Tourism
- Park County Office of Community & Recreation Development
- Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
- Pikes Peak Historical Society
- South Park Archaeology Project
- South Park Historical Foundation
- South Park Symposium
- U.S. Forest Service

#### *Potential partners:*

- Colorado Community Revitalization Association
- Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Smart Growth Program
- Colorado Heritage Area Partnership
- HistoriCorps
- National Trust for Historic Preservation



## **Natural Resources**

### *Active partners:*

- Bureau of Land Management, Cañon City District
- Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District
- Coalition for the Upper South Platte Colorado Natural Heritage Program
- Colorado Open Lands
- Colorado Wetlands Initiatives Program
- Conservation Resource Center
- Denver Water Department
- Governor's Energy Office
- Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund Board
- Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative
- North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant Program
- Park County Land & Water Trust Fund Board
- Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District
- Pike National Forest Supervisor's Office
- South Park Wetlands Focus Area Committee
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Land
- Upper South Platte Water Conservancy District
- U.S. Forest Service

### *Potential partners:*

- Colorado Fourteeners Initiative
- Park/Teller Conservation District
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- U.S. EPA Regional Geographic Initiatives Program
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## **Mountain Men Interpretation**

### *Active partners:*

- Como Rendezvous
- Como Mountain Man Gallery

### *Potential partners:*

- Bayou Salado Rendezvous

## **Mining Interpretation**

### *Active partners:*

- Governor's Energy Office
- Park County Mining Association
- Snowstorm Dredge Committee
- Tin Pan Prospectors

### *Potential partners:*

- Colorado School of Mines
- Department of Natural Resources

## **Railroad Interpretation**

### *Active partners:*

- Como Hotel and Depot
- Como Roundhouse
- Como Civic Association
- Denver, South Park & Pacific Historical Society

### *Potential partners:*

- Colorado Midland Historical Society

## **Ranching Interpretation**

### *Active partners:*

- Allen Creek Ranch
- Buffalo Peaks Ranch/Rocky Mountain Land Library
- Cline Ranch (Park County)
- Central Colorado Cattlemen's Association
- DM Ranch
- Eagle Rock Ranch
- Frieda Wahl Ranch
- Hart Ranch
- Hartsel Springs Ranch
- High Creek Ranch
- Highplains Ranch
- Katanka Ranch
- Lazy River Ranch
- Neukirch Ranch
- NRCS Farmland Protection Program
- Salt Works Ranch
- Santa Maria Ranch
- Silverheels Ranch
- Sipal Ranch
- Sweetwater Ranch
- Tarryall Land & Cattle Company, LLC
- Trout Creek Ranch
- Ute Trail River Ranch
- Wahl-Coleman Ranch
- Weston Pass Ranch

### *Potential partners:*

- NRCS Farmland Protection Program

## **Settlement Interpretation**

### *Active partners:*

- Alma Foundation
- Como Civic Association
- Fairplay Town Government
- Hartsel Community
- Jefferson Community Civic Association
- South Park Chamber of Commerce
- South Park Historical Foundation

## **Recreationists**

### *Active partners:*

- Bureau of Land Management, Cañon City District
- Colorado Fourteeners Initiative
- Colorado Parks & Wildlife
- Eleven Mile State Park
- Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund Board
- Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative
- Outpost Wilderness Adventure
- Park County Land & Water Trust Fund Board
- Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District
- Pike National Forest Supervisor's Office
- South Park Wetlands Focus Area Committee

For the Heritage Area to succeed in building new and highly effective partnerships, it will strive to include interests not normally considered to be oriented toward heritage resources. Such partnerships might include the South Park Chamber of Commerce, the Colorado Office of Economic Development, service organizations, and local planners.

## Heritage Tourism: Promotion and Marketing

As a central clearing house for organization and information, the Heritage Area will need to use a substantial portion of its annual appropriation for promoting and marketing South Park in a creative and selective manner. The Heritage Area considers its “competition” for heritage tourism to be the American Southwest and other areas in Colorado and the nation that offer experiences based on heritage and culture. South Park’s competitive edge is its unspoiled vistas and lifestyle. Here, it is normal to see a cowboy riding with his herd, a miner sluicing in search of mineral wealth, or a herd of elk roaming the grasslands. South Park is the essence of the American West in its unblemished form.

The Heritage Area wants to develop a reputation as “a place to experience history” that is unique, authentically Old West, and to a certain degree exclusive. This market niche builds on the strengths of the Heritage Area and leverages the public’s positive perception of preserving heritage and culture. Through local community pride, awareness of the value of cultural assets, and the promise of direct interaction with resources, South Park Heritage Area will provide new economic opportunities and an improved quality of life to residents, as well as new and unique experiences to visitors.

South Park is strongly positioned as an important heritage destination within Colorado. Colorado’s State Historic Preservation Plan acknowledges that there is a strong foundation for heritage tourism development in Colorado, especially in well-preserved areas of the state such as South Park. The state plan lists seventeen areas of concern where heritage assets are being lost or quickly eroded. South Park contains multiple sites with high integrity in five of the 17 areas of concern. These include Ute and other tribal sites as well as sites recording the Great Plains and mountain Paleoindian period. South Park also is home to five of the 18 resource types identified as threatened or underrepresented. These include Hispanic resources such as shepherding and long-shed folk art; mining landscapes, sites, structures, and equipment; Paleoindian sites; rural historic landscapes; and traditional cultural places.

Current, scatter-gun approaches to market South Park’s heritage are not yielding the desired results, in part because target market demographics and methods are unclear. Generally, the Heritage Area envisions its target market as people who are interested in South Park’s natural resources and authentic Western heritage. It believes the ideal visitor will be more interested in personal experience than in abundant amenities. To verify these suppositions, the Heritage Area intends to work in partnership with

Park County, the towns of Alma and Fairplay, the Colorado Tourism Office, the South Park Chamber of Commerce, and interested businesses to hire a marketing firm to develop a marketing plan for South Park. Ideally, the marketing partnership will grow into a long-term relationship that will increase the exposure and impact of dollars invested. Among potential target audiences are railroad clubs; motorcycle, RV, and automobile touring groups; Elder Hostel/Road Scholar programs; and other active adult and family groups.

## South Park Heritage Brand

An important part of developing any effective marketing or promotional campaign is to have a solid basis as a brand. Branding is the identity of the entity; it is the culmination of the effect of its marketing and promotional messages. Being part of the South Park brand will carry benefits such as marketing and promotional assistance, technical assistance, and possible funding. The Heritage Area will encourage web presence for all members of the South Park Heritage Brand. The Heritage Area, for a small fee, may also elect to provide basic web presence to parties not included in the brand. The Heritage Area will encourage “green” practices for all businesses participating in the South Park brand.



## Logo use

It is important to provide a consistent identity for the brand. The Heritage Area Board of Directors will develop standards for business and product admission to the brand and also determine appropriate use of the logo and tagline. A distinguishing tagline, such as “Rugged Colorado,” will serve the Heritage Area for all future promotions and marketing. The tagline will be registered as a trademark of the South Park National Heritage Area.



## Visitor Information

The Heritage Area will impart information in a variety of ways, including:

**Way-Finding and Directional Signage:** Initially, signage will focus on automotive traffic and later to travel along connecting trails, particularly for bicycle touring. Funding for the wayfinding and directional signage may be available through the Colorado Department of Transportation under Transportation Enhancement Funding, both on-system and off-system. It will be critical to include the South Park National Heritage Area logo on these signs for ease of identification and to increase market exposure to through traffic.

**Information Kiosks:** Information kiosks should be placed in high traffic outdoor areas that are easily accessed. Priority locations are within each community and at high volume pullout locations on Hoosier, Trout Creek, Wilkerson, and Kenosha passes. Rotating seasonal displays may be developed and modified annually to include the annual calendar of events and current contact information.

**Rack Cards:** Rack cards are often used in South Park, particularly for recreation providers such as guided fishing and off-highway vehicle (OHV) tours. The success of rack cards is very low for generating initial visits but they can assist in creating repeat visits. The Heritage Area may participate in the production and distribution of rack cards that are cooperatively produced in order to list multiple businesses or attractions, but not to promote single businesses.

**Newspaper Ads, Brochures, and National Publications:** Newspaper advertising will be used judiciously, targeting appropriate times and placement to maximize effectiveness. Brochures will be given less emphasis than online and downloadable material. National publication demographics will be evaluated, advertising placed accordingly, and response tracked whenever possible.

**Website, Mobile Apps, and Video:** The South Park National Heritage has already developed its own website. The heritage area will continue to update this website and explore the development of digital application software (apps) for mobile devices such as smart phones, tablets, and notebooks offer increasing marketing opportunities to deliver enhanced educational experiences for visitors to South Park.

**Earned and Free Media:** Earned and free media is best accomplished through the provision of editorials, press releases, familiarity trips, and leveraged coverage through partner organizations. To encourage familiarity trips, the Heritage Area will provide a press briefing package that will include photographs, tourism resources and packages, and information on South Park's artists, guides, restaurants, and other amenities. It also will offer to arrange and pay for a writer's trip to South Park.

## Potential Market Niches

The Heritage Area will have an appeal to certain market niches often categorized as "special interest travel." These include:

**Agritourism:** Agritourism is broadly defined as any farming operation that provides activities and events that bring visitors to a farm or ranch. In South Park, where several ranches are already involved in agritourism, there is tremendous opportunity as the Heritage Area matures.

**Ecotourism:** Ecotourism is low-impact tourism that makes it possible for controlled numbers of visitors to experience fragile and pristine areas such as wetlands. Ecotourism often seeks to educate the traveler and provide funds for continued conservation. The Heritage Area will assist in fostering groups or organizers who plan to provide ecotourism experiences in South Park.

**Service and Learning Vacationers:** There is a growing market for vacationers who want to participate in a meaningful project such as rehabilitating a historic property, working at an archaeological site, or recording natural resources. Service opportunities in South Park range from providing trail maintenance to learning Native American skills. The Heritage Area hopes to attract such vacationers by establishing relationships with tribal governments and groups such as Elderhostel, Road Scholars, Earth Watch, and the Boy Scouts of America venturing program.

**Adventure Travel:** Adventure tourists enjoy stepping out of their comfort zone through physical activity, cultural exchanges, or intense engagement with nature. Opportunities in the South Park National Heritage Area include mountaineering, skiing, trekking, ice climbing, mountain biking, and rock climbing. The Heritage Area will encourage touring organizers who specialize in these activities to consider South Park.

## APPENDIX A



*South Park is home to a wide variety of birds including a large assortment of waterfowl and a number of raptors such as these young eagles. Photo courtesy Jim Mills.*

### **Public Law 111-11, Sec. 8003, March 30, 2009 SOUTH PARK NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA, COLORADO**

#### **(a) Definitions — In this section:**

- (1) BOARD — The term ‘Board’ means the Board of Directors of the South Park National Heritage Area, comprised initially of the individuals, agencies, organizations, and governments that were involved in the planning and development of the Heritage Area before the date of enactment of this Act.
- (2) HERITAGE AREA — The term ‘Heritage Area’ means the South Park National Heritage Area established by subsection (b)(1).
- (3) MANAGEMENT ENTITY — The term ‘management entity’ means the management entity for the Heritage Area designated by subsection (b)(4)(A).
- (4) MANAGEMENT PLAN — The term ‘management plan’ means the management plan for the Heritage Area required by subsection (d).
- (5) MAP — The term ‘map’ means the map entitled ‘South Park National Heritage Area Map (Proposed)’, dated January 30, 2006.
- (6) PARTNER — The term ‘partner’ means a Federal, State, or local governmental entity, organization, private industry, educational institution, or individual involved in the conservation, preservation,

interpretation, development or promotion of heritage sites or resources of the Heritage Area.

(7) SECRETARY — The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Interior.

(8) STATE — The term ‘State’ means the State of Colorado.

(9) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE — The term ‘technical assistance’ means any guidance, advice, help, or aid, other than financial assistance, provided by the Secretary.

(b) South Park National Heritage Area —

(1) ESTABLISHMENT — There is established in the State the South Park National Heritage Area.

(2) BOUNDARIES — The Heritage Area shall consist of the areas included in the map.

(3) MAP — A map of the Heritage Area shall be —

(A) included in the management plan; and

(B) on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(4) MANAGEMENT ENTITY —

(A) IN GENERAL — The management entity for the Heritage Area shall be the Park County Tourism & Community Development Office, in conjunction with the South Park National Heritage Area Board of Directors.

(B) MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS — Members of the Board shall include representatives from a broad cross-section of individuals, agencies, organizations, and governments that were involved in the planning and development of the Heritage Area before the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) Administration —

(1) PROHIBITION ON THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY — The management entity shall not use Federal funds made available under this section to acquire real property or any interest in real property.

(2) AUTHORITIES — For purposes of carrying out the management plan, the Secretary, acting through the management entity, may use amounts made available under this section to —

(A) make grants to the State or a political subdivision of the State, nonprofit organizations, and other persons;

(B) enter into cooperative agreements with, or provide technical assistance to, the State or a political subdivision of the State, nonprofit organizations, and other interested parties;

(C) hire and compensate staff, which shall include individuals with expertise in natural, cultural, and historical resources protection, fundraising, heritage facility planning and development, and heritage tourism programming;

(D) obtain funds or services from any source, including funds or services that are provided under any other Federal law or program;

(E) enter into contracts for goods or services; and

(F) to facilitate the conduct of other projects and activities that further the Heritage Area and are consistent with the approved management plan.

(3) DUTIES — The management entity shall —

(A) in accordance with subsection (d), prepare and submit a management plan for the Heritage Area to the Secretary;

(B) assist units of local government, local property owners and businesses, and nonprofit organizations in carrying out the approved management plan by —

(i) carrying out programs and projects that recognize, protect, enhance, and promote important resource values in the Heritage Area;

(ii) establishing and maintaining interpretive exhibits and programs in the Heritage Area;

(iii) developing economic, recreational and educational opportunities in the Heritage Area;



(iv) increasing public awareness of, and appreciation for, historical, cultural, scenic, recreational, agricultural, and natural resources of the Heritage Area;

(v) protecting and restoring historic sites and buildings in the Heritage Area that are consistent with Heritage Area themes;

(vi) ensuring that clear, consistent, and appropriate signs identifying points of public access, and sites of interest are posted throughout the Heritage Area;

(vii) promoting a wide range of partnerships among governments, organizations, and individuals to further the Heritage Area; and

(viii) planning and developing new heritage attractions, products and services;

(C) consider the interests of diverse units of government, businesses, organizations, and individuals in the Heritage Area in the preparation and implementation of the management plan;

(D) conduct meetings open to the public at least semiannually regarding the development and implementation of the management plan;

(E) for any year for which Federal funds have been received under this section —

(i) submit to the Secretary an annual report that describes the activities, expenses, and income of the management entity (including grants to any other entities during the year that the report is made);

(ii) make available to the Secretary for audit all records relating to the expenditure of the Federal funds and any matching funds; and

(iii) require, with respect to all agreements authorizing expenditure of Federal funds by other organizations, that the organizations receiving the funds make available to the Secretary for audit all records concerning the expenditure of the funds; and

(F) encourage by appropriate means economic viability that is consistent with the Heritage Area.

(4) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT — The Federal share of the cost of any activity carried out using any assistance made available under this section shall be 50 percent.

(d) Management Plan —

(1) IN GENERAL — Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the management entity, with public participation, shall submit to the Secretary for approval a proposed management plan for the Heritage Area.

(2) REQUIREMENTS — The management plan shall —

(A) incorporate an integrated and cooperative approach for the protection, enhancement, interpretation, development, and promotion of the historical, cultural, scenic, recreational, agricultural, and natural resources of the Heritage Area;

(B) take into consideration State and local plans;

(C) include —

(i) an inventory of —

(I) the resources located within the areas included in the map; and

(II) any other eligible and participating property within the areas included in the map that —

(aa) is related to the themes of the Heritage Area; and

(bb) should be preserved, restored, managed, maintained, developed, or promoted because of the significance of the property;

(ii) comprehensive policies, strategies, and recommendations for conservation, funding, management, development, and promotion of the Heritage Area;

(iii) a description of actions that governments, private organizations, and individuals have agreed to take to manage protect the historical, cultural, scenic, recreational, agricultural, and natural resources of the Heritage Area;

(iv) a program of implementation for the management plan by the management entity that includes a description of —

(I) actions to facilitate ongoing and effective collaboration among partners to promote plans for resource protection, enhancement, interpretation, restoration, and construction; and

(II) specific commitments for implementation that have been made by the management entity or any government, organization, or individual for the first 5 years of operation;

(v) the identification of sources of funding for carrying out the management plan;

(vi) an analysis of and recommendations for means by which Federal, State, and local programs, including the role of the National Park Service in the Heritage Area, may best be coordinated to carry out this section; and

(vii) an interpretive plan for the Heritage Area; and

(D) recommend policies and strategies for resource management that consider and detail the application of appropriate land and water management techniques, including the development of intergovernmental and interagency cooperative agreements to protect the historical, cultural, scenic, recreational, agricultural, and natural resources of the Heritage Area.

