

San Miguel County Open Space & Recreation Program

2015 Annual Report



The SW Conservation crew spent two weeks building the Marshall Creek trail in Sept 2015. Photo by Rich Hamilton.

Trails

- Marshall Creek

The Southwest Conservation Trail Crew built a short steep section of trail connecting the Bridal Veil Road to the Marshall Creek Road across Idarado Mining Co. property. The easement for the trail is one of several easements Idarado donated to San Miguel County related to the Via Ferrata. This trail will provide access to and exit from the VF, but may also provide a future hiking trail into Tomboy Basin.

- Galloping Goose Connector

Contractors finished the final grading and revegetation on the Galloping Goose Connector, a short trail connecting the Society Turn Underpass to Keystone Gorge and the Galloping Goose Trail.

- Rio Grande Southern Rail Road Right of Way

OSR staff extended the Galloping Goose trail in Ilium Valley from the Vance Creek Trail section to the Coal Chutes. More trail improvements and historic interpretation are slated for this historically significant area in 2016.

- Wasatch Trail Litigation

The Colorado Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the County's claim that the Wasatch and East Fork Trails are open to the public. Gold Hill Development Company, at this writing, has petitioned the Court for a rehearing. Total spent to date on this litigation by the county, is approximately \$180,000.

San Miguel County Open Space & Recreation Program: 2015 Annual Report : Trails



Photo top left, start of 2015 Turkey Trot (TT). Photo right, mom and daughter TT contenders. Photo bottom left to right, OSR staff working on Ilium RR trail extension, volunteers making trail repairs in Keystone Gorge, and OSR staff building stairs in the Gorge.



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2015 Annual Report: Parks

Accomplishments at the Down Valley (DVP) and Placerville Parks included installation of a Quest Hunt and new compost bins at DVP, and new BBQ pits for Placerville Park. Staff assisted with replacing the chimney at the Placerville Schoolhouse and fabricated new storm windows. Both parks have transitioned from a construction mode to an operations mode. Maintenance of infrastructure and grounds is the primary goal at both parks.

Photos clockwise include a parks view of DVP, kids at the beach, lacrosse, soccer, station one of the Quest Hunt, new BBQ pit and DVP bathroom with newly sealed sidewalks. Photos by Rich Hamilton.



San Miguel County Open Space & Recreation Program

2015 Annual Report : Open Space – The county purchased fee simple two parcels totaling 267 acres.

The 160-acre OA Greager Scout property, just north of Miramonte Reservoir, is surrounded by public lands and is adjacent to the largest population of Gunnison Sage-grouse in the San Miguel Basin. View top right is from the east side of the property. View bottom left is the former site of the scout camp headquarters. Property shown top left and bottom right is the Angell Lode property in Placerville. This property contains a popular hiking route and buffers Placerville Town site Trust lands. Both properties required extensive cleanup. At OA Greager, the scout camp infrastructure was removed. On the Angell Lode property historic mining sites were reclaimed, thanks to the state Division of Reclamation and Mining Safety.