(3) DEADLINE — If a proposed management plan is not submitted to the Secretary by the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the management entity shall be ineligible to receive additional funding under this section until the date on which the Secretary receives and approves the management plan.

#### (4) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT PLAN —

(A) IN GENERAL — Not later than 180 days after the date of receipt of the management plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary, in consultation with the State, shall approve or disapprove the management plan.

(B) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL — In determining whether to approve the management plan, the Secretary shall consider whether —

(i) the management entity is representative of the diverse interests of the Heritage Area, including governments, natural and historical resource protection organizations, educational institutions, local businesses and industries, community organizations, recreational organizations, and tourism organizations;

(ii) the management entity has afforded adequate opportunity, including public hearings, for public and governmental involvement in the preparation of the management plan; and

(iii) strategies contained in the management plan, if implemented, would adequately balance the voluntary protection, development, and interpretation of the natural, historical, cultural, scenic, recreational, and agricultural resources of the Heritage Area.

(C) ACTION FOLLOWING DISAPPROVAL — If the Secretary disapproves the management plan under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall —

(i) advise the management entity in writing of the reasons for the disapproval;

(ii) make recommendations for revisions to the management plan; and

(iii) not later than 180 days after the receipt of any proposed revision of the management plan from the management entity, approve or disapprove the proposed revision.

(D) AMENDMENTS —

(i) IN GENERAL — The Secretary shall approve or disapprove each amendment to the management plan that the Secretary determines makes a substantial change to the management plan.

(ii) USE OF FUNDS — The management entity shall not use Federal funds authorized by this section to carry out any amendments to the management plan until the Secretary has approved the amendments.

(e) Relationship to Other Federal Agencies —

(1) IN GENERAL — Nothing in this section affects the authority of a Federal agency to provide technical or financial assistance under any other law.

(2) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION — The head of any Federal agency planning to conduct activities that may have an impact on the Heritage Area is encouraged to consult and coordinate the activities with the Secretary and the management entity to the maximum extent practicable.

(3) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES — Nothing in this section —

(A) modifies, alters, or amends any law or regulation authorizing a Federal agency to manage Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Federal agency;

(B) limits the discretion of a Federal land manager to implement an approved land use plan within the boundaries of the Heritage Area; or

(C) modifies, alters, or amends any authorized use of Federal land under the jurisdiction of a Federal agency.

(f) Private Property and Regulatory Protections — Nothing in this section —

(1) abridges the rights of any property owner (whether public or private), including the right to refrain from participating in any plan, project, program, or activity conducted within the Heritage Area;

(2) requires any property owner to permit public access (including access by Federal, State, or local agencies) to the property of the proper-

ty owner, or to modify public access or use of property of the property owner under any other Federal, State, or local law;

(3) alters any duly adopted land use regulation, approved land use plan, or other regulatory authority of any Federal, State or local agency, or conveys any land use or other regulatory authority to the management entity;

(4) authorizes or implies the reservation or appropriation of water or water rights;

(5) diminishes the authority of the State to manage fish and wildlife, including the regulation of fishing and hunting within the Heritage Area; or

(6) creates any liability, or affects any liability under any other law, of any private property owner with respect to any person injured on the private property.

(g) Evaluation; Report —

(1) IN GENERAL — Not later than 3 years before the date on which authority for Federal funding terminates for the Heritage Area, the Secretary shall —

(A) conduct an evaluation of the accomplishments of the Heritage Area; and

(B) prepare a report in accordance with paragraph (3).

(2) EVALUATION — An evaluation conducted under paragraph (1) (A) shall —

(A) assess the progress of the management entity with respect to —

(i) accomplishing the purposes of this section for the Heritage Area; and

(ii) achieving the goals and objectives of the approved management plan for the Heritage Area;

(B) analyze the Federal, State, local, and private investments in the Heritage Area to determine the leverage and impact of the investments; and



(C) review the management structure, partnership relationships, and funding of the Heritage Area for purposes of identifying the critical components for sustainability of the Heritage Area.

(3) REPORT —

(A) IN GENERAL — Based on the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall prepare a report that includes recommendations for the future role of the National Park Service, if any, with respect to the Heritage Area.

(B) REQUIRED ANALYSIS — If the report prepared under subparagraph recommends that Federal funding for the Heritage Area be reauthorized, the report shall include an analysis of —

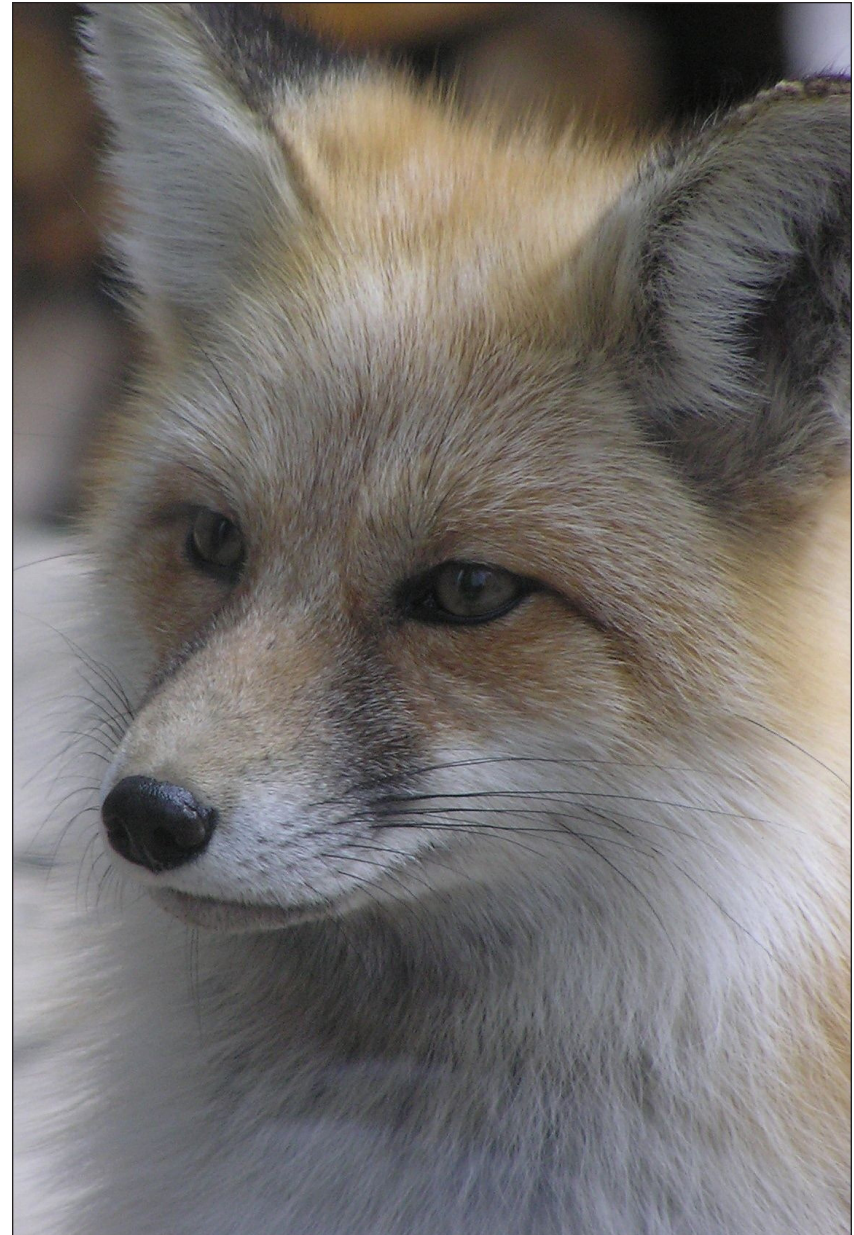
- (i) ways in which Federal funding for the Heritage Area may be reduced or eliminated; and
- (ii) the appropriate time period necessary to achieve the recommended reduction or elimination.

(C) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS — On completion of the report, the Secretary shall submit the report to —

- (i) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and
- (ii) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(h) Authorization of Appropriations — There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000, of which not more than \$1,000,000 may be made available for any fiscal year.

(i) Termination of Authority — The authority of the Secretary to provide assistance under this section terminates on the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of this Act



*New residents of South Park must quickly adjust to sharing the land with a large assortment of wild creatures such as this red fox. Photo courtesy Linda Balough.*

## APPENDIX B



*Fire was a constant threat to the survival of early settlements. These firefighters didn't have time to hitch up horses, so the harnesses on the fire pumper were converted so they could pull it to the fire themselves.  
Photo courtesy Park County Local History Archives.*

### Potential Funding Sources

While Chapter 6 of the Management Plan provides sources of sustainable funding, details on additional funding sources that could be leveraged to accomplish projects and programs follow.

### General Heritage Funding Sources

*Advisory Council on Historic Preservation*, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Ste. 803, Old Post Office Building, Washington, DC 20004, [www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov)

*Alma Foundation*, 184 N Main St., PO Box 338, Alma, CO 80420, [www.almafoundation.com](http://www.almafoundation.com)

*Colorado Historical Foundation*, PO Box 40910, Denver, CO 80204-0910, [www.cohf.org](http://www.cohf.org)

*Colorado Tourism Office*, 1625 Broadway, Ste. 2700, Denver, CO 80202, [www.colorado.com](http://www.colorado.com)

*Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways*, Colorado Scenic Byways Coordinator, 4201 E. Arkansas Avenue, Shumate Building, Denver, CO 80222-3406, [www.coloradoscenicbyways.com](http://www.coloradoscenicbyways.com)

**National Scenic Byways Program:** A Federal Highways Administration program and coordinated by CDOT, is a collaborative effort that recognizes and provides enhancement to roads that have archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities. Often funding provides opportunities for roadside interpretation of the roadway's assets.





*Late to emerge from melting snows, the wildflowers bloom in abundance from the low valleys of the open range to the craggy slopes of the alpine tundra. Photo courtesy Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative.*

*The Cultural Landscape Foundation*, 1909 Q Street NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20009, [www.tclf.org](http://www.tclf.org)

**Easements:** Preservation easements on property provide income and estate tax credits when easement on a portion of or the entire historic property is donated to a charity and can include residential buildings and the land associated with the building.

*National Park Service*, Intermountain Regional Office, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, PO Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287, [www.nps.gov/legacy/mission.html](http://www.nps.gov/legacy/mission.html) and [www.nps.gov/state/CO](http://www.nps.gov/state/CO)

**Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits:** There are three forms of Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits (RTC)—incentives for rehabilitation of historic and older buildings, income tax and estate tax credits for historic preservation easements, and tax credits for the acquisition and rehabilitation of low-income housing. The incentives for historic and older buildings are as follows:

1. 20% tax credit for rehabilitation of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places or contribute to a historic district (including state and local historic districts that have been certified by the Secretary of the Interior) through a 3 step approval process: certification of the building, description of the rehabilitation. All work must be approved by the National Park Service.
2. The 10% tax credit may be claimed for any non-residential building built before 1936. The tax credit is claimed the year the building is put back into service and requires no review and no specific types of rehabilitation are required by the IRS.

**Save America's Treasures:** Continued funding of this \$25 million annual program is in question. It is a competitive 50-50 matching grant program administered by the National Park Service with a minimum of \$125,000 (\$250,000 total project) and a maximum of \$700,000 (\$1.4 million total project). To qualify the property must be nationally significant.

**National Scenic Byways Program:** A Federal Highways Administration program coordinated by CDOT, is a collaborative effort that recognizes and provides enhancement to roads that have archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities. Often funding provides opportunities for roadside interpretation of the roadway's assets.

**National Trust for Historic Preservation**, Mountain/Plains Office, 535 16th Street, Ste. 750, Denver, CO 80202, [www.preservationnation.org/about-us/regional-offices/mountains-plains](http://www.preservationnation.org/about-us/regional-offices/mountains-plains)

**National Main Street:** A program provided by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, it is a locally organized and driven program that addresses four key areas or the "four point approach" in historic downtowns. The four points are organization, promotion, design, and economic restructuring. Having the county and/or the two municipalities in South Park become a Main Street organization will only make sense if there is significant support and a viable structure in Colorado. In Colorado, the Main Street program is administered by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, and is currently a very small program with only seven (7) Main Street communities and two (2) additionally eligible communities. It is currently funded by the State Historical Fund and despite success in the pilot three (3) year project



from 1980 to 1983, Colorado Main Street was dormant until 2000 when funds were allocated to restart the Main Street program. <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/DOLA-Main/CBON/1251594477385>

*Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation*, National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, Boston National Historical Park, Charlestown Navy Yard, Quarters C, Boston, MA 02129, [www.nps.gov/oclp](http://www.nps.gov/oclp)

*History Colorado, The Colorado Historical Society, The Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation*, 1560 Broadway, Ste. 400, Denver, CO 80220, [www.historycolorado.org](http://www.historycolorado.org)

**Certified Local Government Matching Grants:** 10% of the State Historic Preservation Office's federal funding is given out as grants to CLGs. Uses include: survey; nomination; historic preservation commission staffing and training; establishment of design guidelines; preservation plans; public outreach; and physical preservation of National Register listed properties. Park County is a Certified Local Government and there may be opportunities to partner with Park County's Office of Historic Preservation to access CLG funding. Caution should be used in accessing these funds as they are often federal pass through funding that will not count as match to the Heritage Area's federal appropriations.

**Colorado State Tax Credit:** Colorado offers a credit of 20% of \$5,000 or more of approved improvements to qualified properties with a maximum of \$50,000 of credit.

**Historic Preservation Fund:** this is the major federal funding source for most State Historic Preservation Offices in the U.S. and a portion of it is used as pass through funds for CLGs.

**State Historical Fund:** Provided by the State of Colorado through the SHPO Office on a competitive basis and must demonstrate strong public benefit and support. Values of the awards are a wide range from several hundred dollars to \$200,000 or more.

**New Markets Tax Credits:** Offered through the US Department of the Treasury, a thirty-nine percent credit is available for investments made through Community Development Entities. This is a very complex but powerful financing structure that is generally only used on projects of \$5 million or more.

*U.S. Forest Service*, Rocky Mountain Region, 740 Simms Street, PO Box 25127, Golden, CO 80401-4720, [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)

## **Natural Resources Funding Sources**

*Bureau of Land Management*, Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, CO 80215-7076, [www.blm.gov/co/st/en.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en.html)

*Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs*, State Capitol Building, 130 State Capitol, Denver, CO 80203, [www.colorado.gov/ltgovernor/initiatives/indianaffairs.html](http://www.colorado.gov/ltgovernor/initiatives/indianaffairs.html)

*Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)*, 303 E. 17th Avenue, Suite 1060, Denver, Colorado, 80203, (303) 226.4500, [info@goco.org](mailto:info@goco.org), <http://goco.org.s57353.gridserver.com/>. Created in 1992 to provide grants of lottery monies to preserve, protect, enhance and manage Colorado's wildlife, river, trail and open space heritage.

**Other:** Conservation and habitat restoration projects may be able to access additional funding and other support from the following private foundation sources:

Ducks Unlimited  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Trout Unlimited  
The Nature Conservancy

*Park County Land & Water Trust Fund*

*Ute Mountain Tribe of the Ute Mountain Reservation*, Colorado, New Mexico, & Utah (Ute Mountain Ute) Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, PO Box 468, Towaoc, CO 81334

## **Cultural Resources Funding Sources**

*Alma Foundation*

*Colorado Department of Transportation*, 4201 E. Arkansas Avenue, Shumate Building, Denver, CO 80222, [www.coloradodot.info](http://www.coloradodot.info)

*Colorado Historical Foundation*, PO Box 40910, Denver, CO 80204-0910, [www.cohf.org](http://www.cohf.org)

*Colorado Office of Energy Conservation and Management*

*Colorado Preservation, Inc.*, 2100 Downing Street, Ste. 300, Denver, CO 80205, [www.coloradopreservation.org](http://www.coloradopreservation.org)

*Colorado State Tax Credit*: Colorado offers a credit of 20% of \$5,000 or more of approved improvements to qualified properties with a maximum of \$50,000 of credit.

*Easements*: Preservation easements on property provide income and estate tax credits when easement on a portion of or the entire historic property is donated to a nonprofit and can include residential buildings and the land associated with the building.

Farmland conservation projects may be able to access funding and other support from the following private foundation sources:

- American Farmland Trust
- Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust
- Mountain Area Land Trust
- Conservation Land Trust

*Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits*: There are three forms of Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits (RTC)—incentives for rehabilitation of historic and older buildings, income tax and estate tax credits for historic preservation easements, and tax credits for the acquisition and rehabilitation of low-income housing. The incentives for historic and older buildings are as follows:

1. 20% tax credit for rehabilitation of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places or contribute to a historic district (including state and local historic districts that have been certified by the Secretary of the Interior) through a 3 step approval process: certification of the building, description of the rehabilitation. All work must be approved by the National Park Service.
2. The 10% tax credit may be claimed for any non-residential building built before 1936. The tax credit is claimed the year the building is put back into service and requires no review and no specific types of rehabilitation are required by the IRS.