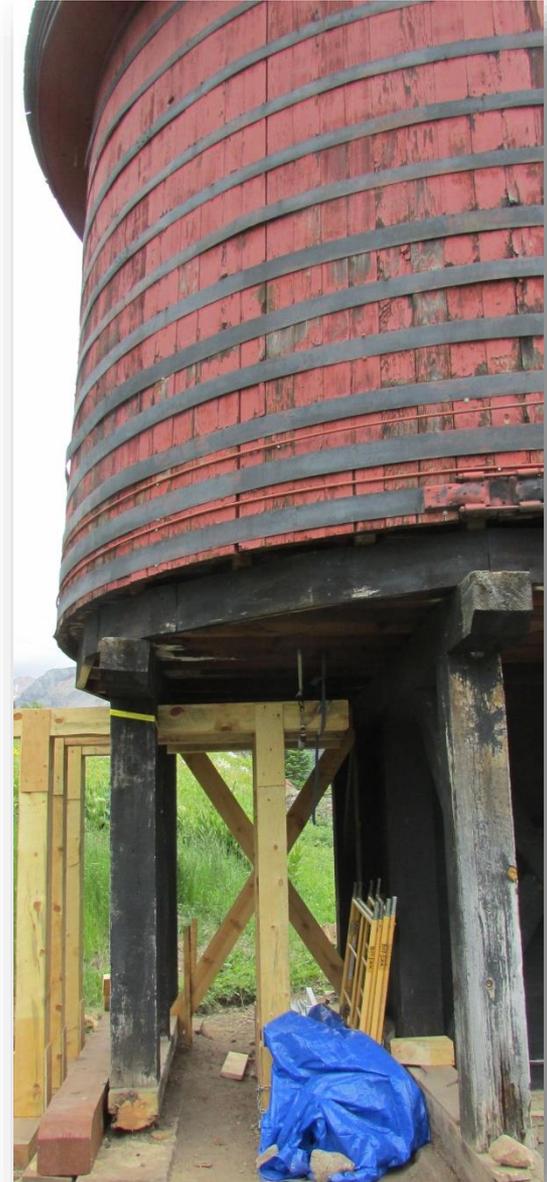
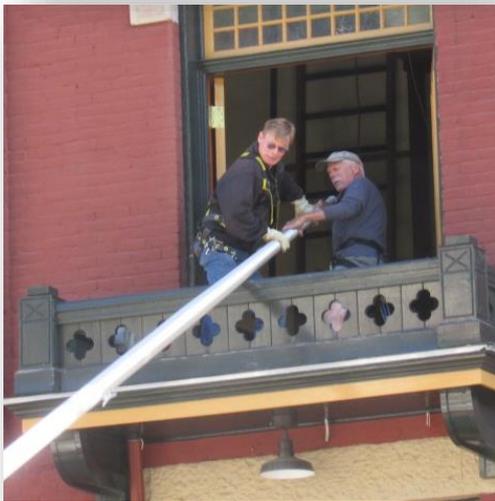
San Miguel County Open Space & Recreation Program

2015 Annual Report: Historic Preservation



OSR staff with help from the Fire District installed a new flagpole in the Courthouse clock tower, photos left. Photo right is the Rio Grande Southern Railroad water tank at Trout Lake depicting work in progress to replace a rotten foundation sill. Photo at bottom shows work completed by OSR staffer Dave Bush assisted by Robbie Scott. In addition, Bush and Scott removed the last RGS RR bridge over the San Miguel River due to its dangerous condition.

Idarado Mining Co. and the county have been working for the past two years to find a way to keep the Pandora Mill, below, from being demolished.



San Miguel County Open Space & Recreation Program 2015 Annual Report: Fairgrounds and Regional Park, Norwood



Activities and events included the fair/carnival/rodeo, summer baseball program, gymkhana series, Roping Club buckle series, dressage clinics, a working equitation clinic, beginning jump classes, skating rink, adult/youth softball tournament, Telluride Baseball Festival, 1st Annual Pioneer Day Car Show & RC Crawler Event, and the Fire Department's Star Spangled Saturday. Accomplishments at the fairgrounds this year included painting the Red Iron in the Event Center, planning for electrical upgrades and ballfields improvements, and revisions to the Policies & Procedures. Photos clockwise from top left: girls in gymkhana, baseball players, newly painted event center iron beams, rodeo contestant, antique car in show, and kids working for carnival tickets.



San Miguel County Open Space & Recreation Program

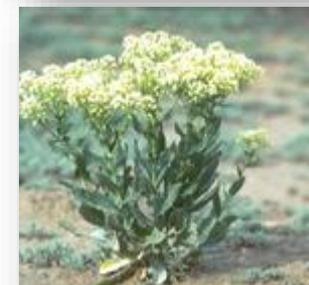
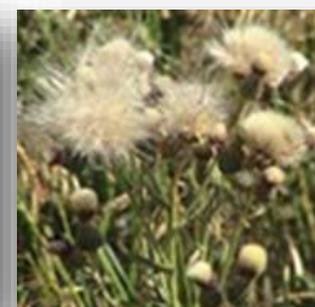
2015 Annual Report : Vegetation Management Program



Despite the unusual and challenging weather, the Veg Management Program was able to treat all county roads at least once and fulfill the program's contractual agreements.

Other program accomplishments include:

- Election of the weed manager, Ron Mabry, to the Board of Directors of the Colorado Weed Management Association.
- Assisted Dr. George Beck in conducting 2 Weeds 101 workshops and a CDOT workshop.
- Conducted several weed ID workshops - including a Mountain Village webcast, a Dolores River native plant and noxious weeds workshop, and the weeds segment in the CSU Master Gardener program.
- Hosted 1 and participated in 2 of 4 NPDES workshops around the state.
- Worked to expand weed control programs with USFS, CDOT, State Parks and Wildlife, and BLM.
- Participated in the eradication of tamarisk along Disappointment Creek, and conducted a second successful tamarisk project with the Southwest Conservation Corps.
- Worked with the Palisade Insectary to establish bio controls for Russian knapweed and Canada thistle.



Photos left, top to bottom. Disappointment Creek tamarisk eradication project, weed identification class, Russian knapweed. Photos right from left to right and top to bottom. Canada thistle in bloom and in seed, hoary cress aka white top, oxeye daisy, Dalmatian toadflax, and Russian oliye.

San Miguel County Open Space & Recreation Program 2015 Annual Report : Non-Profit Support and Partnership Projects



Rich Hamilton, Nordic grooming at Priest Lake area.



View in the Burn Canyon Trail area, west of Norwood.

OSR staff members Rich Hamilton and Milt Spor provide 2-3 days of Nordic grooming each week for the winter ski season at Priest and Trout Lake. In addition, OSR provides \$10,000 per year in operating cost to the Telluride Nordic Association (TNA), and OSR pays for the cost of winter snow maintenance on the Trout Lake road from the end of the subdivision to the Trestle, typically costing \$4-7K per winter. This partnership with TNA is part of OSR's winter trail programming. In addition,

- OSR provided \$25,000 toward the construction of trails in the Burn Canyon area in 2015.
- OSR provides \$9,500 annually to help fund a coordinator for the Gunnison Sage Grouse Working Group.
- OSR provided \$5,000 for a Bill Zeedyke riparian erosion control project in sage grouse habitat in Dry Creek Basin.
- OSR provides \$2,500 annually to support the Colorado Avalanche Center.
- OSR provides \$1,000 annually to support the Telluride Museum.
- OSR provides \$1,000 annually to support the Wrights Mesa Historical Society.
- OSR provides \$1,200 annually to support the Telluride Institute's Watershed Education Program.
- OSR provides \$8,500 annually to support the OHV High Country Ranger Program.
- OSR provides \$5,500 annually to support the San Miguel Watershed Coalition.
- OSR provides \$20,000 annually to support the county Vegetation Management Fund.

Summary of Finances

	Administration	%	Open Space	%	Historic Preservation	%	Trails	%	Parks	%	Fairgrounds	%	Natural Areas: Purchased Land	%
2008	\$147,508	9%	\$925,621	58%	\$73,488	5%	\$74,988	5%	\$218,523	14%	\$154,658	10%		
2009	\$158,198	6%	\$778,900	28%	\$217,571	8%	\$1,156,500	42%	\$213,397	8%	\$223,870	8%		
2010	\$254,188	23%	\$359,879	33%	\$97,735	9%	\$22,339	2%	\$183,636	17%	\$184,330	17%		
2011	\$283,498	20%	\$337,137	24%	\$47,065	3%	\$18,332	1%	\$522,839	38%	\$177,240	13%		
2012	\$261,064	24%	\$36,994	3%	\$214,615	20%	\$23,305	2%	\$372,877	32%	\$190,402	18%		
2013	\$252,623	23%	\$23,950	4%	\$239,684	19%	\$117,560	10%	\$296,347	24%	\$211,248	19%		
2014	\$243,608	22%	\$53,204	5%	\$44,562	4%	\$201,241	18%	\$227,371	21%	\$333,815	30%		
2015	\$201,924	16%	\$25,079	2%	\$44,595	3%	\$106,293	8%	\$225,423	17%	\$188,398	13%	\$530,028	41%