*HistoriCorps*, 2100 Downing Street, Suite 300, Denver, CO 80205 [www.coloradopreservation.org](http://www.coloradopreservation.org)

*National Main Street*: A program provided by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, it is a locally organized and driven program that ad-

resses four key areas or the "four point approach" in historic downtowns. The four points are organization, promotion, design, and economic restructuring. The SPNHA becoming a Main Street organization will only make sense if there is significant support and a viable structure in Colorado and it appears to be recently restarted in the state and is operated out of the Department of Local Affairs.

*National Railway Historical Society/Colorado Midland Chapter*, PO Box 824, Colorado Springs, CO 80901, [www.nrhs.com](http://www.nrhs.com)

*New Markets Tax Credits*: Offered through the US Department of the Treasury, a thirty-nine percent credit is available for investments made through Community Development Entities. This is a very complex but powerful financing structure that is generally only used on projects of \$5 million or more.

*Rocky Mountain Railroad Club*, PO Box 2391, Denver, CO 80201-2391, [www.rockymtnrrclub.org](http://www.rockymtnrrclub.org)

*Transportation Enhancement Funding*: Typically awarded in \$500,000 increments, with low matching requirements and administered out of CDOT, transportation enhancement monies can be provided for properties that meet one of the twelve eligible activities that relate directly to surface transportation. This may be a very viable funding source for South Park.

*U.S. Department of Agriculture –*

Natural Resource Conservation Service:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Conservation of Private Grazing Lands
- Conservation Reserve Program
- Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
- Agricultural Water Enhancement Program
- Conservation Innovation Grants
- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Watershed Rehabilitation
- Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Programs
- Grasslands Reserve Program
- Healthy Forests Reserve Program
- Wetlands Reserve Program

Rural Development:

- Rural Business Enterprise Grant
- Rural Business Opportunity Grant
- Rural Energy for America Program Grants
- Value Added Producer Grants
- Community Facilities Grants
- Rural Community Development Initiative

## **Recreation Funding Sources**

*Colorado Department of Transportation*, 4201 E. Arkansas Avenue, Shumate Building, Denver, CO 80222, [www.coloradodot.info](http://www.coloradodot.info)

Transportation Enhancement Funding: Typically awarded in \$500,000 increments, with low matching requirements and administered out of CDOT, transportation enhancement monies can be provided for properties that meet one of the twelve eligible activities that relate directly to surface transportation. This may be a very viable funding source for South Park.

*Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)*, 303 E. 17th Avenue, Suite 1060, Denver, Colorado, 80203, (303) 226.4500, [info@goco.org](mailto:info@goco.org), <http://goco.org.s57353.gridserver.com/>. Created in 1992 to provide grants of lottery monies to preserve, protect, enhance and manage Colorado's wildlife, river, trail and open space heritage.



*Mornings in any month of the year may reveal a fresh cap of snow on the surrounding peaks. Photo courtesy Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative.*





## APPENDIX C



*Once scarce, moose are now frequently spotted in the area.  
Photo courtesy Fran Moriarty.*

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Denver, South Park & Pacific Group:  
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Park County Historical Society:  
<http://parkcountyhistory.com/>



Park County; South Park National Heritage Area:

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Park County:

<http://www.parkco.us/>

South Park Fly Fishers:

<http://www.southparktrout.com/>

Colorado State Trust Lands:

[http://wildlife.state.co.us/LandWater/StateTrustLands/Pages/stl\\_info.aspx](http://wildlife.state.co.us/LandWater/StateTrustLands/Pages/stl_info.aspx)

Colorado State Wildlife Areas:

<http://wildlife.state.co.us/LandWater/StateWildlifeAreas/Pages/swa.aspx>

Town of Alma:

<http://townofalma.com/>

Town of Fairplay:

<http://www.fairplayco.us>

Ghost Towns of the US:

<http://www.ghosttowns.com/>

Ghost Towns of Colorado:

<http://www.rockymountainprofiles.com/Colorado%20Ghost%20towns.htm>

Colorado Heritage Tourism Pilot Project Initiative:

[http://www.colorado.com/ai/PilotProjectOverview\\_v4.2.pdf](http://www.colorado.com/ai/PilotProjectOverview_v4.2.pdf)

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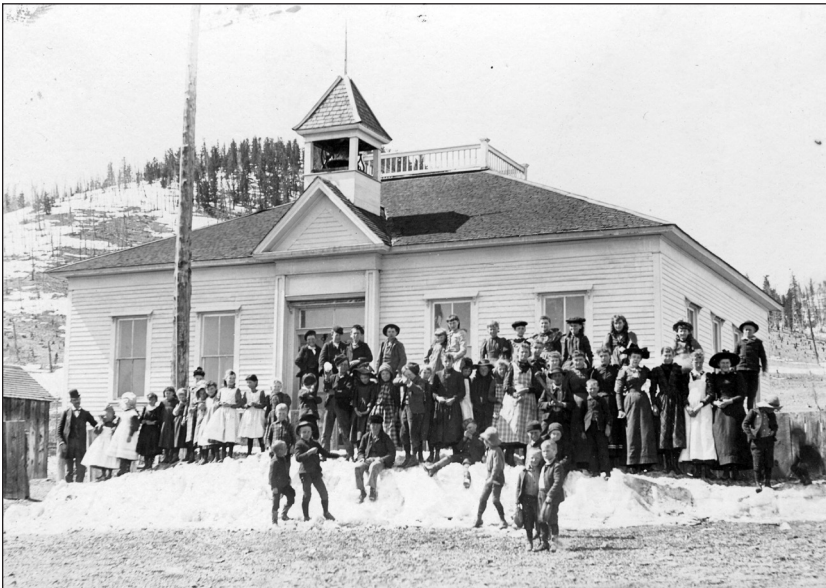
Hartsel Springs Ranch History:

<http://www.hartselspringsranch.com/Ranch/History.html>



*A male Grossbeak finds shelter in the pine branches from the winter gales which often reach windspeeds of well over 100 miles per hour. Photo courtesy Linda Balough.*

## APPENDIX D



*Como School. Photo courtesy Park County Local History Archives.*

### **Inventories**

This appendix lists the priority assets of the South Park National Heritage Area. Each asset must be individually assessed for the treatment that would be appropriate for that resource and those treatment decisions will be made as the Heritage Area receives funding, develops partnerships, and implements the Management Plan. This inventory contains only a sampling of the resources found in the Heritage Area and is not a comprehensive list.

Inventory of Resources located in the NHA and Inventory of eligible or participating properties that relate to an NHA theme and should be preserved, restored, managed, maintained, developed, and promoted. (PL 111-11, 8003, (d)(2)(C)(i)(I)&(II)(aa)(bb))

### **Designated Historic Structures**

Park County contains over 3,000 surveyed historic and prehistoric resources with varying levels of eligibility for local, state, and national designation. These historic resources have been designated as Park County Historic Landmarks (Local) or are listed on the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties (State) or National Register of Historic Places (National).

## Designated Historic Structures in the South Park National Heritage Area

Designated Name	Local	State	National
Alma Community Church	X	X	
Alma Ladies Aid Hall	X		
Alma School	X	X	
Anson Allen Homestead/Mountaindale Ranch	X		
Boreas Railroad Station Site		X	X
Bruner Homestead		X	
Buckley Ranch		X	X
Clesson Cabin	X		
Colorado Salt Works		X	X
Como Railroad Depot, Hotel Complex		X	X
Como Roundhouse		X	X
Como Schools		X	X
Crockett Ranch, Portis Ranch, South Park Cattle Company, Anchutz Land and Livestock Company	X		
Denny House	X		
EM Ranch		X	X
Emirilis R. Curtis Homestead	X		
Fairplay Coal Company/Longenbaugh Coal and Ice Company	X		
Fairplay Hotel	X	X	X
Fairplay School	X	X	
Fred Sell Homestead	X		
Hartsel Depot	X		
Hartsel Schools	X		



Designated Name	Local	State	National
Jefferson Denver South Park & Pacific Railroad Depot		X	X
Jefferson School	X		
Kenosha Pass Railroad Station		X	
Mayer House	X		
Paris Mill	X		
Park County Courthouse and Jail	X	X	X
Payne Homestead		X	
Pulver Homestead	X		
Quist Liquor Store	X		
Salt Works Ranch		X	X
Smokehouse	X		
Snair Homestead Cabin	X		
Snowstorm Dredge	X		
South Park Community Church		X	X
South Park Lager Beer Brewery		X	X
Summer Saloon		X	X
Tarryall Reservoir Land & Ditch Co. Rock Marker	X		
Tarryall School Complex	X	X	X
Threemile Gulch		X	X
Trout Creek/Annex/Settele Ranch		X	X
Wahl Ranch		X	X
Williams Ranch	X		

Of these already designated places, many have been or are in the process of being rehabilitated or restored. Notable resources with recent projects include:

**Alma's Clesson Cabin** – The Alma Foundation is rehabilitating this town-owned cabin for future use as a visitor center. The South Park National Heritage Area has provided technical assistance and the State Historical Fund is providing matching funds for the on-going work.



**Paris Mill** – Park County acquired this property in 2006 and has been actively engaged in protecting, recording, interpreting, nominating, and mitigating hazardous materials in order to prepare it for further stabilization and interpretation. The county is already responding to the strong demand for public access by conducting limited group tours of the building and grounds. The South Park National Heritage Area is currently partnering with the Park County Office of Historic Preservation to prepare a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places funded by the Certified Local Government program of History Colorado.



**Como Hotel and Depot** – The South Park National Heritage Area is partnering with private owners, the Denver, South Park & Pacific Historical Society, Colorado Preservation, Inc, the State Historical Fund, the Colorado Department of Transportation, the Governor's Energy Office, and the Park County Office of Historic Preservation on the rehabilitation and restoration of the hotel and the adjacent depot. While still an on-going project, work achieved so far is a showcase of rehabilitation and reuse of historic buildings while still achieving energy efficiency and promoting economic development as well as public access.



**Santa Maria Ranch** – This privately owned National Register of Historic Places property is undergoing a restoration of the 1870s main house in a partnership effort between the owners, the State Historical Fund, South Park National Heritage Area, and the Park County Office of Historic Preservation. This working ranch provides selected public access through tours and by participating in the South Park Fly Fishers.



**Trout Creek Ranch** – A partnership between the owners, South Park National Heritage Area, and the State Historical Fund is returning this National Register of Historic Places-listed ranch to its former appearance while continuing its use as a working ranch. Future plans are to encourage more public access through selected group tours and equestrian events on the property.



**Tarryall School** – This county-owned school building and teacherage are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and are being upgraded to allow more public access through school programs, community meetings, and events.



**Hartsel Depot** – The community of Hartsel is raising funds and organizing volunteer labor to rehabilitate this locally designated landmark. The South Park National Heritage Area has assisted in funding a historic structure assessment in order to provide guidelines for the work to be done to eventually allow the former Colorado Midland depot to serve as a visitors center.



**Snair Cabin** – The Lake George Community Association has received assistance from the South Park National Heritage Area and the Park County Office of Historic Preservation to rehabilitate this well-crafted 1890s log cabin to eventually serve as an educational venue as well as a visitors center.



Other notable historic preservation projects underway or being planned are the nomination of the 42-mile long Tarryall Valley to the National Register of Historic Places as a Rural Historic Landscape District—perhaps the first multi-property nomination of its kind in the state. This project is currently underway with the assistance of the South Park National Heritage Area, the Park County Office of Historic Preservation, and the Certified Local Government program of History Colorado. The owner of the Como Roundhouse is also working with the South Park National Heritage Area to plan for further rehabilitation to allow greater public access. The National Register of Historic Places-listed Salt Works Ranch has been undergoing a number of rehabilitation projects on its buildings and is currently the location of careful archaeological survey including both historic and pre-historic resources.

## Environmental Resources

South Park National Heritage Area abounds in rich environmental resources ranging from majestic 14,000-foot peaks to minute alpine flowers. Included in this abundance are the minerals that triggered the influx of prospectors and miners. Some of the mined resources include: lead, gold, silver, copper, molybdenum, beryl, beryllium, topaz, aquamarine, salt, marble, and rhodochrosite.



South Park is also home to a long list of diverse, and in some cases rare, flora and fauna. With the vast expanses of sparsely populated and protected private property and additional wealth of state and federal lands, wildlife has found the South Park a comfortable habitat. Large animals include elk, bears, mountain lions, Rocky Mountain Sheep, Rocky Mountain Goats, antelope, deer, and moose, while smaller inhabitants include foxes, lynx, coyotes, badgers, and porcupines. A small sampling of the myriad collection of birds includes mountain plover, red tailed hawks, bald and golden eagles, Stellar and Gray jays, and white pelicans.



Extensive work has been completed in South Park to record and study the rare plant communities. The following is a listing of rare alpine plants currently monitored by the Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative. Examples of two notable plants are *Eutrema penlandii*, found only in the Mosquito Range at elevations ranging from 3,625 to 4,050 meters (11,900 to 13,280 feet), and the *Globe gilia* (*Ipomopsis globularis*), a very fragrant ball shaped flower found only on limestone soils in the Mosquito Range above 12,000 feet.





## Partial Listing of Rare or Imperiled Plants in the South Park National Heritage Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Ranking
<i>Aquilegia saximontana</i>	Rocky Mountain Blue Columbine	vulnerable
<i>Armeria maritima</i> ssp. <i>sibirica</i>	Siberian Sea Thrift	critically imperiled
<i>Astragalus molybdenus</i>	Leadville Milkvetch	imperiled
<i>Botrychium</i>	Moonworts	critically imperiled to vulnerable
<i>Braya glabella</i>	Smooth Rockcress	critically imperiled
<i>Braya humilis</i>	Low Braya	imperiled
<i>Chionophila jamesii</i>	Rocky Mountain Snowlover	vulnerable to apparently secure
<i>Crepis nana</i> ( <i>Askellia nana</i> )	Dwarf Alpine Hawksbeard	imperiled
<i>Draba crassa</i>	Thickleaf Draba	vulnerable
<i>Draba exunguiculata</i>	Clawless Draba	imperiled
<i>Draba fladnizensis</i>	Arctic or Austrian Draba	imperiled
<i>Draba grayana</i>	Gray's Peak Whitlow-Grass	imperiled
<i>Draba oligosperma</i>	Fewseed Draba	imperiled
<i>Draba porsildii</i>	Porsilds Whitlow-Grass	critically imperiled
<i>Draba streptobrachia</i>	Colorado Divide Whitlow	vulnerable
<i>Draba weberi</i>	Weber's Draba	critically imperiled
<i>Erigeron lanatus</i>	Wooly Fleabane	critically imperiled
<i>Eutrema penlandii</i>	Penland's Eutrema	critically imperiled
<i>Gastrollychnis kingii</i> ( <i>Silene</i> )	Alpine or King's Campion	critically imperiled
<i>Ipomopsis globularis</i>	Hoosier Pass Ipomopsis	imperiled
<i>Machaeranthera coloradoensis</i>	Colorado Tansy Aster	imperiled
<i>Mertensia alpina</i>	Alpine Bluebells	critically imperiled
<i>Oxytropis parryi</i>	Parry's Oxytrope	critically imperiled
<i>Oxytropis podocarpa</i>	Stalkpod Locoweed (Gray's Pointvetch)	unranked
<i>Papaver kluanense</i>	Alpine Poppy	apparently secure
<i>Parnassia kotzebuei</i>	Kotzebue's Grass-Of-Parnassus	imperiled
<i>Penstemon harbourii</i>	Harbour's Beardtongue	vulnerable
<i>Physaria alpina</i>	Avery Peak Twinpod	imperiled
<i>Ranunculus gelidus</i> ( <i>Ranunculus karelinii</i> )	Ice Cold Or Arctic Buttercup	imperiled

Scientific Name	Common Name	Ranking
<i>Saussurea weberi</i>	Weber's Saussurea	imperiled
<i>Senecio soldanella</i> (Ligularia)	Colorado Ragwort Or Groundsel	imperiled
<i>Townsendia rothrockii</i>	Rothrock's Townsend Daisy	imperiled

### Rare Plants Found in South Park's Extreme Rich Fens

Scientific Name	Common Name	Ranking
<i>Carex livida</i>	Livid sedge	State rare
<i>Carex Scirpoidea</i>	Canadian single-spike sedge	State rare
<i>Carex viridula</i>	Green sedge	State rare
<i>Eriophorum gracile</i>	Slender cottongrass	State rare
<i>Primula egaliksensis</i>	Greenland primrose	State rare
<i>Ptilagrotis mongholica</i>	Porter's feathergrass	Globally rare
<i>Salix candida</i>	Hoary willow	State rare
<i>Salix myrtillofolia</i>	Low blueberry willow	State rare
<i>Salix serissima</i>	Autumn willow	State rare
<i>Scirpus rollandii</i>	Pygmy bulrush	Globally and state rare
<i>Senecio pauciflorus</i>	Few-flowered ragwort	State rare
<i>Sisyrinchium pallidum</i>	Pale blue-eyed brass	Globally rare
<i>Utricularia ochroleuca</i>	Northern bladderwort	State rare

### Extreme Rich Fens in South Park

Site Name	Biodiversity Rank
High Creek Fen	Outstanding significance
Fremont's Fen	Outstanding significance
Jefferson and Guernsey Creeks	Very high significance
Old Railroad	High significance
Hollthusen Gulch/Tarryall Creek	High significance
Fourmile Creek at Peart	High significance
Crooked Creek	High significance

Nearly any approach to South Park introduces the high altitude basin from the vantage of even higher mountain ranges rich in dramatic peaks. Long time favorites among hikers, the alpine peaks of South Park offer a range of activities for nature lovers from roads and vistas accessible by passenger cars, to favorites of off-road vehicles, to those trails best experienced by mountain bikers, snowshoers, cross country skiers, and avid mountaineers eager to summit the highest peaks. [insert mountain photo]

Park County Rank	Colorado Rank	Name	Elevation	Prominence
1	8	Lincoln, Mount	14,286'	3,862'
		Cameron, Mount	14,238'	138'
2	22	Bross, Mount	14,172'	312'
3	28	Democrat, Mount	14,148'	768'
4	45	Sherman, Mount	14,036'	896'
		Gemini Peak	13,951'	171'
5	72	Horseshoe Mountain	13,898'	758'
6	76	Buckskin, Mount	13,865'	679'
7	80	Clinton Peak	13,857'	517'
8	81	Dyer Mountain	13,855'	475'
		Traver Peak	13,852'	232'
9	96	Silverheels, Mount	13,822'	2,280'
10	115	Mosquito Peak	13,781'	561'
		McNamee Peak	13,780'	80'
11	126	Sheridan, Mount	13,748'	608'
		Ptarmigan Peak	13,739'	279'
	S	Treasurevault Mountain	13,701'	281'
		Loveland Mountain	13,692'	192'
		White Ridge	13,684'	184'
12	162	Tweto, Mount	13,672'	412'
13	187	North Star Mountain	13,614'	434'
14	204	Evans, Mount B	13,577'	317'
		Weston Peak	13,572'	272'
	S	UN 13,548 "Repeater Peak"	13,548'	288'

Park County Rank	Colorado Rank	Name	Elevation	Prominence
17	342	Guyot, Mount	13,370'	1,324'
18	352	Hoosier Ridge	13,352'	932'
		Peerless Mountain	13,348'	168'
19	372	West Buffalo Peak	13,326'	1,986'
20	399	East Buffalo Peak	13,300'	480'
21	426	Geneva Peak	13,266'	926'
		Landslide Peak	13,238'	138'
		Red Peak	13,215'	115'
22	493	London Mountain	13,194'	534'
		Sullivan Mountain	13,134'	274'
23	583	Boreas Mountain	13,082'	923'
24	586	Whale Peak	13,078'	982'
25	635	Pennsylvania Mountain	13,006'	699'
		Bullion Benchmark	12,948'	168'
		Glacier Peak	12,853'	233'
27	771	Sheep Mountain	12,818'	758'
		Red Cone	12,801'	221'
28	860	UN 12,700	12,700'	320'
29	901	UN 12,644	12,644'	344'
30	941	Volz Benchmark	12,589'	569'
31	957	UN 12,567	12,567'	347'
		Palmer Peak	12,517'	242'
32	1031	UN 12,454	12,454'	354'
		Lamb Mountain	12,438'	258'
34	1050	Bison Peak	12,431'	2,451'
35	1054	"Peak X"	12,429'	1,759'
36	1110	South Twin Cone Peak	12,340'	720'
38	1119	"Madonna Dome"	12,331'	631'
		Blaine, Mount	12,303'	203'
40	1159	"Peak Y"	12,274'	534'
41	1176	"Peak Z"	12,244'	304'



Park County Rank	Colorado Rank	Name	Elevation	Prominence
42	1211	McCurdy Mountain	12,168'	789'
43	1229	Little Baldy Mountain	12,142'	1,002'
44	1233	12135	12,135'	355'
45	1236	12132	12,132'	592'
46	1254	"Kenosha Peak"	12,100'	320'
	S	"X Prime"	12,100'	280'
47	1260	12088	12,088'	300'
48	1267	"Burning Bear Peak"	12,069'	409'
49	1269	"Zephyr"	12,067'	337'
		Beaver Ridge	12,033'	93'
50	1328	Windy Peak	11,970'	1,510'
51	1339	"Platte Peak"	11,941'	401'
52	1347	Shawnee Peak	11,927'	307'
53	1357	North Tarryall Peak	11,902'	882'
		Foster Benchmark	11,871'	211'
54	1415	"No Payne"	11,789'	369'
55	1419	"Tarryall Peak"	11,780'	920'
56	1421	Payne Benchmark	11,780'	520'
57	1431	Topaz Mountain	11,762'	662'
58	1432	11762	11,762'	342'
59	1443	Marmot Peak	11,730'	750'
		Windy Ridge	11,724'	24'
		"The Catamount"	11,695'	275'
60	1468	Sheep Ridge	11,674'	304'
61	1477	Black Mountain	11,654'	2,234'
62	1491	"Tater Top"	11,611'	391'
63	1513	"Puma Peak"	11,570'	2,260'
64	1527	Thirtynine Mile Mountain	11,548'	2,088'
	S	11517	11,517'	297'
67	1562	11485	11,485'	345'
		Iron Mountain	11,481'	221'

Park County Rank	Colorado Rank	Name	Elevation	Prominence
68	1573	11460	11,460'	560'
69	1580	"Little Puma"	11,449'	495'
		Bald Hill	11,428'	208'
70	1590	11423	11,423'	603'
71	1603	"Lake Park Peak"	11,403'	503'
72	1606	11395	11,395'	375'
		Farnum Peak	11,377'	277'
74	1631	Schoolmarm Mountain	11,332'	632'
75	1635	11328	11,328'	468'
76	1642	11306	11,306'	326'
77	1648	Badger Mountain	11,294'	1,594'
78	1650	Martland Peak	11,289'	469'
79	1654	11271	11,271'	484'
80	1655	11270	11,270'	370'



*A portion of the Lost Creek Wilderness Area, that makes up the northeastern boundary of the South Park National Heritage Area, has been designated as a National Natural Landmark. Photo courtesy Amy Unger.*

Water ranks at the top of importance of the natural resources within South Park National Heritage Area. Water is vital not only to the human, plant, and animal life in South Park, but also critical to the many Front Range communities that depend on its continued availability for their domestic, commercial, industrial, and recreational needs. Beginning in the 1890s, the sale of mountain water rights to Front Range communities has worked to change the nature of the high country. Once richly irrigated fields yielded abundant hay crops, but when the water rights were sold they became dry grasslands as soon as the snow runoff ceased in the early summer. Some rare water resources, such as protected Extreme Rich Fens and their unique plant communities, still filter the water to preserve high water quality, but nearly 20 percent of the Extreme Rich Fens have disappeared from the landscape. Besides providing water for the Front Range, the many reservoirs storing water in the high country offer recreational opportunities. The following is a partial list of South Park's water features:

Selected Water Features in South Park		
Antero Reservoir	Johnson Creek	Quartsville Creek
Baker Lake	Kite Lake	Sacramento Creek
Bayou Salado Reservoir	Lake Emma	Sand Creek
Beaver Creek	Lake George	Sheep Creek
Beaver Dam Creek	Lake George Reservoir	Silverheels Creek
Buckskin Creek	Leavick Tarn	Snyder Creek
Columbia Reservoir	Lower Michigan Reservoir	South Fork of the South Platte River
Cooney Lake	Michigan Creek	Spinney Mountain Reservoir
Crooked Creek	Michigan Lake	Spring Creek
Elevenmile Canyon Reservoir	Middle Fork of the South Platte River	Tarryall Creek
Fish Creek	Milligan Lakes	Tarryall Reservoir
Fourmile Creek	Montgomery Reservoir	Threemile Creek
Gibson Creek	Mosquito Creek	Trout Creek
Guernsey Creek	Mountain Creek	Twelvemile Lake
Hay Creek	North Fork of the South Platte River	Upper Michigan Reservoir
James Tingle Reservoir	Old House Creek	Ute Creek
Jefferson Creek	Oliver Twist Lake	Wheeler Lake
Jefferson Lake	Pennsylvania Creek	

Those who enjoy experiencing the rich environment of the South Park firsthand have a large number of publicly accessible lands from which to choose. The following is a list of public lands in the South Park National Heritage Area.

Public Lands in South Park	
63 Ranch State Wildlife Area	Fourmile Creek Natural Area
Agate Mountain State Trust Land	Hartsel State Trust Land
Alma State Wildlife Area	High Creek State Trust Land
Antero Reservoir State Wildlife Area	James Mark Jones State Wildlife Area
Antero-Salt Creek Natural Area	Jefferson Lake Recreation Area
Badger Basin State Wildlife Area	Knight-Immler State Wildlife Area
Badger Flats State Trust Land	Lost Creek Wilderness Area
Bristlecone Pine Scenic Area	Pike-San Isabel National Forest
Buffalo Peaks Wilderness Area	Saddle Mountain Natural Area
Bureau of Land Management Lands	Saddle Mountain State Trust Land
Charlie Meyers State Wildlife Area	Spinney Mountain State Park
Cline Ranch State Wildlife Area	Spinney Mountain State Wildlife Area
Crooked Top State Trust Land	Tarryall Reservoir State Wildlife Area
Dick's Peak State Trust Land	Teter State Wildlife Area
Eleven Mile Canyon Recreation Area	Three Mile Mountain State Trust Land
Eleven Mile State Park	Tomahawk & Buffalo Peaks State Wildlife Area
Fairplay Beach	Treasurevaul Mountain Natural Area



*Water that once kept the South Park lush now is stored for use by Front Range cities. Photo courtesy Linda Balough.*

## APPENDIX E



*Mountain Goats have been known to approach or follow hikers along the highest peak trails along the Continental Divide and on the many 13,000- and 14,000-foot peaks within the Heritage Area. Photo courtesy Jim Mills.*

### The Planning Process

“The management entity has afforded adequate opportunity, including public hearings, for public and governmental involvement in the preparation of the management plan.” (PL 111-11 Sec. 8003 (d)(4)(B)(ii))

The South Park National Heritage Area sought extensive public participation in development of the Management Plan. The planning process included three sessions of small focus group meetings over three days dealing with particular areas of content and interest including environment, prehistory, Native Americans, Mountain Men, Miners, Railroaders, Ranchers, Settlers, and Recreationists. In the evening during each of these focus group sessions, two public open houses were held for a total of six (6), one each in the major communities of South Park: Alma, Como, Fairplay, Hartsel, Jefferson, and Lake George. In October of 2011, a public workshop for elected officials from Park County, Alma, and Fairplay was held regarding the final form and content of the proposed Management Plan. Minutes of those meetings and open houses are included below. Alma and Fairplay have approved resolutions of support for the Management Plan and it was approved and adopted by Park County on XX, 2012.

Upon 90% completion of the plan it was made available to the public and various Native American tribes for review and comment for sixty (60) days from April 19, 2012 to June 17, 2012. Simultaneously, the Management Plan was forwarded to the National Park Service for review and eventual approval by the Secretary of the Interior.



## **Tribal Review and Comment**

The Heritage Area received a list of Tribes to be considered for inclusion in reviewing the plan from the National Park Service and after personal consultation with Tribal advisors and contacts the following listed Tribes were contacted:

- Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation
- Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne
- Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation
- Comanche Nation, Oklahoma
- Jicarilla Apache Nation, New Mexico
- Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute
- Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation
- Ute Mountain Tribe of the Ute Mountain Reservation
- White Mesa Ute
- San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe of Arizona
- Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians of Utah
- Hopi Tribe of Arizona
- Pueblo of Taos, New Mexico

An initial letter was sent to these tribes informing them of the planning process and that a copy of the final draft would be made available for their review and comment. Upon completion of the Plan, a hard copy was sent to the descendent members of the tribes that expressed a desire to review and comment on the plan. A letter with reference to the PDF version available on the Park County website for review and comment was sent to all of the other tribes listed above.

## **Public Review and Comment**

Copies of the Management Plan were made available for public review and comment at the Park County Libraries in Fairplay and Lake George, the Mountain Man Gallery in Como, South Park Mercantile in Hartsel, Jefferson Real Estate in Jefferson, the office of the Town Administrator in Alma, the office of South Park National Heritage Area, and on-line through the Park County Government website.

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## **Records of Stakeholder, Open House and Board of Directors Meetings**

### **Preliminary Meetings/Field Research Trip**

March 29 – 31, 2011

*Tuesday March 29*

Set meetings with local leaders/stakeholders and continued work on annotation.

All meetings during this trip were attended by Matt Spriggs and those listed under each meeting.

*Wednesday March 30*

#### **9 AM to 11:30 AM – meeting with Linda Balough, Gary Nichols, and Ashley Bushey**

We initially discussed overall strategy and approach to the Management Plan. Was informed of the recent purchase of the Cline Ranch property by the county which includes a 10 acre envelope around the main ranch house, but outside of the building envelope, use is restricted by the CDOW recreation/environmental easement. The 3 miles of stream included in the CDOW easement has a large population of fish (1,980 fish per mile – nearly 3x the requirement for gold medal status) and sensitive plant species. There is an opportunity for a concession with Park County, but the limitations of use (limited number of rods on the river at any one time—potentially limited to 4 cars or 16 rods) are still being worked out. Not yet open to the public. Bear Tooth Capital Investment may be a potential funder for additional acquisitions.

#### **1 PM to 2 PM – meeting with Tom Eisenman, Park County Planner**

Discussed the various regulatory challenges in Park County including the ability in state statute to not require subdivision approval for lots of 35 acres or greater. Also there is a onetime exemption and for 8 parcels or less it is considered a minor subdivision while 9 parcels or greater is a full subdivision. Subdivisions must be able to demonstrate or acquire a minimum of a 50 year water supply. Under state statute if a cluster development is pursued the minimum parcel size is reduced to 17.5 acres if 50% remains as dedicated open space and the water supply must be 20 to 50 years. Park County needs to revise its cluster ordinance to follow the state statute.

Mixed use zones are generally in the rural center boundaries. The rural centers within the SPNHA include Como, Hartsel, Jefferson, and Lake George. Due to the 3 mile annexation plans for the incorporated communities of Fairplay and Alma, the mixed use zoning for the county on those edges will likely be amended to match the communities' annexation plan and proposed zoning.

Guest ranches must have a minimum of 160 acres to be developed.

**4 PM to 5:30 PM – meeting with Cara Doyle, Executive Director of Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative (MRHI)**

Has been a volunteer Executive Director for MRHI for almost 7 years and MRHI is yet to be funded for staff. The strategic plan was funded primarily with GOCO monies. The real challenge is the interface of public and private lands and the potential conflicts of the historic resources, environmentally sensitive and important resources, and the recreational users who are trespassing onto private Property. The Forest Service has done major trail improvements and a master trails plan was completed and overlaid with the private ownership information. John (son) and Mori (father) Reiber are the main private property owners and control the summits and/or ability to summit the 14k peaks of Lincoln and Democrat and are partial owners of the summit and/or access to summit Mount Bross. Mosquito Gulch and Oliver Twist areas have rare plants, the later controlled by the BLM. Katherine Kreske of CSU has done a number of “clicker” studies and evaluated the economic impact of hiking the 14k peaks on the surrounding communities. MRHI has a very strong volunteer base that can be used for specific tasks and information gathering involving the peaks.

*Thursday March 31*

**9 AM to 10 AM – Meeting with Tim Balough, President of the Alma Foundation and Linda Balough, SPNHA Executive Director**

Discussed that the Alma Foundation primarily provides scholarships and is funded through events such as the “Festival in the Clouds” musical event and they also work on historic preservation projects. Alma has recently acquired the property for the potential “River Walk” and the Gleason Cabin restoration project has been put on hold pending additional funds to complete the work. The intent is to use the cabin for a visitor center and foundation offices. Other potential projects include a Fire and Mining Museum and includes a human drawn pumper truck that is used at some events by the Alma Northwest Fire Protection District volunteers. There are also other older engines in Alma. 4th of July has become a big event in both Alma

and Fairplay/Como and is a bit of a schism between the communities. Event highlights in Alma include live sixties music, craftsmen, soup cook-off, a murder mystery night, Thai-me-on, and traditions such as the Patrolman Woody Mannequin used to “man” a patrol car when you would enter town to slow traffic, and community bingo. Alma is unusual in its ability to support a Montessori School and has major heritage resources in its proximity including Paris Mill, Buckskin cemetery (where MRHI sponsors a full moon event), and the Magnolia Mill which is owned by the U.S. Forest Service. More information about the Alma Foundation can be found at [www.almafoundation.com](http://www.almafoundation.com).

**10 AM to 11:15 AM – meeting with Mark Lamm, Ranger with Colorado Department of Wildlife (CDOW)**

Discussed which State Wildlife Areas (SWA) are in SPNHA and they include:

Alma  
63 Ranch  
Knight-Imler  
Tomahawk  
James Mark Jones (previously 2—named after former Supervisor)  
Badger Basin  
Spinney Mountain  
Charlie Meyers (named after Post writer)  
Tarryall  
Teeter/Michigan Creek  
Buffalo Peak (fishing easement only)

Fishing in the rivers is some of, if not the, best in the state of Colorado and offers miles of gold medal trout water (populations of over 300 fish per mile). The SWAs are also managed in conjunction with State Trust land and allow greater recreational access. Hunting licenses are limited and may need to be more limited to capitalize on exclusivity. An advantage for South Park is its two late seasons. The number of hunters is generally down but there has been a concerted effort to get the out of state hunters and fisherman into South Park. The state has over \$1.8 billion brought into the state for hunting and fishing. In the mid 1990's the Buena Vista prison instituted a trade school that would train inmates in how to do river restoration. This allowed for CDOW to access inexpensive and well trained labor to do the river restoration at a fraction of normal costs. This work has repaired improper stream alignments and resolved issues from over grazing. A lot



*The World Championship Pack Burro Race has been celebrated in Fairplay for 64 years. Photo courtesy Park County Local History Archives.*

of work has been done to Spinney Mountain, 11 Mile Canyon, and Badger Basin with concentration on the middle and south forks of the South Platte and their confluence near Hartsel.

Where the former King City coal mines were (near Como) there is a potential shooting range to be developed.

The Coddington Report is done regularly to demonstrate revenues generated by hunting and fishing.

#### **11:30 to 1 PM – meeting with Nancy Comer, Alma Town Clerk**

Discussed the status of the River Walk project—the funds from GOCO (\$200,000) to purchase the property but the project is in need of \$450,000 to complete. To assist in resolving the use conflict between the private property owners of Mounts Lincoln, Bross, and Democrat, the Town of Alma has leased the private property so that climbers could continue to summit and the private property owners would be given the protection of governmental immunity. The Paris Mill is a highly valued historic resource in Alma and the Town would have some role in it but the idea of restarting mining is not well supported by the community. Mention was made of the Gleason Cabin restoration project and that the Buckskin cemetery was annexed by the Town to resolve use and access as well as to have some ability to protect the resource. There is some thought to creating a performing arts theater in the Town where a dilapidated structure is currently located.

## **Stakeholder Meetings and Open Houses – Series 1**

April 17 – 19, 2011

All meetings during this trip were attended by Matt Spriggs and Linda Brough in addition to those listed as attending.

*Tuesday April 19*

### **Native Americans Stakeholder Meeting – Celinda Kaelin, Pike Peak Historical Society**

Discussed the presence of the Utes in South Park and the importance of the Ute connection to the earth and that the tribal names of the Utes were generally taken from the name of the place that they made their base camp. References were made to stone shelters and “medicine wheels” (to be verified) and that these base camps were primarily located in the southwest portion of South Park in the Buffalo Peaks area. The original name of the Utes in the area was the Tabeguache but were forcibly removed and placed on reservations in Utah. Ms. Kaelin has a relationship with Clifford Duncan, a Ute medicine man and elder. While there were no permanent settlements, there were stone structures on the ridge lines that were essentially fortifications for the Utes that would be used to repel competing tribes trying to access the South Park. Ms. Kaelin mentioned that the Jicarilla Apache were considered allies while the Comanche tribe was considered to be a rival tribe that was originally a splinter group from the Utes (to be verified). It was thought that De Anza came through South Park and used the Utes as guides and that in a pivotal battle De Anza and the Utes were able to repel the Comanche to the other side of the Arkansas River. The alliance between the Utes and Spanish is documented in a Spanish Treaty after this incident (to be verified).

In addition to being a hunting paradise for the Utes, the chert mines (used for arrowheads/points) at Weston Pass and mica mines (used for making mirrors to signal with) at Wilkerson Pass were important “gathering” locations for these important materials.

During one Cheyenne incursion that tribe was able to reach as far into South Park as Hartsel but the Cheyenne were unable to find the way out of South Park and took Sam Hartsel hostage to find the way out (to be verified). Frequent encampments were made at 11 mile canyon and at the CM ranch there are important fossil evidence and a former Zebulon Pike encampment (to be verified). Pike’s Peak was considered sacred by the Utes and is a critical reference point in their culture (to be verified).



Others to include in the Native American interest area include Mark Young, head ranger for Eleven Mile who has been doing the archaeological survey related to the Utes. (Suggestion of geocaching the discovery of scarred pine trees.) Mary Stedleson (sp) was suggested as a source as was Delores Riven, and Betsy Chachuse (sp) who coordinates things for the Utes.

Sub-themes:

- Prized Hunting and Gathering Grounds
- Exploration (connection to Freemont, Pike, De Anza)
- Village construction—both physical and spiritual
- Conflict and Peace—including the construction of “stone forts,” placement of caches of food
- Ute culture

### **Open House in Jefferson**

Generally positive feedback to the themes proposed and the Heritage Area in general. We received no completed feedback and suggestion forms however several people took forms with them and intended to provide feedback later as they had time to digest the information provided. The meeting was attended by 23 people.

*Wednesday April 20, 2011*

### **Mountain Men Stakeholder Meeting – Will Crago and Michelle Crago**

While trapping did occur in South Park, more abundant beaver were present further north and pulled some Mountain Men there. Some physical remnants of the Mountain Man period may remain in “trapper cabins” located in locations within South Park including the DM ranch and around Silver Heels Mountain. Currently the Mountain Men re-enactment groups are down to one rendezvous in South Park, the Como Rendezvous to be held on the Gardener Ranch near Como. The main issue for the Bayou Salado Rendezvous was the site and they were apparently lured away to Canon City. The Como Rendezvous is scheduled 2 weekends prior to Labor Day and would like to make a better connection to the Living History Days at South Park City Museum. During the Living History Days event they may be able to do a “Town-dezvous” with a minimal number of camps. Early connection between Mountain Men and Explorers is thought to be when James Pursley told Pike of the presence of gold in South Park in the early 1800’s although neither of them did anything with the information and the rush began later in 1859. Long rifles were the most common weapon and the Patterson revolver appeared in 1836 and was probably the most modern

weapon used by the Mountain Men. In order to get the Bayou Salado back and to make all re-enactment easier, a permanent site should be established. Some effort should be directed to reviving the “college” rendezvous which emphasized the rendezvous educational aspects and would offer classes on all thing Mountain Man. Due to disagreements among the participating groups the rendezvous lost attendance and became no longer functional.

The presence of kilts at rendezvous is traced back to the arrival in 1832 of a Scottish nobleman, Captain (?), who came to hunt and traded items at rendezvous. The same Scottish nobleman financed the final rendezvous in 1840.

Sub-themes:

- Trapping
- Rendezvous
- Fur Hunters
- Trading
- Guiding

### **Miners Stakeholder Meeting – John Reiber and Dave Harvey**

This meeting opened with a detailed discussion involving the continued public access to the 14k peaks of Lincoln, Bross, Democrat, and Sherman. In 2004 the risk of litigation over the possible injury of hikers who chose to go off-trail to the “attractive nuisance” of a historic mine, despite posting “no trespassing” signs, became too great for the property owners to continue to ignore the issue. The owners do not want to part with the land because a number of the mines may yield value such as the Moose Mine. Mount Bross poses the greatest risk for liability since it is riddled with old mine shafts. In 2005 the Town of Alma leased the property for recreational purposes in the hope of extending governmental immunity to the underlying property owners, but the owner’s legal counsel does not believe that the limited immunity will protect the owner from the attractive nuisance claim of an injured party. In 2006 Representative Witwer promoted and assured passage of HB 1046 that was to extend liability protection to the private property owner who allowed public access to their land for recreational purposes. According to the owner’s legal counsel the bill was watered down during the process of passage to the point where a private property owner is only protected for injury that occurs on the trail and not for off-trail injury. The most viable solution that the property owners have that will allow for continued ascent is to have a paid permit system to hike which would also include a liability waiver—however children would not be allowed to hike

since under Colorado law the signature of a parent or guardian does not waive the liability for a child.

The owners solution includes the idea of guided hikes with students from the Colorado School of Mines acting as “Peak Stewards” and the question of where to have a central office needed to be determined although use of an office space at Paris Mill has been suggested as well as the Gleason Cabin (once it is restored) in Alma.

Other possible solutions included working with Park County to enforce trespass, use of the Recreation District to provide governmental immunity and to run the program, creation of a special zoning district to allow mining and potential annexation by Alma to extend jurisdiction to the peaks.

Of the mines on the peaks, the Russian Mine has a possibility of being a concession operation for learning and experiencing mining first hand. There is also a possibility of opening Bross to a handicapped jeep tour company and working with the Wounded Warrior program. The owners have also minted coins from materials taken from the mines for the various peaks in South Park which could easily become a heritage product.

Unlike homesteading, mining claims had to prove the presence of minerals and a quantity and quality that would prove to be profitable before the mining claim would be approved. Mining claims also had the effect of transforming land to property and establishing permanent settlements—at least for the period of booms until busts drove people away. Minerals extracted locally continue to be used by craftsmen and jewelers in the area.

Sub-themes:

- Claims staking, patents, and exploration
- Mining camps to Towns
- Load mining
- Placer mining and panning
- Processing—including transportation, milling, and smelting
- Dredging and hydraulic mining

**Natural Resources and Prehistory Stakeholder Meeting – Curt Fair, U.S. Forest Service Archaeologist (USFS); Jeff Blake, Teller/Park Conservation District (Conservation District); Jara Johnson, Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP); Ashley Bushey, Historic Preservation Planner, Park County**

Natural Resources: The Conservation District and CUSP have an interest in noxious weed control, resource management in general, and water in

particular. HASP is another water conservation district that would have an interest in the NHA. The Rocky Mountain Land Library would also be interested in this topic. The Conservation District also meets on the second Tuesday of the month and alternates between Teller and Park County and will meet in Lake George in May. Denny Bohanen of the USFS (?) was suggested as a good contact regarding fish.

Sub-themes:

- Plants
  - › Native
  - › Rare & Endangered
  - › Invasive/noxious
  - › Wildflowers
  - › Wildlife
  - › Native
  - › Rare & Endangered
  - › Fish
  - › Insects
  - › Mammals
- Ecosystems
  - › Fens
  - › Forest varieties
  - › Altitude
- Geography and Geology
  - › Minerals
  - › Petrified Wood

Prehistory: Through dating of found Clovis points, South Park shows habitation and use dating back 12,000 years to 10,000 BCE. Due to sensitivity of many of the archaeological sites, in place interpretation would be detrimental to the resources. The preference would be to interpret the prehistoric significance of the South Park in an interpretive center. The need for more archival storage was discussed and it is a high priority for the state. There is a bank building in Fairplay that may come up for sale and would work well for both an interpretive site and archive.

Sub-themes:

- Geography & Geology
  - › The role of the geographic and geologic qualities of the South Park on prehistoric use

- Early mammals and plants
  - › Porcupine Cave discoveries
- Paleoindian use
  - › Information yielded from Pony Park

**Recreation Enthusiasts Stakeholder Meeting – Jim Sapp, Cindy Huelsman; Steve Bonowski, Colorado Mountain Club; Dave Harvey, Park County Recreation District; Jenny Grier, MRHI; Brian Wallace, Colorado Fourteeners Initiative.**

Use of South Park for formal recreating is often recognized as the 1868 invitation of Territorial Governor Gore (?) to other Governors and important political figures to come and recreate in South Park or during the period of pilgrimage to the summit of Mount Lincoln in respect to the death of President Lincoln in 1864.

The conflict between property owners and climbers of the 14ers in the Mosquito Range occupied a good portion of the meeting. It was seen as an outgrowth of the no growth vs. managed growth proponents. A major issue is that most people do not associate private property with mountains, particularly the tallest peaks such as those in the Mosquito Range, particularly mounts Bross, Lincoln, and Democrat. Unique to South Park, these peaks are a complex puzzle of mineral claims that includes the summit of each mountain. Of the possible solutions to the liability concerns of the owners the least palatable for the climbers is a fee to climb. It was also acknowledged that under state law, assessing a fee to climb could remove the liability protection afforded by HB1046. All agreed that something needed to be done to resolve the issue before access was eliminated and that the increased damage to environmentally sensitive plants was mutual concern as was the seemingly out of control growth in the number of climbers each weekend. The Colorado 14ers have been trying to educate climbers about both the dangers of trespassing into the abandon/closed mines and the sensitive alpine plants, but with multiple accesses to these peaks it's difficult to get the message to every climber. One solution was suggested that could have merit where the Trust for Public Land acquires and transfers the surface rights from the owners to a public agency (Park County? Alma? U.S. Forest Service?), while the mineral rights are reserved to the original owners with the ability to reopen the mines.

It was suggested that a really concise and accurate map of trails and recreation would be very helpful and even a trails book would be appropriate. Target shooting in close proximity to residences was also raised as an issue.

There are still also a number of summer camps in South Park for children including a Boy Scout camp and the Como Youth Camp. Further development of ranch recreation was also discussed and could include many sub themes.

It was suggested that Jeff Hyatt, Recreation Specialist with the USFS, be included in future meetings and that it may be useful to contact Heidi Anderson, Open Space Coordinator for Breckenridge.

Sub-themes:

- Outdoorsmen
  - › Fishing (including ice fishing)
  - › Camping
  - › Hunting
  - › Target shooting
  - › Off-Road/aerial
  - › 4 wheeling/ATV
  - › Snowmobiling
  - › Hot air ballooning
- Mountaineering
  - › 14ers
  - › Ice climbing
  - › Hiking
  - › Snowshoeing
  - › Back country/cross country skiing
- Cyclists
  - › Road biking/camping
  - › Mountain biking
- Naturalists
  - › Bird watching
  - › Wildlife viewing
  - › Rock hounding
  - › Wildflower viewing
  - › Bristlecone viewing/study
  - › Photography
- Equestrians
  - › Rodeo
  - › Dude ranches
  - › Trail riding
  - › Horse camping



### **Open House in Hartsel**

Generally positive feedback to the themes proposed and the Heritage Area in general. We received no completed feedback and suggestion forms however several people took forms with them and intended to provide feedback later as they had time to digest the information provided. The meeting was attended by 9 people.

*Thursday April 21*

#### **Settlers Stakeholder Meeting – Tina Darrah, Fairplay Town Clerk/**

##### **Administrator; Nancy Comer, Alma Town Administrator**

The first signs of full settlement began with the creation of the miner's court at Buckskin Joe/Lorett and in 1861 the county of Arapahoe was the first formed in 1861 in Colorado. Fairplay started as a mining camp known as "Fair Play" and a reaction to the ousting of late comers from the Tarryall ("Grab-all") claims of the gold rush in 1859. It was known at first as South Park City, and finally Fairplay. A major milestone of settlement was also the construction of the log courthouse in 1874, now a building in South Park City museum.

Each permanent settlement that survived the boom and bust effects of mining were tied to specific continual functions:

Railroads—Como, Jefferson, Hartsel, Lake George (ice production)

Ranching—Hartsel, Lake George

Mining—Alma (including processing), Como

Commerce/Government seat—Fairplay

Subthemes:

- Governmental evolution
- Mobility of buildings
- Transportation—stage lines, railroads, burros, freighter wagons
- Outlaws and Entrepreneurs—Reynolds gang, Mendoza Brothers, James family (Badger Basin), Sam Hartsel, Hall family and the Salt Works
- Commerce
- Folklore

#### **Ranchers Stakeholder Meeting – Scott Anderson, Hartsel Springs Ranch; Lark Harvey, Lazy Quarters Ranch; Gary and Jane Brightbill, Santa Maria Ranch**

Ranching was started in South Park as a reaction to the presence of miners during the 1859 gold rush. Some discovered they could make more money



*The grandeur of vast open ranges is overshadowed only by the majestic mountains. Photo courtesy Gary Nichols.*

by feeding the miners than by doing the mining. Sam Hartsel is considered one of the founders of ranching in South Park along with the Hall family that has owned and operated the Salt Works Ranch since 1861 (verify). Other early ranches include the Prince Ranch, Rose Ranch, Garrows Ranch and other long time ranching families include the Arthurs and Chalmers.

The mobility of buildings in South Park is shown even in the Ranchers theme where the Santa Maria Ranch moved a large barn from the Alma mining district to the ranch during a bust period when buildings were abandon. The concept of hospitality is not a new phenomenon on South Park Ranches. Hosting people on a ranch was a frequent event and includes the invitation to the Hollywood elite to stay at the Salt Works Ranch from the family connection to Antoinette Toni, for whom the Toni Awards were named. Hosting elk hunters and fisherman has been a long time activity on the ranches. Use of the land for everything it could yield through creative, entrepreneurialism was also common and includes the production of salt at the Salt Works Ranch and the extraction of peat from peat bogs around the Santa Maria Ranch.

Sub-themes:

- Entrepreneurialism
- Hay Production (native grass or planted brohm?)
- Cattle Drives
- Water rights
- Animal husbandry
- Company ranches and independent ranches—including the role of women ranchers
- Hospitality

### **Additional Interim Meetings:**

*Tuesday May 10*

Was originally meeting with the Park/Teller Conservation District however the meeting was cancelled last minute due to a lack of quorum since several Supervisors had either become ill or had to attend to emergencies.

The consultant did meet with Keith Payne, the Superintendent of Florissant Fossil Beds and the National Park Liaison to SPNHA. In addition to discussing the progress of the Management Plan, we discussed the current status of the user conflict at the Mosquito Range.

Unlike many mountain ranges with peaks over 14,000 feet, the mountains are not public property but are privately held by mining interests. Although there have been efforts by the Town of Alma, in particular and the Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative (MRHI), one of the main property owners, the Reibers, continue to be concerned about liability and have been advised that they may be exposed to litigation if someone injures themselves due to the attractive nuisance of the abandon mines. At this time the Reibers were contemplating a way to pay for additional insurance coverage, quoted at \$26,000 a year. This would mean a fee would have to be collected to pay for the insurance. There is strong opposition to the imposition of a fee to climb these peaks in addition to the effect of imposing such a fee. The Colorado Mountain Club, MRHI, Colorado Fourteeners Initiative, and other interest groups have pointed out that if a fee is charged then the liability will likely increase due to a certain guarantee of safety for collecting the fee. They also pointed out that the grants used to improve the trail across the Reiber property were funded with the requirement that the trails remain open to the general public. If the Reibers were to assess a fee or close the mountains then the grant funding would have to be paid back.

In the Director's Order 12 (National Park Service Guidance on NEPA compliance) it states that if any action contains any resource that has any controversy attached to it, then an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement must be completed. It was agreed that in order for the SPNHA Management Plan to be approved under a Categorical Exclusion the conflict between the private property owner and users would need to be acknowledged in the plan, the resources on the private property could be acknowledged, but no work on that private property could be undertaken until the parties reached a resolution. That way the entire Heritage Area would not be subjected to an EA or EIS solely because of this conflict.

### **Stakeholder Meetings and Open Houses – Series 2**

*May 17 – 19, 2011*

All meetings during this trip were attended by Matt Spriggs and Linda Balough in addition to those listed as attending. This series of meetings focused on defining the interpretive themes for SPNHA—1 to a maximum of 4 stories that are told by the SPNHA that make it important to the Nation. Initial ideas for the interpretive themes include Abundance: Living with the Land; Exploration & Settlement: Discovery & Western Expansion; Booms and Busts: Taking from the Land. Two questions were asked in both the stakeholder meetings and the open houses: 1) what words describe the people, heritage and culture of South Park? and 2) what is nationally significant about the story of South Park?

*Tuesday May 17*

#### **Railroaders Stakeholder Meeting – Scott Tate, David Tomkins Laura Van Dusen**

We were unable to hold a Railroaders Stakeholder meeting in April, so this initial meeting focused on Railroaders place in history and the events that occurred in South Park around railroads.

Preliminary discussions surrounded the Hartsel Depot costs and funding for the project. It was suggested that the long house project in Buena Vista



*Montgomery enjoyed several revivals of mining before it was finally abandoned and flooded by Montgomery Reservoir. Photo courtesy Park County Local History Archives.*



might be a good benchmark for costs for the Hartsel Depot. Concern also surrounds the location of the depot. It may be located within the 100-year floodplain and a wetland area. General process of the Management Plan and the Heritage Area were discussed. A local initiative in Hartsel is to construct handicap fishing access which may eventually extend to the Hartsel Depot due to its close proximity to the water.

General discussion also revolved around the need for better way-finding and working with CDOT to make that happen through on-system funding rather than the more competitive enhancement funding.

Subthemes:

- Mobility of goods and people
  - › Recreation
  - › Connection to culture and change in community
- Communications
  - › Mail
  - › Telegraph
  - › Hospitality
  - › Feeding stations—Como and Hartsel specific functions of feeding workers and travelers where there was very little time at a station
    - » Telegraphing food orders ahead
- Coal
  - › Lower Como and King mines
- Employment and settlements
  - › The creation of Como and Lake George
  - › Transformation of Hartsel and Jefferson
  - › Connection to Alma and smelters
    - » Mining greatly impacted the railroad in that less valuable ore became more valuable when no longer relying on Burros and wagons as the main form of transport to market.

The gauge of rail directly related to the costs of construction—D, SP&P actually paid for its construction as it was built.

Trout Creek Pass in the south is where the D, SP&P and Colorado Midland met.

Como served as an intersection of several lines with spurs to coal mines and routes to Breckenridge, Leadville and beyond.



*Railroad work was hard, but folks still had time for a chuckle. Photo courtesy Park County Local History Archives.*

The Como hotel was built by Gillman in 1880 and Union Pacific purchased it in 1885 but it burned in 1896 and was rebuilt in 1897. Fire was common for the railroads of the time due to the sparks that would be let off by engines. In addition to the engine house at Boreas Pass there were a large number of snow sheds but most of them were lost to fire from the sparks of the engines.

Railroad wrecks were an occasion for locals to “dress in their Sunday best” because the press was likely to be there to take a photo.

The railroads also were a boom and bust that followed the variance of technology, once the best means of transport, faster and more capacity than stages and wagons but railroads were eventually replaced by automobiles and trucks.

It was expressed that there were three parts to the railroad interpretation—where the physical remnants are, where you need to interpret, and where wayside interpretation would make sense or perhaps use of historic grades for trails.

Some discussion revolved around the concept of a central reservation portal website and how to pay for that—by a surcharge per sale collected from customers or a volume commission/charge that would be levied on the vendor.



### Open House in Lake George

Generally positive feedback to the interpretive themes proposed and the Heritage Area in general. We received two completed feedback and suggestion forms and the meeting was attended by 7 people.

*Wednesday May 18*

#### **Mountain Men Stakeholder Meeting – Will Crago, Fairplay CO, 719-836-9028**

Suggestion to change one of the interpretive themes from Exploration & Settlement: Discovery & Western Expansion to Exploring South Park: Discovery and Settlement.

Under Exploring South Park the content of Company Men vs. Free Trappers could provide a compelling difference in how the Mountain Men story is told. Company Men would pick drainage and go there with the intent of trapping out the resource and then pick a new one for the following season. Company Men were not found in South Park. Fur companies were intensely competitive and could be found following another company along a particular drainage with the intent of trapping out whatever the first company missed and ideally getting ahead of the other company.

The eventual turning from fur trapping and hunting to guiding was evenly split between company men and free trappers but in all cases it was the familiarity of the area to be mapped and explored including the potential difficulties with tribes. Zebulon Pike was one of the more famous explorers who used Mountain Men as guides including Pursley and Carson and was thought to have potentially camped at the site of the Santa Maria Ranch.

Commerce was a hallmark of the Mountain Men. The point was made that the value was not monetary but practical—a knife or skin was more valuable for what it could do than a sizable nugget of gold. This is perhaps best expressed in the story of Pursley discovering gold in the Tarryall and informing Pike in 1805, 54 years before the gold rush, but neither man made much of this discovery—one valuing the game that could be found and one valuing the knowledge what lay over the next horizon. Rendezvous were similar in that the trading was based not on monetary values but on what things could be used for. Rendezvous were an economy, a social event, a passing of news and events and a celebration all rolled into one event.

Abundance was expressed in much of the way Free Trappers worked in South Park. It was a Fertile Hunting Ground providing waterfowl, small and big game and the Mountain Men could often find themselves witness-

ing Indians going to war over the game in South Park. To survive the Free Trappers would have to assimilate often to the Native American way of life. Company trappers would often travel in large groups with the goal of trapping out an area and due to the aggressive approach and large numbers, company trappers often found themselves in conflict with Native Americans. The attitude of trapping out an area and creating conflict with the tribes created a Boom and Bust cycle within Mountain Men part of the story. Ironically with the opening of the west and the change from fur to silk in fashions, particularly hats, the expert guiding provided from 1845 on proved to be the final undoing of the Mountain Man way of life.

Of the Native American tribes, the Utes and Crows were ones that most Mountain Men could work with, however the Black Feet were impossible to work with and were generally hostile toward everyone.

Will Crago noted that there was possibly a Spanish iron mine in the south end of South Park. (Mining)

Possible projects and interpretive opportunities:

Mountain Men live on through reenactment at Rendezvous. South Park previously had 3 Rendezvous but the paperwork and securing of a site has driven 2 of the 3 out of South Park. In order for these events to be re-instated the following would need to be provided:

- Special Event permitting with Park County has to be streamlined and make sense
  - › Without senior Park County staff (Tom Eisemann) it would not be possible to receive permits for events like Rendezvous.
- A reenactment site that could be secured for long term such as the Renaissance festival enjoys in Larkspur and support in the following ways:
  - › Water, fire wood, trash and portalets
  - › This is what competing communities are offering the Rendezvous to have them come to their community.
- Working with the Rendezvous groups, once a regular site and process can be achieved, to incorporate Mountain Men reenactments on a smaller scale during Burro Days or Living History day to increase the draw and visibility of this part of South Parks heritage

Will provided a single word to describe the National importance of South Park—Gold. He pointed out that when gold was monetized, its discovery

and ensuing rush to South Park completely changed South Park forever.

### **Miners Stakeholder Meeting – Nancy Comer, David G. Anderson, Greta Lohman**

Miners and mining are most easily identified with Booms and Busts and is subject to the vagaries of the market value of each mineral. Gold was highly valued when the rush to South Park took place in 1859. Placer mining (panning in particular) was the first most common type of mining when nuggets were found just lying in stream beds. As this easier to access deposit dwindled, miners turned to hard rock mining but as effort began to exceed the profitability of the gold that was extracted many of the mining camps dwindled in the late 1860s. Gold would continue to be mined but its relative value did not increase enough for general mining until the transportation costs and efforts were lowered by the introduction of the railroad.

Silver became the next boom in 1873 (approximately) and was heavily mined in Alma in 1879 with the arrival of the railroad. Similar to gold, silver could be mined through placer and hard rock mining, but hard rock mining played a larger part in silver mining with veins formed in the rock high in the Mosquito Range.

As a part of the Colorado mineral belt, South Park yields rich deposits of a number of useful minerals including coal (mined in the Lower Como and King mines), zinc, lead, molybdenum, uranium, rhodochrosite, semi-precious stones, oil and gas, rare earths and gravel as well as boulders.

Water is a critical part of mining and a must for placer mining, especially dredging. Mining water rights are not convertible to domestic uses so most mines would need both domestic and mining water rights.

Miners played a big role in Exploring South Park being both entrepreneurs and explorers above and below the earth. Transportation greatly effected mining. Early mining, prior to railroads, was limited by the capacity of the burro trains to transport the ore to market. But due to the rugged terrain of the mines in the Alma district, burros were considered essential to hard rock silver mining. Burros were once a fixture on the streets of Alma and Fairplay and it was not unusual for children to hitch a ride to school on the back of loose burro. It was also a common competition for the Alma and Fairplay children to round up the other community's burros and for the other community to gain their release only to take the other community's burros "hostage" in return. Burros are a beloved animal still in South Park although the free roaming burros are no longer seen on the streets.

The introduction of the railroad stepped up the mining in South Park considerably, making less pure deposits much more valuable. When South Park lost the last of the rail service in 1937 and the last rails removed in 1938 it further hindered and slowed mining in South Park.

The town of Alma owes its very existence to the discovery of silver in the Mosquito Range while Fairplay, which started as a mining camp, gradually became the seat of commerce and government.

The clash of cultures was not unusual in South Park. Miners tended to be more subdued while the cowboys of the area ranches would be rowdy. South Park has been likened to "a salad bowl rather than a melting pot" with individual cultures blending but never altering. The clash of cultures has been continuous including the opening of the ski areas in the region that attracted "hippies". One activity of the cowboys and miners alike that remained in South Park was "clipping" where a gentle modern form of scalping was to clip a pony tail from someone with long hair.

Another important single word was added to the answers to the question "what is nationally significant about the story of South Park?"—Water. Water has played a pivotal role in South Park including early mammalian use, early man, the production of game, hay production, mining, ranching and settlements, especially those larger communities who purchased water from ranches as early as the 1900s with water now owned by Aurora, Denver and Thorton. The loss of water hindered the development of South Park and allowed the front range to flourish.

### **Environment (Natural Resources) and Prehistory – Jeff Hyatt, USFS, Dieter Erdmann, Colorado Open Lands, David G. Anderson, Jara Johnson**

This content title has actually been changed to Environment and Prehistory due to the need to include things such as altitude and weather that are not really captured by Natural Resources. The Environment is the least temporal of all of the content and runs the entire span of existence. Within the subtopic interpretive theme of Fertile Hunting Grounds Fens provide a biodiversity that created a rich variety of healthy mammals as exemplified by the fossil remains found in Porcupine Cave.

The formation of South Park by a combination of glaciation and upheaval is compelling with the original creation of a high inland sea that left behind rich fens that are more similar to arctic fens than any other wetland formation in the US. Weather conditions, with harsh, long winters, a very short spring and summer season followed by a mild fall makes South Park

mostly a seasonally occupied place. The high elevation limits the population due to the thinness of air. The environmental conditions have provided the growth of 5 very rare species of plants due to the alkaline fens and a unique combination of minerals that support these species, some of which are only found in South Park.

Water is critical to the environmental health of South Park and with the advent of moving water out of a productive use to a consumptive use in another community has changed how South Park has developed. South Park is also a pioneer of the concept of commoditized water with some of the first transfers of water rights including Antero Reservoir being one of the first municipal water reservoirs constructed along with the Tarryall Reservoir.

Resources (environment) is a driver for recreation in South Park and preserving those resources for continual recreation is important, particularly with the balance of how to use the resource while not degrading it. It was suggested that the balance be made between the sensitivity of the resource and the level of promotion and use it receives. This would add a third consideration in interpretation which is matching the medium to the audience and to the sensitivity of the resource.

A discussion ensued regarding the use of fees for accessing certain resources and creating some level of exclusivity. The reality is that protection costs money and to protect but use resources appropriately for recreational or educational reasons is an investment in the resource and exclusivity increases its value to the consumer.

The use of sensitive resources requires the continual monitoring of that resource and a citizen's science initiative could be helpful. Additionally guides, such as the use of Colorado School of Mines students to guide hikes up to the Mosquito Range could help alleviate some concerns. The issue for such volunteer programs is retaining active volunteers once the novelty wears off.

The Colorado Land Library was discussed as an important location for possible environmental interpretation and staging location for guided trips.

While some resources should be accessible by the general public, fees need to be assessed to access protected areas.

There was a suggestion that the SPNHA adopt a rubric similar to the USFS that requires approval of the quality of the potential service before it can be provided on public lands. The essential question often raised "is there

a need and will this service fill that need and add value?" Outfitting and guiding on USFS land is often undertaken as a part of a needs assessment that is then balanced with the carrying capacity of the forest.

A focus on school aged children for outreach and education about the environment was suggested. The hope is to engage entire families through the engagement of youth. CUSP provides a number of these programs through grant funds and perhaps it could be expanded in partnership with SPNHA to make the program go further.

It was suggested that the NHA could act as a promotional entity and clearing house for information. If this was a function of the SPNHA it was also suggested that there be standards that must be met in order to be included in the affiliation with the SPNHA. Chatfield Nature Center was suggested as a model for how this aspect of the NHA might be structured. A website portal/trip planner was included as an important tool for the SPNHA to fulfill this function and to emphasize discovery to attract unplanned visits.

#### **Recreational Enthusiasts – Jara Johnson, David G. Anderson, Dieter Erdmann, Ginni Greer, Gary Nichols, Jeff Hyatt**

Recreation has been present in South Park since man began to use the area and has been a constant. Certain vocations, such as mining, has become a recreational activity and mineral extraction has become most high locatable in South Park for the state, particularly on public lands. For example, recreational panning is easiest to recommend on public lands but can be very hard for the recreational miner to know when they have crossed onto private claims.

Early recreation can be traced to the miners who used to recreationally climb the same peaks that they mined and climbing Mount Lincoln was a popular way to pay homage to the President after his death. Miners would also participate in racing donkeys from South Park to Leadville.

Railroads are connected to hunters and fishermen as well as wildflower excursions.

Modern commerce is deeply connected to recreation which in turn is driven by the existence of healthy resources.

It was suggested that there are areas that need to be protected from recreation, where some general interpretation off-site should be done but the location of the resource should not be revealed such as Cave Creek or Treasure Vault Mountain where rare plants are. This asks what is the appropri-



ate level of regulation/restriction and promotion given a certain resource.

Some essential questions to be answered:

Where does South Park want recreation?

What is the carrying capacity of individual resources?

When does a resource become “visitor ready”?

Balance of promotion and protection—setting levels to the sensitivity of the resource.

Connection of private opportunities to the Heritage Area for experienced based activities/tours/trips.

Should a trail system be developed within the basin? Most trails are on public land that is concentrated on the outer edges and very little in the way of trails throughout the basin.

Due to heavy use on some public lands, is there a need to direct surplus demand to under used public lands in the area?

Avoiding the over commercialization and “improvement” of an area to retain the rustic and traditional experience but realize that some areas may need increased management to perpetuate the resource.

The concept of having the Reibers run the Kite Lake trail head area as a concession was likened opening and operating a ski area on public land as creating a bigger issue for the Reibers and doing nothing to alleviate their concerns.

Family biking routes and extreme biking locations was discussed as a way to diversify the existing mountain biking draw.

### **Open House in Fairplay**

Generally positive feedback to the interpretive themes proposed and the Heritage Area in general. We received three completed feedback and suggestion forms and the meeting was attended by approximately 15 people however only 9 signed in.

*Thursday May 19*

### **Settlers Stakeholder Meeting – Ernie Dumas**

This meeting quickly focused on the potential partnership between the SPNHA and the South Park Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is focused in many areas including marketing which Mr. Dumas thought was the best fit for the participation of the SPNHA Executive Director. The dif-



*During boom times, towns bustled with prosperity and celebrations. Photo courtesy Park County Local History Archives.*

ficulty for the Chamber is to retain active members and dispel the “black cloud” over it. In regard to marketing the Chamber has joined the Denver Chamber in the hopes that it would extend South Park’s reach and appeal to the Front Range. It was suggested that the Chamber consider concentrating on business advocacy and assistance, starting with a business needs assessment but the capacity of the Chamber to undertake such initiatives is in question. The biggest concern will be the potential duplication of effort.

### **Ranchers Stakeholder Meeting – George Meyers, Abby Carrington**

Ranching seems to add to all of the interpretive themes suggested. They played a role in the settlement of South Park through homesteading and even exploring through cattle drives. Using Hartsel as an example, how did the early ranchers get around the 160 acre homestead limitation set in the Homestead Act?

Busts in Ranching happen from overgrazing.

The hay produced in South Park (composition unknown) was very high in protein, as high as 23% protein in some cases. Hay was a big boom for South Park with exports as far as Russia to feed the Czars horses and regular shipments to England. The bust for hay production was twofold—seed suppliers sold a variety of seed to local ranchers that were not as rich as the native grasses grown in South Park but the final blow to hay production was the

sale of water to front range communities, taking away the ability to irrigate sufficiently to produce hay.

Sheep were as important as cattle and at one point there were more sheep raised in South Park than cattle but as with other resource based industries, the market for sheep fell out in 1929.

Today self-sustaining ranching is a dying thing.

One particular development company, Burke and Colburn, (Colburn & Burke?) bought up land in South Park, subdivided the property and sold off water rights, essentially removing the ability to ranch for many properties in South Park.

A big issue for South Park continues to be the huge number of undeveloped small lots that were subdivided in the 60s and 70s. There are over 25,000 such lots in South Park, many located in the Hartsel area, a prime ranching and ranching heritage location. The suggestion was to secure GOCO or Colorado Open Lands money to purchase these small lots as they come up for tax sales. The Wetlands Focus Group could also be helpful in acquiring these small lots.

The SPNHA will need to form a foundation, business improvement district, or other entity to receive donations and levy fees.

Outlaws and Entrepreneurs—the concept of “grass thieves” is a concept that is rarely understood. Its where an unscrupulous rancher, rather than owning and managing land for their animal production will let their animals loose in a general location in South Park and then round up what is left before winter sets in.

Responses to the Questions Posed in Series #2

People attending the stakeholder meetings and the open houses were provided with an opportunity to answer two questions:

1) What words describe the people, heritage, and culture of South Park?

Breathtaking	Inspiring	God's Handiwork	Lovely
Gorgeous	Awesome	Heavenly	Healthy
Epic Vistas	Diversified	Gem of the Rockies	Groovy
Frontier	Old West	Gold Rush	Cowboy
Indians	Mountain Men	Mining History	Elevation
Open Vistas	Extreme Conditions	Recreation	History
Diversity	Mountains	Views	Wildlife

Minerals	Metals	Resourcefulness	Tenacity
Resilience	Exploitation	Entrepreneurial	Opportunistic
Down to earth	Quirky	Hardworking	Proud
Elevation	Rare	Gold	Silver
Opportunity	Rugged	Ancient	Strength

2) what is nationally significant about the story of South Park?

- Gold mining
- Ranching
  - › Protein rich hay
  - › Sheep
- Natural beauty
- Major contributor to the early development of the West through mining, railroads and early homesteads
- A tale that never ends. Our geology, natural history, archaeology, American Indians, Mountain Men—from the earliest times to the present contribute to our story. Let's tell it!
- Gold
- Water
- The chain effect of settlers/users of the natural resources.
  - › Changing—the living aspect of our natural resources sustainability—i.e. Gold, Silver, Moly, Rhodo—miners to gem collectors
- High density of endemic plant species
- Headwaters of the South Platte River
- Recreation (hunting/fishing)
- Mining history
- Ranching history
- Peaks and outdoor activities
- High altitude geology, geographic basin of abundance
- Unique wildlife & fauna, gold, silver, livestock & ag surrounded by majestic 14,000 ft. mountains
- Location: Access to large population
- Elevation
- Historic mining event that helped shape the West and the state
- Extreme weather conditions
- Globally rare grassland and wetlands
- Several cultural sites
- Largest mountain park located at greater than 9,000 ft.
- Natural and cultural resources at high altitude

- Very extensive “meadow edge” habitat
- Prehistoric sites/resources at high altitude with linkages to other sites in the San Luis Valley
- Public access to many sites and resources, including private ranches
- Unique geology and resulting endemism and rare species
- Rare endemic flora of the Mosquito Range
- Porter’s Feather Grass almost exclusively found in South Park
- Other species found nowhere else in the world
- Grasslands of South Park
  - › Bison herds
  - › Unique grasslands
  - › Habitat for Mountain Plover, Prairie Dogs
  - › Intact functioning montane grassland
- High quality wetlands
  - › Fens
  - › Riparian areas
- Glacial history/Pleistocene relics
  - › Fens—extremely rich fens
  - › Plants left here after the end of the ice age

**South Park National Heritage Area Board of Directors Meeting  
June 1, 2011 at Como Hotel 6 PM to 9:15 PM**

Linda Balough, Executive Director SPNHA; Ashley Bushey, Park County Preservation Planner; and Matt Spriggs, CEO & Principal of Catalytic met with the South Park National Heritage Area Board of Directors to present the current status of the Management Plan and more importantly to receive input from the Board of Directors regarding the Business Plan and the proposed programs and projects to be included in the Management Plan.

Proposed changes to the Guiding Principles, Vision, Mission and Purpose statements were presented to the attending Board Members and were unanimously accepted. Programs and projects were presented and discussed including the need for the formation of organization specific goals for the Board.

Unlike the Vision and Mission statements, which are central organizational statements that describe the function of the organization, goals should be achievable and measurable. While they could be general in nature they need to have a “ceiling” to prevent over reaching and diluting the effectiveness of the organization. For example a goal could be “Rehabilitate and adaptively reuse 5 historically significant ranches”. This goal is both easily

measurable and limiting. Concern about being too limiting was raised as a concern and it was acknowledged that there is a fine balance in developing goals that allow for new projects but also reasonably limit the Heritage Area to the numbers of projects and commitments that it can realistically fulfill.

Objectives MUST be quantifiable and support a particular goal. The goals should be firm for the organization while the objectives need to be fluid and able to be expanded or collapsed as necessary. Programs and projects that the Board chooses to pursue should be objectives and tied to a goal that assists with executing the Mission of the organization so that the Vision can be realized.

During the discussion regarding proposed programs and projects, funding and funding options were discussed and included a number of mechanism including a business improvement district, lodgers tax, contractual surcharge/resort fee, on-system DOT enhancement monies, off-system competitive enhancement monies, etc. As the discussion continued it became readily apparent that the Heritage Area would need to establish a private nonprofit structure to be able to receive donations and have a certain level of self-determination outside of the Park County governmental structure.

Due to the increasingly hectic schedule for the Board, the consultant and staff suggested that they create a number of organizational goals for the Board’s consideration and at the next Board meeting a substantial amount of the meeting be devoted to adopting the organizational goals and objectives and prioritizing programs and projects.

**Stakeholder Meetings and Open Houses – Series 3**

June 14 – 16, 2011

All meetings during this trip were attended by Matt Spriggs and Linda Balough in addition to those listed as attending. This series of meetings focused on identifying the range of potential projects (bricks and mortar) and programs that the South Park National Heritage Area. Gary Nichols and Linda Balough provided lists of potential projects to spark thought among the stakeholders. Each of the open houses included all of the information from the previous two open houses and included the lists of potential projects and programs that the Heritage Area might undertake. At each meeting participants were given a brief introduction to the Management Planning process to date covering the initial meetings that generated the content in logical themes including periods of significance, etc., the sec-



ond series of meetings that generated the three main interpretive themes for SPNHA and the work of the SPNHA Board establishing the Guiding Principles, Vision, Mission and Purposes statements. Each group was then asked to generate as many ideas as possible on 3” x 5” post-its for projects and then programs. Lists of projects and programs were then prioritized by “voting” with three votes per participant (including Linda Balough but excluding Matt Spriggs) to provide some level of prioritization. Projects were then examined for the time to completion—short term: 1-5 years, medium term: 4-7 years, long term: 6-10+ years.

*Tuesday June 14*

### **Railroaders Stakeholder Meeting – Bob Schoppe, David Tomkins**

Railroaders Projects:

Short Term:

- Como hotel rehabilitation (4)
- Como depot restoration (4)
- Roundhouse restoration (4)

Medium Term:

- Trail to Wye and back along 6th Street
  - › Rebuild bridge over gulch
- Alma depot stabilization/rehabilitation
- Hartsel depot rehabilitation

Long Term:

- Trout Creek Pass bridge reconstruction

Railroaders Programs:

- Restoration weekends
- Section House programming
- Trout Creek Pass interpretive site
- Interpretive connection of Como complex
- Enhance Railroad Days
- Develop track and a handcart to ride
- Windy Point track interpretation on Boreas Pass
- Kenosha Pass track interpretation
- Sporting events on Boreas Pass Road (Biking and running)
- Forest Service C.D. (?) on Boreas Pass
- Model railroad set into the roundhouse
- Organize railroad club tours
- “Action” participant activities

### **Native Americans Stakeholder Meeting – Celinda Kaelin, Ann Carlisle, Mary Stenulson**

Native Americans Projects:

Short Term:

- American Indian museum and curation facility(3)
- High traffic area attraction (3)
- Hands on area with authentic dwellings (2)

Medium Term:

- Native American interpretation at 11 mile (2)
  - › Burial island
  - › Ute encampment
  - › Ute trees
- Interpretive site at Spanish Fort
  - › Spanish Fort (2)
  - › Buffalo jump
  - › Porcupine cave
  - › Tipi rings

Long Term:

- Interpretive site at Spanish Fort
  - › Spanish Fort (2)
  - › Buffalo jump
  - › Porcupine cave
  - › Tipi rings
- Controlled access of sensitive sites

Native Americans Programs:

- Tour vans to historic places (3)
- Children’s immersion (3)
  - › Include dances, songs, art, etc.
- Large multi-faceted experience event(2)
- Ute repatriation project (1)
- Mountain speaker series (1)
- Trail of experiences (1)
- Interpretive exhibit of commonalities with now and native life (1)
- Wild edible plants class
- Walking tours with interpretive signs
- 4 season experience
- Monthly free educational programs
- Cultural dance groups
- Storytelling sessions with props
- Tell of native conflicts

### **Open House in Como**

The Open House in Como was well attended but due to the room setup (lines of tables with chairs and significant food provided by the Como Hotel) it was more of a question and answer session than an open house format. While the Heritage Area enjoyed a positive reception, members of the community had concerns regarding possible gas and oil exploration in the area and wanted to know how the designation of the South Park National Heritage Area would affect the potential for drilling. It was conveyed that the Heritage Area was in NO WAY regulatory and could not be used to interfere with private property rights or be used as a means for regulating land, changing the normal processes of federal, state and local governments.

*Wednesday June 15*

### **Mountain Men Stakeholder Meeting – Will Crago, Bruce Stenulson and Mary Stenulson**

Mountain Men Projects: The stakeholders in this meeting believed, and it had been expressed since the first meeting, that the most critical project was to find a permanent location for rendezvous to continue. Since this would involve real estate, the Heritage Area's participation would be limited to technical assistance and programming assistance. Below are the possible high quality sites that the rendezvous groups could pursue obtaining a permanent location (like the renaissance fair in Larkspur)

#### **Short Term:**

- State land, school section on CR 18 (3)
- Tarryall access, USFS (1)
- Silverheels access, USFS

#### **Medium Term:**

- Gardner Ranch (Amanda Woodbury) (4)
- Red Hill, BLM (4)
- Reinecker Ridge, BLM

#### **Long Term:**

- Hartsel Springs Ranch

Mountain Men Programs: Due to the strong focus on rendezvous the programming section focused on the types of rendezvous that should be emphasized in the Heritage Area and examples of important content was also provided by the participants.

#### **Rendezvous types:**

- Learning Rendezvous (like “college” rendezvous of the past) (3)

- Shooting Rendezvous (archery and muzzle loader/black powder)(3)
- “Towndeztvous” (2) (adding mountain man content to other events like Burro days)
- Canon rendezvous (1)
- Trade rendezvous

#### **Content:**

- School programs
- Primitive skills
  - › Tomahawk and knife throwing
  - › Fire making
  - › Flint knapping
- Beadwork
- Hide tanning
- Cordage
- Doll making
- Music

### **Miners Stakeholder Meeting – Chad Watkins**

#### **Miners Projects:**

##### **Short Term:**

- Snowstorm Dredge rehabilitation and interpretation (2)
- Orphan Boy working and tourist mine(2)
- Magnolia Mill rehabilitation
- Designate and rehabilitate the boarding house at the Dolly Varden mine

##### **Medium Term:**

- Paris Mill rehabilitation (2)

##### **Long Term:**

- Stabilize and interpret London Mill

##### **Miners Programs:**

- Working mill in Paris Mill
- Working recreation mining camp as a base for:
  - › Guided ATV/Jeep tours
  - › Complete mining education
  - › Guided mining

**Natural Resources – Prehistory Stakeholder Meeting – Dieter Erdmann (Colorado Open Lands), Dr. Bender (South Park Archaeology Project), Mark Lamb (CDOW), Lea Quisenberry (BLM), Pam, Matt Moorhead (Nature Conservancy), Jara Johnson (MRHI, CUSP)**

#### **Environment Projects:**

Short Term:

- Trails Master Plan related development (5)
  - › Alma River Walk with Environmental/Natural Resource Interpretation (1)
  - › Interpretive Trails (1)
- Stream restoration and improvement
- Site protection for rare plant communities (4)
- Identify and protect mineral resource area (2)
- Research equipment for biotic history through pollen coring (1)

Medium Term:

- Research equipment for biotic history through pollen coring (1)
- Hartsel hot springs reuse
- Field research/conference facility

Long Term:

- Research equipment for biotic history through pollen coring (1)

Prehistory Projects:

Short Term:

- Museum/Archive/Interpretive Center for archaeology and environment/natural resources (4)

Environment Programs:

- Site Stewards program (5)
- Fund research of wetlands (4)
- MP3 Guides/tours—mobile phone apps(4)
- Improve bristlecone pine interpretation (4)
- Colorado birding trail(2)
- Van tours (2)
- Public school presentations (1)
- Guided wildlife trips (1)
- Mountain speaker series (1)
- Wildlife education program (1)
- Road Scholar/Elder Hostel or other active adult learning programs
- Interpretive trails
  - › Limited access interpretation on private property (build off of fly fishing program)
- Geology field trips
- Water education

Prehistory Programs:

- Site Stewards program (5)
- MP3 Guides/tours—mobile phone apps(4)
- Van tours (2)

- Public school presentations (1)
- Mountain speaker series (1)
- Road Scholar/Elder Hostel or other active adult learning programs
- Interpretive trails
  - › Limited access interpretation on private property (build off of fly fishing program)

**Recreational Enthusiasts Stakeholder Meeting – Jara Johnson (MRHI, 4 Wheelers, CUSP), Matt Moorhead (Nature Conservancy), Chad Watkins, Dieter Erdmann (Colorado Open Lands), Ann Lukacs, Ellen McCallum, Steve Collins, Jeff Hyatt (U.S. Forest Service), Leah Quesenberry (BLM), Mark Lamb (CDOW)**

Recreational Enthusiasts Projects:

Short Term:

- Reopen “Tourist” mines (6)
  - › Guided historic mine tours
- Historic cabin restoration (3)
  - › Ratcliff, Roberts, Swartz, Magnolia
- Wheeler Lake 4x4 maintenance (2)
- Bike path to Breckenridge (1)
- Trailhead improvements (1)
- Visitor centers (1)
- Alma’s Gleason cabin restoration (as visitor center) (1)
- Alma River Walk
- Wilkerson Pass ADA accessible interpretive trail

Medium Term:

- Wheeler Lake 4x4 maintenance (2)
- ADA/access improvements to “Aspen alley”

Long Term:

- Easement acquisition for recreation access (4)
- Wheeler Lake 4x4 maintenance (2)
- High altitude training center (1)
- Ski/hiking hut system
- Wilkerson Pass lookout reconstruction

Recreational Enthusiasts Programs:

- Guided/self-guided heritage tours(5)
- Expand recreation on private land (4)
- Immersion programs (4)
- Trails Master Plan (4)
- Regional recreation coordination(3)



- Theme camps (2)
  - › Archaeology, geology, etc.
- Elder hostel & international program for heritage (2)
- Hard rock mine tours and gold panning
- Birding trail
- Watchable wildlife location

### **Open House in Alma**

In Alma the open house had a light attendance but the SPNHA received favorable responses from those in attendance. The content, interpretive themes and proposed projects and programs were all well received and discussion generally revolved around what the approval process would be and when the Heritage Area would be able to begin implementation.

*Thursday June 16*

**Settlers Stakeholder Meeting – Jane Gilsinger (Park County Local Archives), Ann Lukacs, Ann Marie Martin (Rocky Mountain Land Library), Jeff Lee(Rocky Mountain Land Library)**

Settlers Projects:

Short Term:

- Rocky Mountain Land Library at Buffalo Peaks Ranch (5)
  - › Open air classroom/community meeting space
- Restore historic county courthouse(4)
- Park County local history archives into new library (3)
- Fairplay Main Street development (2)
  - › Infill, moving County offices
- Heritage Resource Center (1)
  - › South Park City Museum as partner
- Higher education facility
- Railroad museum
  - › Como depot and roundhouse
- Railroad “spur” construction
- Cemetery rehabilitation
- Stage coach acquisition

Medium Term:

- Alma Spring/Moynahan home purchase and restoration

Long Term:

- Stage stop rehabilitation along Georgia Pass
- Garo restoration and interpretation

Settlers Programs:

- Symposium enhancement (3)
- Archive digitization (3)
- Natural history workshops & Field classes
- Water education (2)
- Veterans programming (1)
- “Heritage Days” county-wide event (1)
- Oral history workshops (1)
- Writers workshops and residencies (1)
- Cultural heritage classes and field trips
- Cooking classes (to celebrate people and food)
- Craft workshops and classes
- Fly tying/fishing classes
- School/University heritage programs
- Local history/genealogy workshops
- Rendezvous format for a heritage showcase
- Cemetery tours
- Book art classes
- Designations for properties/objects
- Pioneer homestead immersion
- South Park City program enhancement

**Ranchers Stakeholder Meeting – Abby Carrington (High Plains Ranch), Keith Wells (Salt Works Ranch), George Meyers (Santa Maria Ranch), Helen Dyer (CUSP/Salt Works Ranch), Jane Gilsinger (Park County Local Archives), Ann Marie Martin (Rocky Mountain Land Library), Jeff Lee(Rocky Mountain Land Library)**

Ranchers Projects: The project listing for ranchers was treated a bit differently than those in other groups. The projects on the historic ranches are detailed and expansive. The initial list gave priority to which ranch should be addressed first. Then a second list was generated for each ranch complex looking at the many projects on each ranch and prioritizing those projects. Participants were only allowed to “vote” for one project per ranch to prevent stacking of votes on any one ranch. This gave rise to a lot of productive, cooperative discussion among the stakeholders about what was most critical on their properties.

- Salt Works Ranch (9)
  - › Barn restoration (3)
  - › Main house restoration (1)
  - › Build Western heritage center buildings (1)
  - › Restore salt works (1)

- › More cabins for overnight stays
  - › Develop hosting areas
- Buffalo Peaks Ranch (5)
  - › Renovate main house (4)
  - › New sensitive structure for land library (3)
  - › Renovate 2 bunkhouses (1)
  - › Small, modest fishing hut
  - › Renovate concrete barn
- Santa Maria Ranch (5)
  - › Bunkhouse restoration (3)
  - › Establish public use plan (1)
- High Plains Ranch (3)
  - › Restore historic homestead (3)
  - › Rehabilitate milking barn (2)
  - › Information station for ranching (1)
  - › Rebuild lake
- Open Como Roundhouse to the public (1)
- Ranching information station (1)
- Rehabilitate historic courthouse

#### Ranchers Programs:

- Natural history workshops/field trips (3)
- Auction (2)
- Fly fishing/tying classes
- High altitude cook-off (2)
- History of ranches (2)
- Artist classes and workshops (2)
- “Where your food comes from” tours (2)
- Water education (1)
- School/University field sessions(1)
- Writers workshops and classes (1)
- Cultural heritage workshops and classes
- Craft workshops and classes
- Book arts classes
- Music/Art festival
- Western past/present/future lecture series
- Geological interpretation
- Trips/tours of working bison ranch
- South Park City Museum enhancement

From feedback forms at open houses—

“I have property in South Park off Elkhorn Road at the end of County Road 17. I have found arrowheads on my property. There is a section of BLM land adjacent to my 40 acres that includes 7 mile gulch, a wetland area, and I would imagine, Native American artifacts. The area was a major hunting ground for the Utes. Now it is a potential gas drilling area. What can be done to help preserve this area?”

“The theatre in Alma. It would be great to have actual plays in it again. There is actually a play in the fire station in Alma.”

“Save historic buildings, get rid of junkyards such as the one in Como. My spouse and I own (over 5 decades) 4 historic houses we have saved/renovated for living use and 2 old historic houses in Alma. We—I—am truly dismayed by the fact that many 2nd home/lot owners use the property to park their old out-of-use trailers and cars. Soon they become a junk yard.”

“Funding for helping landowners fence and restore wetland and fen areas. Development of architectural guidelines that promote heritage area values. Development of guidelines to promote reduction of light sources (save our wonderful night sky views!).”

- 1) Restore the old Garo Store.
- 2) Work with owner of the Catholic Church & rectory in Como, restore it, and rent for weddings, etc.
- 3) Work with the owners of the Montag Saloon & IOOF buildings in Como and restore.
- 4) Put some train tracks back—maybe Como to Buena Vista—have dinners served on board, stop in BV for a while and return to Como.
- 5) Repair the broken headstones in Como cemetery.
- 6) Interpretive signs for all the Como walking tour sites and add other signs—like where AE Cook was shot, the drilling block, where the 1st cemetery was and why it was moved.
- 7) Interpretive signs at old Tarryall and Hamilton.
- 8) Stagecoach rides from Tarryall Creek Ranch to Como.
- 9) Wildflower meadows between Como and Jefferson—over-seed with native plants, for photo and painting ops—with parking along 285.
- 10) Railroad tracks from roundhouse to depot with railroad engine and other cars, with a 1880’s passenger car fully restored.
- 11) Map/Walking tour of Como for the houses—telling who lived there, when it was built, etc.
- 12) Continue restoration of Como High School.”

“Develop idea expressed by one Como attendee to have some system to provide human contact and interface with visitors at appropriate places and times.”

*Wednesday July 27*

**SPNHA Board Meeting: Board members attending: Nancy Comer, Town of Alma, Chair; Tina Darrah, Town of Fairplay; Jara Johnson, CUSP and MRHI; Ricki Ramstetter, Mountain Man Gallery and Town of Como. Staff attending: Linda Balough, Executive Director; Ashley Bushey, Park County Preservation Planner.**

July is a very busy month for South Park and many of the Board members were unable to attend for a variety of reasons, however those that did attend were very engaged and provided staff and consultant with direction regarding the Heritage Area’s projects, programs and general policy direction for the Heritage Area as an entity. It was noted that some of the programs and projects listed from the earlier small group meetings were either apparently duplicative or could be combined for greater efficiency and effect. Additionally some of the less feasible projects and programs were eliminated by the Board members present.

It was generally agreed that the SPNHA should have the following policies:

- The SPNHA should avoid being the main funder of any projects or programs that it elects to participate in and partnerships should be pursued for every project or program undertaken
- Unless it is a project or program that the Heritage Area undertakes as the lead agency, which is limited to key foundational projects and programs, the Heritage Area should play an assistive role providing gap financing, technical assistance and/or general support

Additional concepts and direction included:

- Add an initially part-time position that could be expanded to full-time through Park County that would provide assistance to the Executive Director particularly with processing the required federal paperwork, grant administration and project/program management.
- It was discussed that hiring a contractual grant writer/administrator was also important as a step forward and would allow the heritage area to build capacity for both the organization and local heritage based efforts and businesses

#### **September 8, 2011 – Meeting with Executive Director Linda Balough**

The consultant met with the Executive Director to go over the current plan and discuss the structure of the Heritage Area Board and alternatives for long term funding. Also discussed were the projects and programs that the Heritage Area would take on a primary role in forwarding, mechanics of sub-granting and other items to cover with the Heritage Area Board when meeting with them on September 21.

#### **September 21, 2011 – Meeting with South Park National Heritage Area Board and Executive Director**

This meeting focused on the business plan, final prioritization of projects, eventual composition of the SPNHA Board and the need for establishing a working agreement between the Board and the Park County Supervisors. Also discussed was the approval process for the plan by the local and county governments at the next joint meeting of the county and the two incorporated municipalities.

#### **October 13, 2011 – Joint Meeting of the Park County Commissioners and Fairplay and Alma Town Boards**

This meeting was well attended with all Park County Commissioners and all Trustees for the Towns of Alma and Fairplay. The presentation provided an overview of the content of the Management Plan and the main recommendations for the Heritage Area. In general it was well received and the Towns agreed to pass resolutions of support for the Management Plan and the county is anxious to adopt the Management Plan and is generally very supportive of the direction the Heritage Area is taking for developing South Park’s heritage.

In addition to local elected officials a number of Heritage Area Board members were in attendance and a few members of the general public also attended.

#### **Resolutions of Support and Adoption by Park County**

The Town of Alma approved a resolution of support on November 1, 2011 (attached).

The Town of Fairplay approved a resolution of support on November 7, 2011 (attached).

Park County Commissioners adopted the South Park National Heritage Area Management Plan on **XXXXXX XX, 2012** (attached).



**STATE OF COLORADO  
TOWN OF ALMA**

**RESOLUTION 2011-08**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF ALMA SUPPORTING THE APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE SOUTH PARK NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN BY THE PARK COUNTY COMMISSION AND SUPPORTING THE SUBMISSION TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL AND SUBSEQUENT APPROVAL BY THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Whereas**, participation in the South Park National Heritage Area (National Heritage Area) shall be voluntary and shall not interfere with the rights of property owners; and,

**Whereas**, local control and management of the National Heritage Area will continue; and,

**Whereas**, the National Heritage Area has conducted extensive public participation in the development of its Management Plan; and,

**Whereas**, the Management Plan reflects the direction and desires of the communities within the boundaries of the National Heritage Area; and,

**Whereas**, the implementation of the Management Plan will result in the preservation, enhancement and interpretation of South Park's heritage assets; and,

**Whereas**, implementation of the Management Plan will provide new employment opportunities and expand the local tax base while maintaining the unique rural lifestyle of South Park and preserving its heritage; and,

**Whereas**, the National Heritage Area shall work in partnership with state and local government, private for profit and non-profit organizations, and interested individuals to execute the Management Plan,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY** the Board of Trustees of the Town of Alma as follows:

Article 1. The Town of Alma agrees to participate in the implementation of the Management Plan as is feasible and appropriate.

Article 2. The Town of Alma shares common goals with the South Park National Heritage Area.

Article 3. The Alma Board of Trustees is satisfied with the participation and inclusion of the public in the development of the Management Plan.

Article 4. By this action, the Alma Board of Trustees direct Town staff to actively participate, support and cooperate with the South Park National Heritage Area Board of Directors and its staff in implementing the Management Plan.

Article 5. By this action, the Town of Alma requests all residents of Alma and especially those citizens who own property or businesses within said boundaries of the National Heritage Area to support, promote and help maintain activities, projects and events within said National Heritage Area.

Article 6. By this action, the Board of Trustees of the Town of Alma hereby supports the approval of the Management Plan by the Park County Commission, National Park Service, and the United States Secretary of the Department of Interior.

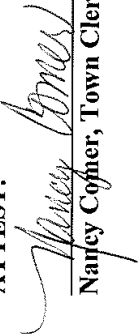
Article 6. The Board of Trustees hereby authorizes and directs the Mayor to sign and submit this resolution of support to the South Park National Heritage Area for inclusion in said Management Plan to be submitted for approval and adoption.

**Duly passed, adopted, and approved this 1st day of November, 2011.**


**TOWN OF ALMA**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Goettelman, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Cofner, Town Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lee Phillips, Town Attorney

**TOWN OF FAIRPLAY, COLORADO  
RESOLUTION 27-2011**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FAIRPLAY SUPPORTING THE  
APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE SOUTH PARK NATIONAL  
HERITAGE AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN BY THE PARK COUNTY  
COMMISSION AND SUPPORTING THE SUBMISSION TO THE  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL AND  
SUBSEQUENT APPROVAL BY THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED  
STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Whereas**, participation in the South Park National Heritage Area (National Heritage Area) shall be voluntary and shall not interfere with the rights of property owners; and,

**Whereas**, local control and management of the National Heritage Area will continue; and,

**Whereas**, the National Heritage Area has conducted extensive public participation in the development of its Management Plan; and,

**Whereas**, the Management Plan reflects the direction and desires of the communities within the boundaries of the National Heritage Area; and,

**Whereas**, the implementation of the Management Plan will result in the preservation, enhancement and interpretation of South Park's heritage assets; and,

**Whereas**, implementation of the Management Plan will provide new employment opportunities and expand the local tax base while maintaining the unique rural lifestyle of South Park and preserving its heritage; and,

**Whereas**, the National Heritage Area shall work in partnership with state and local government, private for profit and non-profit organizations, and interested individuals to execute the Management Plan,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY** the Board of Trustees of the Town of Fairplay as follows:

Article 1. The Town of Fairplay agrees to participate in the implementation of the Management Plan as is feasible and appropriate.

Article 2. The Town of Fairplay shares common goals with the South Park National Heritage Area.

Article 3. The Board of Trustees is satisfied with the participation and inclusion of the public in the development of the Management Plan.



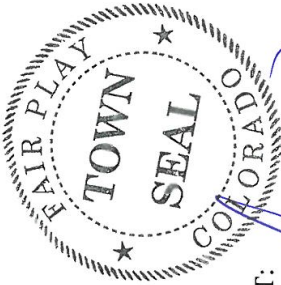
Article 4. By this action, the Board of Trustees direct Town staff to actively participate, support and cooperate with the South Park National Heritage Area Board of Directors and its staff in implementing the Management Plan.

Article 5. By this action, the Town requests all residents of Fairplay and especially those citizens who own property or businesses within said boundaries of the National Heritage Area to support, promote and help maintain activities, projects and events within said National Heritage Area.

Article 6. By this action, the Board of Trustees of the Town of Fairplay hereby supports the approval of the Management Plan by the Park County Commission, National Park Service, and the United States Secretary of the Department of Interior.

Article 6. The Board of Trustees hereby authorizes and directs the Mayor to sign and submit this resolution of support to the South Park National Heritage Area for inclusion in said Management Plan to be submitted for approval and adoption.


RESOLVED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 7th day of November, 2011.



(Seal)

TOWN OF FAIRPLAY, COLORADO

ATTEST:

  
Town Clerk

  
Mayor

## APPENDIX F

### Categorical Exclusion Form



*Bald Hill is part of the 27-square mile James Mark Jones State Wildlife Area.  
Photo courtesy Erica Duvic.*



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument  
Date: 10/25/2012

## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** South Park National Heritage Area Management Plan

**PEPC Project Number:** 44445

**Project Description:**

The project is to review and approve the legislatively required (Public Law 111-11, Section 8003) Management Plan for the South Park National Heritage Area.

The area designated as the South Park National Heritage Area is generally limited to the watershed of the South Platte River confined within Park County, Colorado. The map included with the legislation begins at the southwest corner of Park County and follows the County line north to Hoosier Pass, continues east along the Continental Divide ridge line to the Colorado Trail, through Kenosha Pass to the ridgeline of the Tarryall Mountains within the Lost Creek Wilderness Area to the east County line at Lost Creek National Natural Landmark, then south along the east County line until it reaches County Road 96 turning west and then connecting through Saddle and Thirtynine Mile Mountains to Colorado Highway 9, southeast along Fish Creek to the south Park County line, and west along the County line to the southwest corner. The South Park NHA includes the communities of Alma, Como, Fairplay, Hartsel, Jefferson, and Lake George and is approximately 1,200 square miles.

### Project Locations:

Location			
<b>County:</b>	Park	<b>State:</b>	CO
<b>District:</b>		<b>Section:</b>	
<b>Geo. Marker:</b>		<b>Other:</b>	
<b>Mitigation(s):</b>			

- No mitigations identified.

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

3.3 CEs for Which No Formal Documentation is Necessary

3.3 code = R, Adoption or approval of surveys, studies, reports, plans and similar documents which will result in recommendations or proposed actions which would cause no or only minimal environmental impact.

On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.



Assistant Regional Director,  
Intermountain Regional Office



Date: 10/30/12

NPS Contact Shyl E. Kaspar

Date: 10-30-12



**SOUTH PARK NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**

1246 CR 16

PO Box 1373

Fairplay, CO 80440

(719) 836-4273

[southparkheritage.org](http://southparkheritage.org)